

2023-6

University Education Model: Overview

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Recommended Citation

Darby, Fionnuala; Ferns, Shaun; and Ryan, Barry J., "University Education Model: Overview" (2023). *Group Reports*. 32.

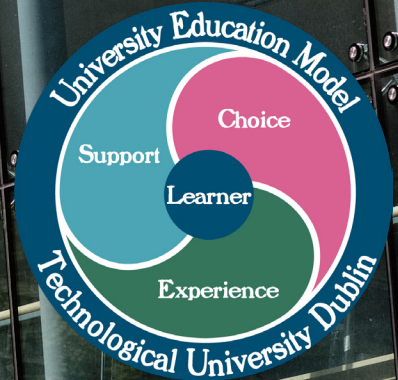
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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION MODEL



“A *supported landscape* of *choices* and *experiences* through which learners attending TU Dublin can learn and grow, offering them the skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications they require”

The University Education Model (UEM) provides a practical framework for coherently creating engaging and personalised learning experiences for a diverse student-body, supported by flexible and innovative curricula. It was developed by TU Dublin to reimagine how education is delivered, in alignment with the university’s Strategic Intent. The UEM consists of three core components: Learner Support, Learner Choice, and Learner Experience. Based on 10 Guiding Principles, the UEM underlines learner-centred approaches, inclusivity, flexibility, and employability. Harmonising and resourcing the most impactful supports ensure that learners are fully supported throughout their

learning journey. Purposefully integrating flexibility into learning pathways allows learners to tailor their education to their interests and career aspirations. Designing and delivering learning experiences with a focus on learner-centred teaching, innovative assessment methods and underpinned by continuous staff development creates a vibrant, engaging and authentic learning environment for all. Together, these components create a framework that practically enables TU Dublin learners to actively engage in their educational journey and tangibly prepares learners and graduates to thrive both professionally and personally.

University Way of Being

The University Education Model Collection: 2024: “[A University Way of Being](#)” provides a comprehensive exploration of the University Education Model (UEM) in practice across TU Dublin through case-studies drawn from academic, professional services, community and industry settings.

The seven Fundamentals of the UEM are key to navigating the complexities of UEM implementation across TU Dublin and these are used to categorise and scaffold the case study collection.

WHY WAS THE UEM DEVELOPED?

The UEM stems from TU Dublin's original vision for a technological university that offered a new, distinctive educational experience. When TU Dublin's strategic plan was developed in 2020, it introduced specific objectives around a new educational model designed to produce digitally literate graduates, transforming learning

opportunities and experiences for all. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), this strategic plan solidified TU Dublin's commitment to creating flexible learning pathways and advancing sustainability. The Education 2030 agenda promotes well-articulated education systems that

offer multiple entry points and progression routes across educational levels, with a focus on equity, employability, and resource efficiency. The UEM reflects these principles by prioritising inclusivity, empowering learners, fostering personal growth, and contributing positively to society and the planet.

HOW WAS THE UEM DEVELOPED?

The development of the UEM was a collaborative and inclusive process, including colleagues from across the wider university community as well as external partners. The process began with the identification of the 10 Guiding Principles, approved by the Academic Council in June 2020, which provided the foundation for the UEM.



Socialisation Workshops 2021-2022

Between December 2021 and February 2022, 32 Socialisation events were conducted with over 1000 inputs from 235 participants, including students, staff, and external stakeholders. These interactive sessions, featuring structured activities such as Waterfall chat-box exercises and JamBoard post-it activities, ensured diverse input. The outputs from these Socialisation events were thematically analysed, identifying four key themes: Connected, Learner-Centred, TU Dublin Enablers, and Graduate Employability. These themes, aligned with SDG 4, informed the design and development of the UEM.



The UET Brief 2022-2023

In June 2022, the University Executive Team (UET) communicated seven 'Fundamentals' with the University. These 'Fundamentals' outlined the immediate action steps to practically realise the UEM and support the translation of the UEM into the lived reality for all at TU Dublin. They provided a framework for streamlining the university module portfolio, supporting multimodal delivery, and ensuring transparent progression opportunities to and through TU Dublin. Additionally, the Framework of Learner Experiences (FLE) supported the realisation the UEM through embedding Inclusive, Authentic, Digital, Interdisciplinary and Sustainable learning experiences across all programmes.



