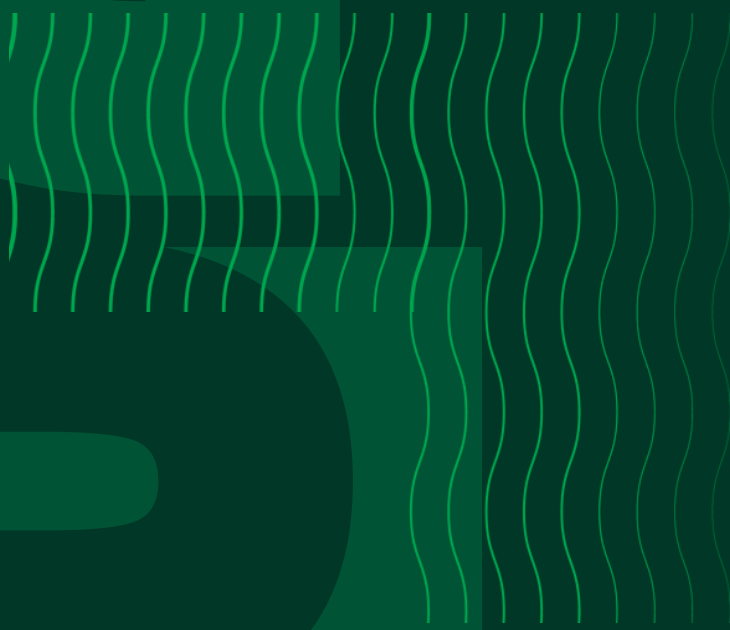




UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Comhpháirteachas OL
UL Engage

2021



Annual Report
2021

Welcome

As we look back on the 2021-22 academic year it is hard to believe the success of the re-engagement of working in person once more. It has proven how resilient those involved in community-engaged activity are and how well equipped the UL Engage team are to adapt to meet the need of our communities, locally, nationally and internationally.

Each Year, UL Engage works with its community partners in meaningful and reciprocal ways and each year they amaze us with innovative programmes and initiatives that create community-minded students and citizens. This enables UL to engage in long-standing and enduring partnerships. This year is no exception and this annual report identifies some of the key achievements of UL Engage in collaboration with its key community partners.

UL Engage is actively transforming learning and this approach expanded this year with the addition of a professional development programme in Community Engagement with Tusla. In addition or international reach through the K4C project is putting UL Engage on the map as an international exemplar in community-engaged research, teaching and learning. Our provision of graduate 2030 bursaries underscores our commitment to a sustainable future embedded in the practices of community-engaged scholarship.

It is a true joy to watch community and faculty partners along with our students think creatively about tackling some of the key problems of our time.

Professor Mairead Moriarty



Table of Contents

- 04** — About UL Engage
- 06** — Transforming Learning
- 09** — Excellent Research
- 11** — Internationalisation
- 12** — City and Region
- 19** — Operational Model

About UL Engage

Established in September 2015, the aim of UL Engage is to support civic engagement in research, teaching and in university-community collaborative projects.

In 2018 UL was invited to join the UNESCO-sponsored Knowledge for Change (K4C) global consortium of Higher Education Institutions committed to best practice community-based learning and research. The K4C training programme was used to support a re-purposing of existing staff roles to enable UL to build both disciplinary and trans-disciplinary capacity for effective and impactful engagement.

Four Knowledge for Change hubs were created to coordinate and support engagement within and between the areas of STEMM, Languages and Culture, Health and Well-Being, and Community Learning. Each hub is supported by 2-3 K4C mentors.

In February 2020 UL appointed its first Head of Community Engagement, to work with the K4C team to build a more coordinated and integrated approach to the development of engaged research and scholarship in UL.

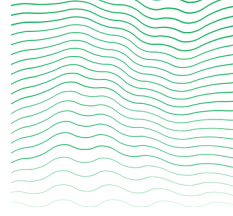
The K4C hubs are coordinated and supported by the UL Engage office, comprising a Community Engagement Facilitator; an Impact Officer; a Digital and Communications Officer; and a Senior Administrator.

The UL Engage mission is fourfold:

- To establish UL as a national and international leader in Engaged Research and Scholarship.
- To develop, promote and support a 'gold standard' for university civic engagement in terms of the reputation, impact and evaluation of UL engaged activities.
- To demonstrate the value-added that smart civic engagement can bring to the university's core goals in teaching and learning, research and internationalization.
- To leverage the university's strengths and strategic commitment to sustainable social, cultural and economic development in our local region.



