

# Computing Learning Centre and Faculty Retention Strategy — Faculty of Computing, Digital and Data

## Overview of Initiative

TU Dublin's Strategic Plan has identified student retention as a key priority. The Faculty of Computing, Digital & Data aims to achieve a retention rate of at least 90% for full-time undergraduate first- and second-year students by 2028 and has tasked the Computing Learning Centre (CLC) with implementing and monitoring retention initiatives across all Schools, ensuring a coordinated approach.

The CLC, established in 2023, offers targeted academic and emotional interventions to support students at risk of disengagement. A CLC Academic Lead oversees academic support initiatives, ensuring students receive targeted guidance in their learning, and the Transition's Coordinator plays a role in supporting students from diverse backgrounds to successfully transition to higher education. The CLC works with Student Success Champions (academic staff) located in the four Schools who help to identify, monitor, and support at-risk students.

CLC Interventions include extended induction for first-year students, tailored academic support, and wellbeing initiatives to strengthen students' sense of belonging. The initiative leverages evidence-based approaches to improve retention by continuously monitoring progress using data-driven insights. Tailored support is provided to students who do not successfully progress in the previous semester.

## Monitoring & Oversight

- The CLC employs data driven decision-making through ongoing student attendance and performance monitoring, end of semester status review, data analysis, and trend reporting on progression.
- The CLC reports to the Faculty Executive Team and the Faculty Board on the progress of the retention strategy.
- TU Dublin reports annually to the HEA on the application of ITIF funding for support of student progression.

## Key Features

- Student wellbeing, experience & success focused
- First-year students
- Early intervention

## Aims & Objectives

**Aim:** To achieve the national benchmark for retention rates among first- and second-year students in computing-related disciplines, in alignment with the University's strategy to increase student numbers.

**Objective 1:** To analyse student data and to conduct student surveys, focus groups, and interviews to gather insights that can be used by stakeholders to make informed data driven decisions on programme level planning and student monitoring to enhance student retention and success.

**Objective 2:** To enhance student participation, engagement and sense of belonging with the objective of improved academic performance, and increased retention rates.

## Data & Evidence of Impact

Although the CLC has only been operating since 2024, early indicators are very positive. Attendance and engagement tracking systems are in place, enabling proactive identification of at-risk students for targeted interventions and tailored support. Baseline retention data provides a benchmark for future comparison, and initial evidence shows improved monitoring, and progression support. Student feedback highlights the impact on wellbeing, with one reflecting: "I'm still lost for words... Thank you for believing in me... it still feels so unreal."

## Additional Information

<https://www.tudublin.ie/explore/faculties-and-schools/computing-digital-data/transitions-coordinator/>