Engagement Workshops 2023-2024

In 2023, Engagement Workshops were held with 26 of TU Dublin's Schools to explore embedding the UEM into everyday teaching, learning and assessment practice. These workshops provided structured forums to discuss the seven 'Fundamentals', identify next steps for implementation within each School and Faculty. A meta-synopsis of the workshop outcomes revealed shared understandings, common challenges, and opportunities for flexible timetabling, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and an enhanced focus on learner-centredness. Following this, bespoke versions were delivered to staff from Professional Services and the Vice President Offices structure.



Learner Collaboration 2021-2024

As part of a co-created approach, TU Dublin Learners were central to the design and development of the UEM. For example, initially TU Dublin Learners took part in tailored workshops during the Socialisation phase, with a smaller sub-group of Learners taking leading roles in the data analysis and writing-up of the Socialisation phase data set. Towards the end of the UEM development journey TU Dublin Learners, through Students Union representation, co-designed the TU Dublin Learner Assembly. The TU Dublin Learner Assembly provides a sustainable mechanism to amplify the Learner voice, in all its diversity, on topics that are strategically important to the Learner and the University, such as the UEM.

The collaborative and co-created approach adopted during the design and development of the UEM enhanced the collective understanding of the UEM across the entire university and within the different contexts that exist in TU Dublin. The ongoing process of workshops and feedback ensures that the UEM is continuously shaped by the insights of TU Dublin's academic and professional staff, allowing it to remain responsive to the evolving needs of our learners.

From 2024 onwards, the focus moved to integrating the UEM into the TU Dublin processes and systems, specifically the TU Dublin Quality Framework and the interdependent systems. This is being enabled by an enhanced Programme Review and Programme Validation processes that ensures a harmonised and evidenced-based approach to actioning the UEM and fully realising the university's Strategic Intent.

As part of the University Education Model (UEM) team's commitment to clear and accessible communication, a suite of publications was developed and shared with colleagues and partners. These concise guides synthesise key aspects of the UEM, offering practical explanations, visual summaries, and evidence-based insights to support understanding and implementation across the University.

Together, the publications reflect the evolving story of the UEM from its Guiding Principles and Core Components to the emerging Insights that capture lessons learned and the Implementation frameworks that enable sustained institutional change. The documents below, hosted on ARROW@TU Dublin, represent a living record of this shared journey towards a coherent, learner-centred university way of being.

UEM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The ten Guiding Principles provide the foundation for the UEM, defining the values and priorities that shape learning and teaching across TU Dublin.

- [UEM Guiding Principle 1](#) Student centred & student engaged
- [UEM Guiding Principle 2](#) Connected, engaged & internationalised curriculum
- [UEM Guiding Principle 3](#) Diversity of provision & focus on practice
- [UEM Guiding Principle 4](#) Excellent, flexible, agile teaching and learning
- [UEM Guiding Principle 5](#) Knowledge creation to application
- [UEM Guiding Principle 6](#) Highly engaged student experience
- [UEM Guiding Principle 7](#) Inclusive, global and multicultural
- [UEM Guiding Principle 8](#) Continuously developing, committed & caring staff
- [UEM Guiding Principle 9](#) Transitions
- [UEM Guiding Principle 10](#) Access and equal opportunity

UEM COMPONENTS

Three interrelated components: Choice, Experience, and Support place the Learner at the centre of all curriculum design.

- [Flexible Learning Pathways](#)
- [Framework of Learning Experiences](#)
- [Mobilising Timetabling at TU Dublin: The UEM perspective](#)
- [Student Advising and Support](#)
- [Pan University Modules](#)
- [Embedding 'Holistic Intelligence' Education at TU Dublin](#)
- [The UEM Zones \(Macro, Meso and Micro Essential\)](#)

UEM INSIGHTS

Insights capture collective learning, reflections, and external perspectives that inform the continuing evolution of the UEM.

- [The UEM Collection 2024: "A University way of being"](#)
- [An external perspective on the UEM.](#)
- [Student and Staff Perspectives on 'Reimagining Education'](#)

UEM IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation resources translate the UEM into practice, offering practical frameworks, examples, and tools that enable sustainable institutional change.