Meet the Team



UL Engage



**Prof Maura
Adshead**



**Tracey
Gleeson**



**Eileen
Hoffler**



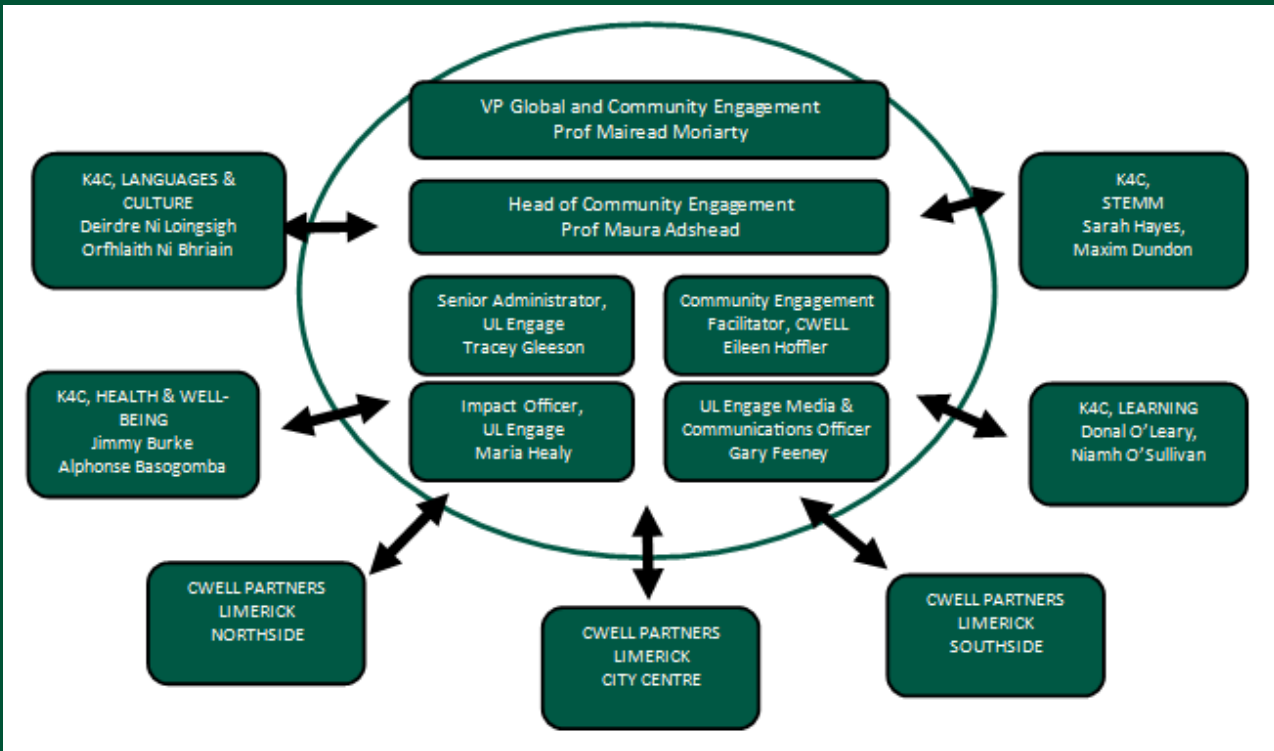
**Niamh
O'Sullivan**



**Maria
Healy**



**Gary
Feeney**



K4C Mentors



**Jimmy
Burke**



**Deirdre
Ni Lionsigh**



**Orfhlaith Ni
Bhriain**



**Alphonse
Basagomba**



**Donal
O'Leary**



**Maxim
Dundon**



**Sarah
Hayes**

Transforming Learning

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Professional Diploma in Community Engagement



Seirbhís Tacaíochta
Oideachais Tusla

Tusla Education Support Service

This year another programme was added to the portfolio of community-engaged learning programmes supported by UL Engage. The Professional Diploma in Community Engagement is a joint initiative with Tusla Educational Support Services (TESS). The Professional Diploma in Community Engagement offers previous and past

Home School Liaison Coordinators within TESS accredited learning at a graduate-level equivalent to 30ECTS. This credit can be transferred and used as recognized prior learning in any third-level institution in Ireland and may be used as an entry route to UL's Masters in Community Research.

"The programme is innovative in placing practicing Home School Community Liaison Coordinators with community leaders in areas of disadvantage with a view to co-designing and co-delivering an identified community project, giving meaningful and real professional experience.

This collaboration between UL/TESS allows for practitioners and community leaders to work in partnership, identifying issues requiring action within their communities and co-creating the locally based means by which these issues can be addressed"



David Dineen, Regional Training Manager, TESS

Students on the Professional Diploma in Community Engagement and the Masters in Community Research join community-based adult learners on the CWELL diploma to consult with local communities and to co-design, develop and deliver community-based projects that address identified needs.