- [Brief from the University Executive Team to Faculties and Schools](#) (including 7 Fundamentals)
- [7 Fundamentals, 7 Steps, 7 Minutes](#)
- [Actioning Fundamental One](#) (Streamlining the Module Portfolio)
- [Actioning Fundamental Four](#) (Free Electives)
- [Actioning Fundamentals Five - Seven](#) (realising the TU Graduate Attributes)

University Education Model

“A supported landscape of choices and experiences through which learners attending TU Dublin can learn and grow, offering them the skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications they require”

Learner Centered

The education model is a learner-centred approach that values the needs, interests, and autonomy of our learner as core to transformative learning.

Learner Support

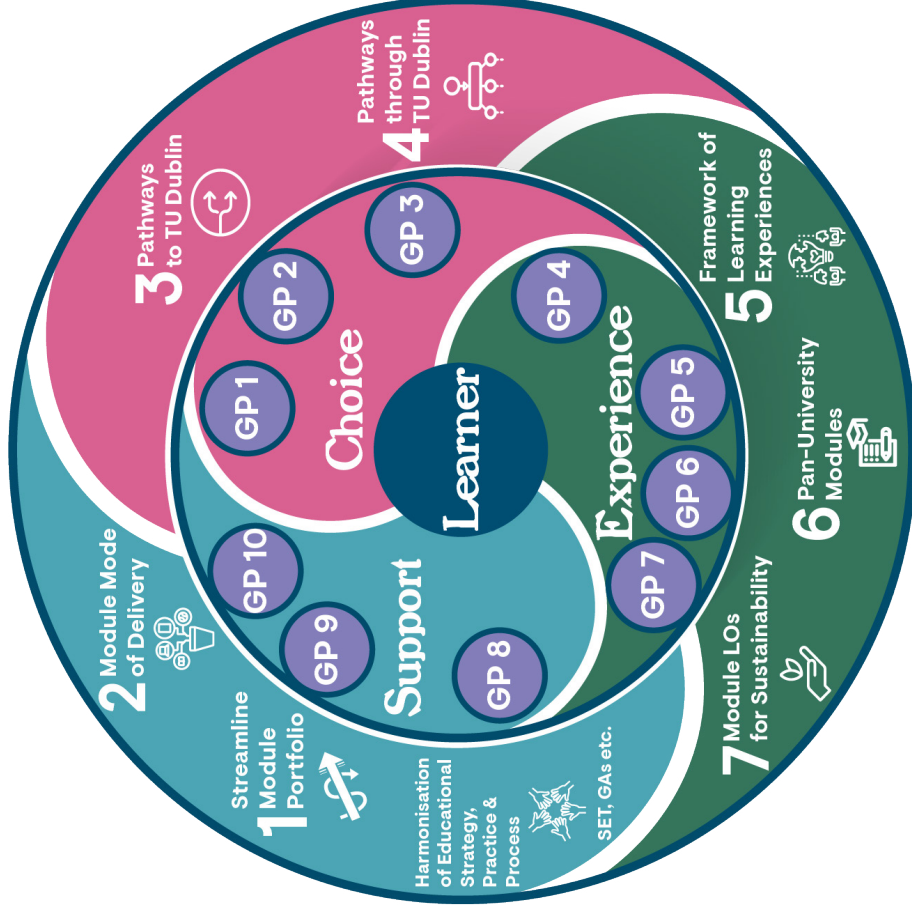
Make education accessible, inclusive and attainable for as diverse and broad a range of learners as possible.

Learner Choice

Enable learners to pursue their interests, passions, and life purpose by offering choice and enabling student agency.

Learner Experience

Empower learners to discover who they are and grow as whole people through transformational educational experiences that are interdisciplinary, sustainable, digital, inclusive and authentic.



The University Education Model (UEM) positions the Learner at the centre, framed by three interrelated components: Choice, Experience, and Support, and underpinned by ten Guiding Principles that inform curriculum design and delivery. Surrounding these are the seven Fundamentals, representing the key institutional actions that operationalise and embed the UEM in practice across TU Dublin.