“It's fantastic. I was a teacher and knew a lot about teaching, but coming into communities, I had a lot to learn in that regard. To be thrown in at the deep end with people from the community and then into the community project – you're seeing and learning the practicalities in train and working. I don't think it could be done without that immersion in the community and putting into practice what you're learning. For me that works really well. ”

Eoin Fanning, HSCL, Waterford



Community, Wellness, Empowerment, Leadership and Life-skills

The CWELL diploma programme represents a long-term university commitment to supporting both individuals and communities in under-represented parts of Limerick. The course acronym reflects the curriculum content, which is designed to apply to both individual and community needs in terms of: managing physical and mental well-being; empowering individuals and groups to identify and advocate for their needs, and developing the necessary leadership and life skills to address personal and community development objectives in a proactive and strategic manner.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the 2021 CWELL community project was selected by Campus Engage and the National Forum for Teaching and Learning (NFTL) as a national exemplar of best practice Community Engaged Learning.



Watch the NFTL video that accompanies the award:

<https://vimeo.com/699053329>

In 2021 CWELL graduates and community partners got together to support a community-based website to promote the programme. The website features profiles of CWELL tutors, students and graduates as well as details of CWELL community partners and projects. The CWELL magazine, which got a revamp in 2021, can also be accessed via the website.



Visit the  website for more information on course content and projects



Comhrá

An open educational resource for Community Engaged Learning

COMHRÁ is a series of video vignettes featuring community practitioners in conversation with the UL Knowledge for Change (K4C) team. The teaching and learning (T&L) resource, which draws on meaningful episodes from real-life contexts, aims to support students, staff and community partners who engage with communities, in modules, placements, projects or research work.

The 10 Comhrá videos present curated conversations with a range of community partners and collaborators, whom each give their perspective on a range of issues concerning university-community engagement for teaching and learning and research. These perspectives are arranged around key themes concerning Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), including: CBPR spaces and places; Conflict Management; Community Collaboration; Use of Language; Cultural Sensitivity; Research Reciprocity; Unconscious Bias; Relationship Building; Reflective Practice and Transformative Learning.



COMHRÁ promotes a narrative approach to teaching and learning with the intention that the video vignettes will be used to prompt discussion and critical reflection in a variety of T&L settings. Each video has a bilingual element, and some conversations are in Irish with English subtitles.

COMHRÁ will be useful in all curricula where students are involved in partnership and engagement activities. The open-access resource will allow UL staff to integrate it into teaching across disciplines. This supports the UL mission to provide a best practice resource for engagement in line with UL Graduate Attributes.

This project was led by the K4C mentors, Languages and Culture, Dr Deirdre Ni Loingsigh, Aonad Na Gaeilge and Dr Orfhlaith Ni Bhriain, IWAMD, supported by UL Engage and the K4C team. We wish to acknowledge financial support from AHSS Faculty.

Excellent Research

6-WEEK ONLINE TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COURSE

ENGAGED RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR SOCIETAL IMPACT

Building capacity across Ireland

CampusEngage

iuua IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION

Throughout 2021, UL Engage contributed to the development of the national 'train the trainer' programme for engaged research, for delivery in Spring 2022. Engaged Research & Innovation For Societal Impact: Building Capacity Across Ireland was developed in a collaboration between the Irish Universities Association, Campus Engage, the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning, and funded by the Higher Education Authority. Course content was informed by a Project Advisory Group, with representation from Enterprise Ireland, the Irish Research Council, Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board, Health Research Charities Ireland, the Royal Irish Academy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) and the Irish Universities Association, as well as researchers and support staff from TCD, UL, UCD, NUIG, MU, WIT, DCU, TUD, and UCC.

This course foreshadows the UL2030 Graduate Training for Engaged Research which is being developed in a collaboration between UL Engage, the Centre for Transformative Learning (CTL) and Graduate and Professional Studies UL.



2030 Graduate Bursaries



The UL 2030 Graduate Bursaries programme provides motivated graduate students with the opportunity to join an established research project and challenges them to deliver on agreed project deliverables. In addition to individual project supervision bursary students are supported by UL2030 graduate training for Engaged Research.

The initiative will: maximise the value obtained from existing research funding; create a platform for hiring high-quality early-stage graduate students; provide additional staff support for training those students; amplify the potential for research impact; put early-stage graduate students on track to carry out excellent research and compete for external funding.

For details see: <https://www.ul.ie/engage/2030GraduateBursaries>

CREATING OUR FUTURE

A National Conversation on Research in Ireland

In April 2021, planning for a national conversation on research in Ireland, supported by the Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science began. Maura Adshead, UL Engage was invited to advise in developing the engagement plan, following the success of the public consultation [Limerick Let's Talk About Our Mayor](#) led by UL Engage and carried out completely online due to COVID restrictions in place at the time.

Creating our Future was officially launched in July 2021 and provided an opportunity for everyone in Ireland to give ideas on how to make the country better for all. When the engagement was concluded over 18,000 submissions had been received on topics from science, the environment, health and education to poverty, the arts, diversity, and inclusions. In December 2021, the submissions were sent to expert panels for review, culminating in a report for Government in Spring 2022.

For more: <https://creatingourfuture.ie/>

CampusEngage **IRISH UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION**

WEBINAR

STILL CONNECTING: DOING ENGAGED RESEARCH & INNOVATION ONLINE

This webinar will showcase how engaged research teams have adapted their practice during the pandemic in order to deliver funded projects.

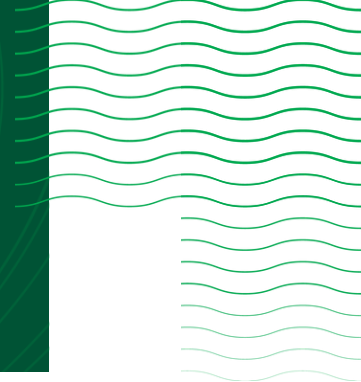
We will also launch a new **Campus Engage How to Guide: Delivering Engaged Research Workshops Online** and provide space to exchange knowledge on addressing barriers, and facilitating excellent engaged research online.

FRIDAY **Apr 23** **11 - 12 noon**

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- DR MARY-CLARE O'SULLIVAN**
Secretary, Citizens Assembly Ireland
- EVAN BOYLE**
PhD Student, MaREI Centre, Science Foundation Ireland
- ASSOC. PROF. MAURA ADSHEAD**
Head of UL Engagement, University of Limerick
- KEVIN QU Aid**
Member of the Dementia Research Advisory Team
- DR LAURA O'PHILBIN**
Public Patient Coordinator, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

Internationalisation online



Throughout the pandemic, UL Engage continued to work remotely with a range of international partners who share our values.

In August 2020, the European Commission launched an additional call for Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership projects to address challenges presented because of the COVID-19 pandemic aiming to enhance online, distance and blended learning - including supporting teachers and trainers, as well as safeguarding the inclusive nature of digital learning opportunities.



UL Engage, in a collaboration with the Centre for Transformative Learning (CTL) will share their expertise with the University of Maribor, Slovenia and the University of Rijeka (UR), Croatia in '[E-laboratory for digital education](#)', in a project that focuses on developing the digital pedagogical competencies of teaching staff, through researching frameworks, approaches to digital inclusion as well as the development of inclusive online examination methodologies. The project, which received €163,877 in funding will result in an e-learning platform with evidence-based good practice approaches and e-courses for faculty members.

UL Engage continues to be represented on the [Executive Board of the International Federation of Workers Educational Associations \(IFWEA\)](#) a global network of not-for-profit and third sector organisations dedicated to promoting lifelong learning, democratic practice, justice and equality for all. In March 2021, UL Engage shared an online study visit with the European Solidar Foundation and IFWEA, focused on building digital engagement and sustainable communities.

This was followed in April, by an Irish Universities Association Webinar focused on 'Doing Engaged Research and Innovation Online', where the UL Engage online public consultation for the Directly Elected Mayor was held out as an exemplar of best practice and subsequently featured in their How-To Guide of the same name.

In November, Maura Adshead presented a keynote address to the Community Based Educational Research (COMBER) 2nd International Conference, at North-West University, South Africa finding a group of fellow engagers who promise to return the visit in person in Spring 2022 and explore joint project possibilities.



Access Academy for Children Showcase

Graduates of a younger kind celebrated a University of Limerick milestone with a difference in Summer 2021.

Sixth class students from Our Lady Queen of Peace National School, Janesboro were the first to be conferred from UL's new 'Academy for Children', designed to introduce the University to those who do not know it and to inspire future graduates. In all, 39 pupils collected their certificates as the first graduating class of the new UL Academy for Children.



The graduation ceremony was officiated by Professor Nigel Healey, Interim Provost and Deputy President of UL, who spoke about the transformative power of education saying that; "University education can transform a person's life chances and enable them, regardless of their background, to achieve their potential".

Established with UL Engage funding in late 2020, the Academy reflects a UL commitment to widening access to third-level education by working in partnership with the community to keep to ensure the involvement of under-represented groups in University activities.

City and Region

The initiative was led by the Niamh O'Sullivan, K4C mentor and Primary Access coordinator, UL Access Office. Our Lady Queen of Peace National School was chosen as the pilot partner and the school worked in collaboration with the UL Access Office, UL Engage, Limerick Sports Partnership and the Irish Athletic Boxing Association to design exciting programmes with new curricula.



Commenting on the “meaningful links that had been created with the University”, School principal Eamonn O’Connell explained how these programmes “lessened the daunting challenge” of the move to secondary school. The Consul Honoraire de France, Dr Loïc Guyon, who was also present at the ceremony, praised the French programme co-designed with UL staff in the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics noting how it was “beneficial in helping the kids to successfully progress from the primary school environment to the post-primary one.”

The Academy for Children will expand its membership to other local DEIS primary schools in 2022. The programme of activities will include exploration days at UL as well as the delivery of bespoke programmes for the fifth and sixth class children in the schools.

**For further details, contact: Niamh.anne.osullivan@ul.ie
Project Coordinator Academy for Children / UL Engage K4C Mentor for Learning**



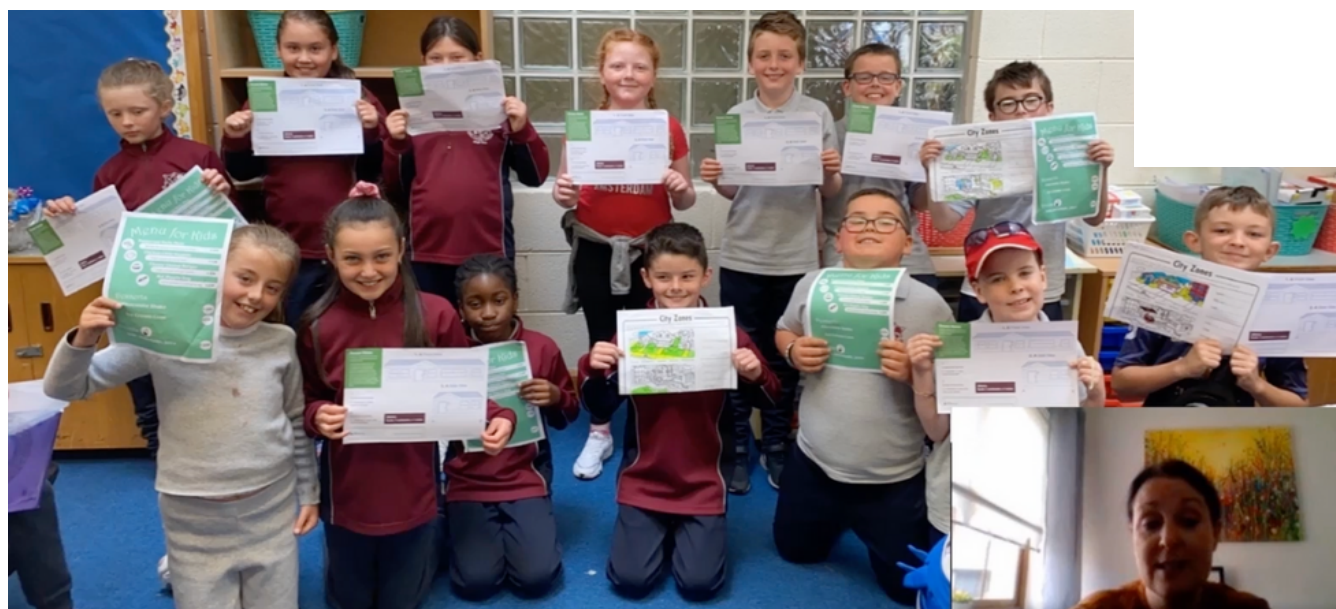
City and Region

JAI
supports

160 organisations
3,000 volunteers
500+ schools

UL Staff volunteering with Junior Achievement Ireland

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) is a member of one of the world's largest educational non-profits, encouraging young people to stay in school and prepare for their futures by delivering hands-on, experiential learning in entrepreneurship, employability, financial literacy and the value of STEMM.



" The Junior Achievement programme has been an amazing resource in our school for the past number of years and has always inspired and motivated our children to see a future for themselves in the world of work. To Have University volunteers is fantastic, as it exposes children to positive role models from third level education and shows them all of the opportunities that lie ahead for them by continuing education. It has always created and extended our children's aspirations for their futures. In this school, we are firm believers in philosophy that education leads to opportunity. And Junior Achievement has always been central to this vision."



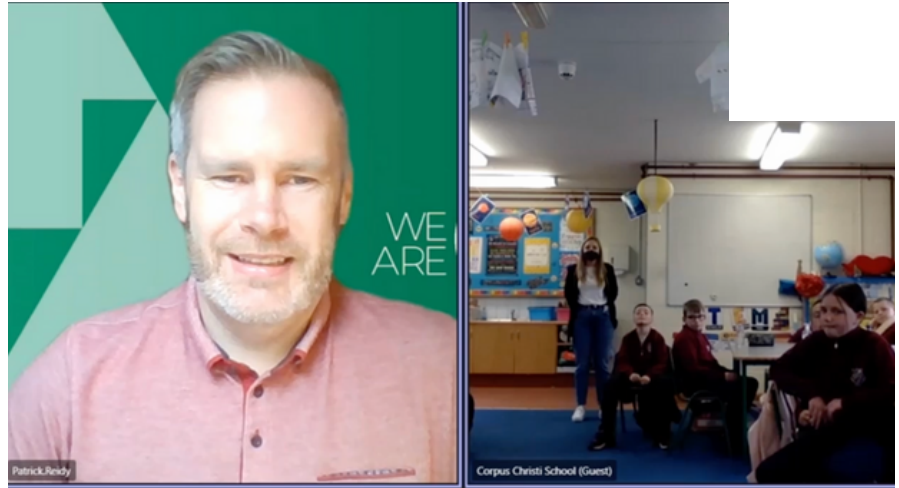
Órfhlaith Prendergast, Deputy Principal, Corpus Christi National School, Moyross

In 2021, UL Engage partnered with JAI to pilot UL staff volunteering in local schools. Notwithstanding the pandemic, 11 UL staff took up the challenge of volunteering despite COVID-19 restrictions.



City and Region

With the support of UL HR, UL staff volunteers were each trained and equipped to deliver JAI bespoke curriculum focused short programmes to complement the efforts of teachers and families in helping young people see the value of staying in school and maximising their potential.



"Anyone who is interested in getting involved with JAI I'd highly recommend reaching out and contacting them. I found the experience really beneficial. They have created some excellent content to give to classes. I found the experience really rewarding, in terms of interacting with the pupils and the teachers. Its great getting feedback from the pupils and teachers on a weekly basis. I would say if you're interested in giving a little bit back, reach out to JAI. "



Patrick Reidy, Univeristy of Limerick



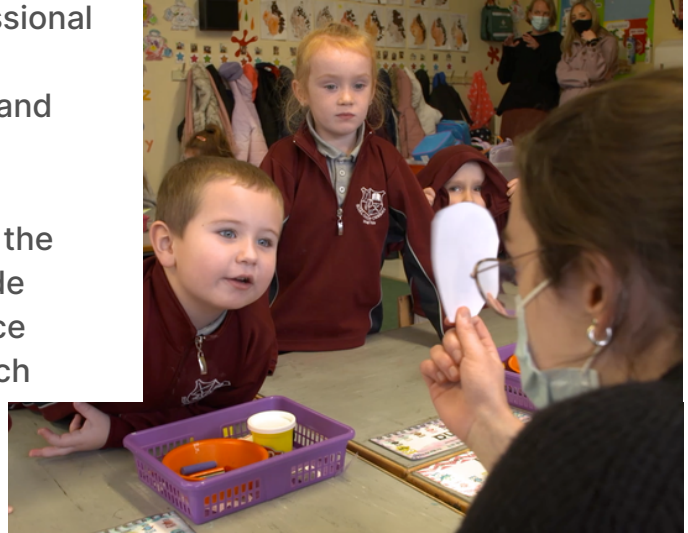
 **Junior Achievement** Ireland
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

City and Region

HAPPEE

The Health Alliances for Practice-based Professional Education and Engagement (HAPPEE) is a collaboration led by the University of Limerick and Corpus Christi National School Moyross.

The project places Allied Health students from the University of Limerick in local schools to provide collaborative, evidence-based and best practice therapy supports to the pupils and school, which complements existing HSE-funded essential therapy services.



“

The children benefited by receiving bespoke interventions in their own community during their school time, as well as building the capacity of the staff and the parents to support the children.

Hilary McAlea, Corpus Christi Principal

”

The project is supported by UL Engage, UL’s School of Allied Health, the Health Service Executive (HSE), Blackberry Disability Services and the Southside Child and Family Centre.

HAPPEE has been running on a trial period since September 2020 and delivered four student placements at Corpus Christi National School in Moyross.



City and Region

HAPPEE in 2022

The project will begin in Gaelscoil Sheirse Clancy, Le Chéile National School, and Our Lady Queen of Peace National School.

HAPPEE

The project evolved from delivering one student discipline to four, with students from Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Human Nutrition & Dietetics all worked on-site in the school to provide interprofessional therapy supports.

Interprofessional education is the approach recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a key strategy to address current complex challenges in healthcare. The HAPPEE project is a leading light in this regard.



"The benefit for my son to have UL students in this school was that he hadn't been seen for four years previous to the sessions. It was physiotherapy sessions, they really benefited him and were excellent and to have all the support was such a great milestone in his life that he hadn't been seen in so long. And really he's advancing, he's gone from strength to strength."



Catherine Power, Parent - Corpus Christi National School



One Million Stars



On Wednesday 1st December, the Mayor of Limerick and the One Million Stars Limerick Committee formally launched Limerick's One Million Star exhibit outside the Hunt Museum. The Million Stars installation comprises over a thousand stars, each individually hand-woven by an army of volunteers from across Limerick city and county throughout 2021.

Connecting with communities through the art of star weaving and group star weaving workshops, the One Million Stars project is part of the global One Billion Stars project, founded in Australia in 2012 by artist Maryann Talia Pau after the rape and murder of an Irish woman, Gillian Meagher, living in Melbourne.

Each eight-point star woven represents light, hope and solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence.

The Limerick project was led by the Hunt Museum, who partnered with UL Engage, CWELL, Adapt Domestic Abuse Services, Mental Health Ireland and Limerick City and County Council.



<https://onemillionstarsireland.ie/>

Operational Model

UL@50 Consultation Review Group Report

Throughout 2021, the UL Consultation Review Group, coordinated and supported by UL Engage, met regularly to drive and support the UL@50 Consultations process, initiated by UL President Kerstin Mey.

Terms of Reference: to develop a process by which all UL staff are given the opportunity to feedback and contribute to looking at the emphasis and detail of what we do well, what we could do better and how this can be achieved in relation to the UL@50 Strategic Plan goals.



The UL@50 Consultation was initiated by President Kerstin May in early October 2019 with the establishment of the Consultation Review Group (CRG) following a call for expressions of interest. The CRG was not a representative group but rather a balance across faculties, disciplines and division, between early and advanced career staff, administrative, support and academic roles while ensuring a gender balance, diversity and inclusivity.

Based on input from colleagues via CRG members in their area, and following dialogue with a number of staff groups (Heads of Departments Forum,



50

Reflecting | Connecting | Transforming
Machnamh | Nasc | Gníomh

Management Council), the CRG agreed that a custom, dialogue-based consultative process was the most appropriate way to talk to staff about the UL Strategic Priorities.

Phase 1 facilitated individuals and groups to give their opinions using a mix of Individual Feedback Forms and a series of internally facilitated Group Consultations. All feedback was summarised and noted and made available to all UL staff on the consultation sharepoint site.



The UL@50 Consultation was initiated by President Kerstin May in early October 2019 with the establishment of the Consultation Review Group (CRG) following a call for expressions of interest. The CRG was not a representative group but rather a balance across faculties, disciplines and division, between early and advanced career staff, administrative, support and academic roles while ensuring a gender balance, diversity and inclusivity.

Based on input from colleagues via CRG members in their area, and following dialogue with a number of staff groups (Heads of Departments Forum, Management



Council), the CRG agreed that a custom, dialogue-based consultative process was the most appropriate way to talk to staff about the UL Strategic Priorities.

Phase 1 facilitated individuals and groups to give their opinions using a mix of Individual Feedback Forms and a series of internally facilitated Group Consultations. All feedback was summarised and noted and made available to all UL staff on the consultation sharepoint site.



Operational Model



The process was communicated to the campus community in Town Hall meetings, HR Notices, President's Notices, signposts on UL staff homepage and a dedicated page on the Office of the President website. A snapshot feedback video (08/03/21) to all staff from Professor May has been viewed 884 times. Phase 1 of the process concluded on 19th March.



In Phase 2 of the consultation process, the feedback from phase 1 was used to identify 8 key topics. These were then further explored in a second round of consultations led by the CRG in order to identify and recommend a series of actions for change to help support the University's alignment with its strategic goals.

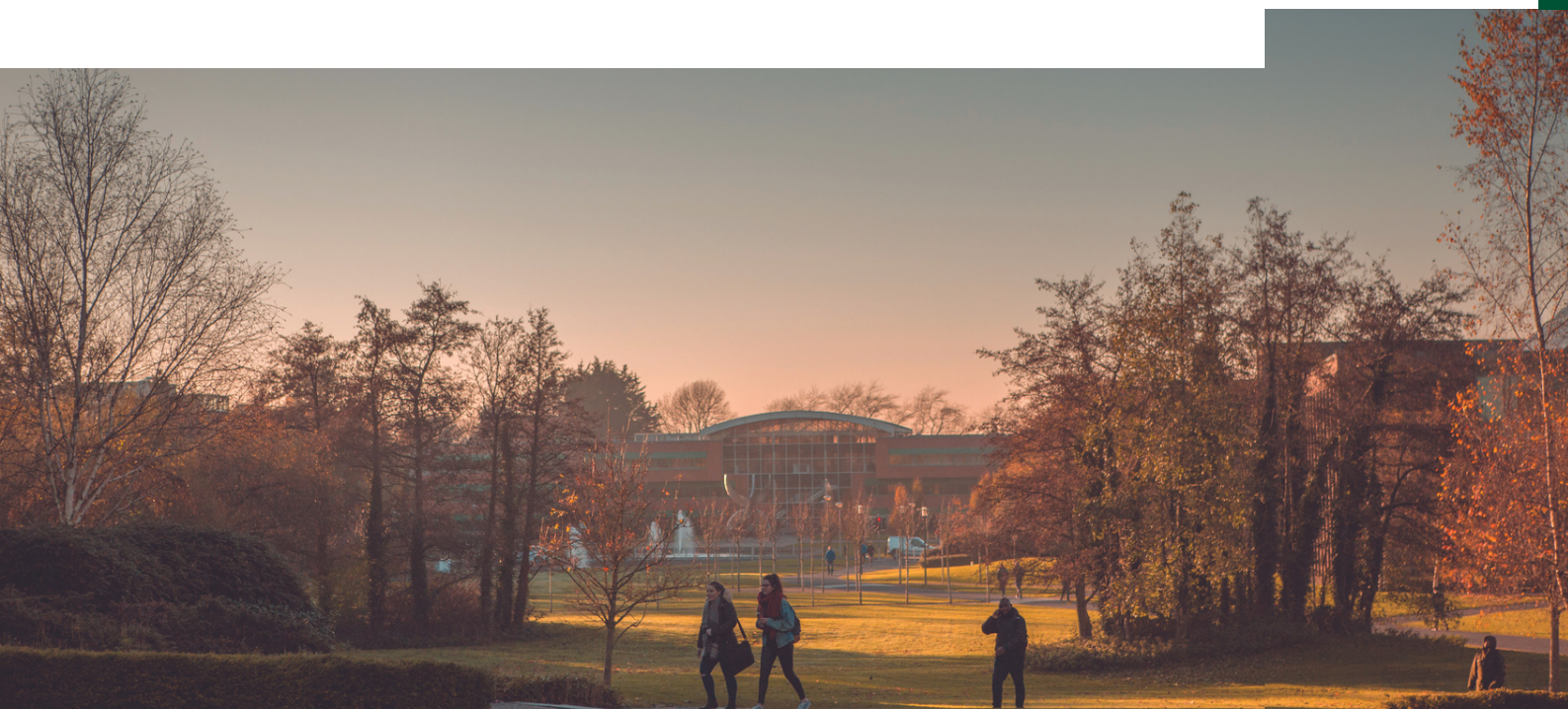
**CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO VIEW
THE REPORT IN FULL**



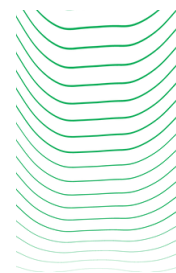
<https://www.ul.ie/engage/sites/default/files/uploads/UL%20Consultation%20Review%20Group%20Report%20from%20UL%4050.pdf>

The 140 individual survey responses and 70+ group responses lead to a 59-page report highlighting actions for change for the UL Executive Committee to consider.

The UL Consultation Review Group Report from the UL@50 Consultation Process has fed into a recalibration of the UL@50 Strategic Plan, planned for early 2022.

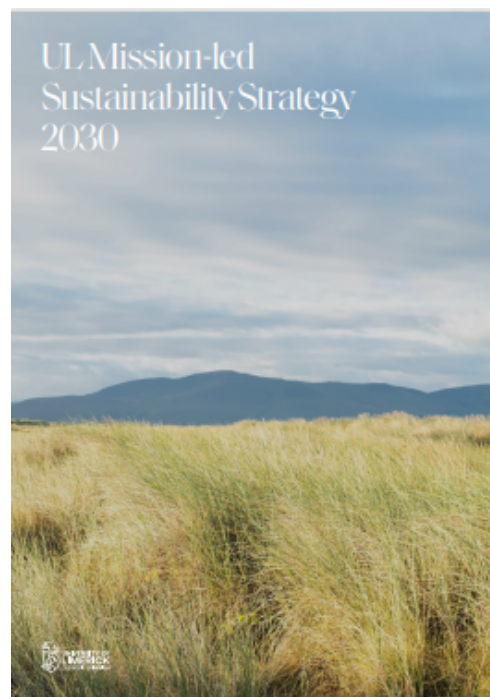


Operational Model



UL@50 Sustainability Committee

At the beginning of 2021, President Kerstin Mey approached a number of staff to join a working group focused on UL Sustainability and the UL response to SDGs going forward. The group was led by Andrea Deverell, UL Futures and Foresight and - with an inclusive open door policy - rapidly began to expand to over 60 UL staff from all areas of the campus. Chaired by Professor Ann MacPhail, the Sustainability group divided their work into four thematics, focusing on: Leadership, Staff and Governance; Campus Community and Operations; Partnership, Society and Engagement; and Learning, Research and Students. UL Engage took responsibility for Partnership, Society and Engagement group and, over the course of the year, in a series of plenary 'workathons' and working group meetings, UL's path towards a sustainable future was developed.



UL@50 Celebration Committee

Throughout 2021, UL Engage has worked with the UL@50 celebration committee, chaired by Dr David Flemming, Head of History. The committee has prepared a year-long agenda of events and activities from September 2022-2023 to celebrate UL's 50-year anniversary.

The theme for the celebration will be Reflecting, Connecting, and Transforming. As part of the celebration, UL Engage has produced a short UL Story video for use in primary and secondary schools and other youth outreach activities. Combining images and footage from the past and present, the video celebrates the UL story and provides a practical resource for UL engagement activities.

You can view the video, along with other engagement resources at:

<https://vimeo.com/ulengage/ulstory>

