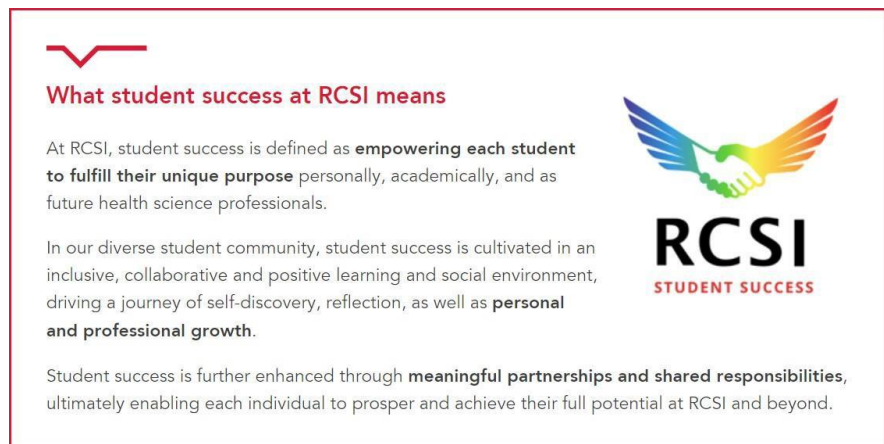| HEALTHY CAMPUS CASE STUDY	
Name of Institution	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
Who led the initiative?	Deputy Dean for Student Engagement (Professor Celine Marmion) in partnership with Joanna Zawadzka (Quality Enhancement Office), Gareth Edwards (Health Professions Education Centre) and Sarah Ghobrial (medical student)
Date and timeframe of the initiative	Academic year 2021 – 2022 and ongoing
What was the reach of the initiative?	The entire RCSI student population
Initiative Title	Student Success
Aims/ Objectives	To develop a definition of student success in the unique context of RCSI and build a framework to appropriately address students' needs in this area.
The rationale for the action, including any identified health needs	Student success is currently one of the key priorities in the national higher education sector with many higher education institutions developing strategies and initiatives in this area. RCSI offers a range of academic and professional support systems to promote student success, however at times they are not being communicated in a manner that directly links them with student success. To address this, RCSI undertook a Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) project to develop a definition of student success in the unique context of RCSI and build a framework to appropriately address students' needs in this area.

  	• This project aligned with the RCSI strategy 2018-2022 • Developing a framework and strategy around 'Student Success' is currently also one of the key priorities in the national higher education sector which is being led by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning • 'Student Success' is now formally embedded within the RCSI Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) programme and, more specifically, within the annual RCSI StEP agreements; formal agreements between RCSI and the Students' Union and Postgraduates Students' Union.
Summary	A student was recruited to be part of a multidisciplinary project team, which also included academic and professional staff members, with an aim to develop RCSI's definition of student success and benchmark it against the national definition by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. Another objective was to review current best practices in the Irish and international Higher Education sector for supporting student success, such as existing student success strategies, action plans, initiatives and support systems. Student and staff feedback collected through anonymous and voluntary surveys was crucial to developing a better understanding of factors which contribute to 'student success' from staff and students' perspectives. Oversight of data collection was provided by the Quality Enhancement Office. Students were asked to explain what student success means to them, describe key enablers and barriers to succeed and how RCSI can better support student success. Staff could comment on how they could contribute to student success as well as identify key enablers and barriers. The survey collected feedback from 190 staff members (16%) and 646 students (26%).

Survey data was analysed collaboratively within the team and the student member provided valuable insights into the meaning of the results. While student success can have many flavours, some common themes were identified, and an evidence-base was built to guide further action. It was confirmed that support systems from peers, family, staff and the institution play a central role in student success. Findings from the survey guided the team to develop a draft definition of student success. A series of consultations have been undertaken with the Senior Management Team, Heads of Schools and Heads of selected support departments who provided valuable input and shaped the final definition:

Outcome

A new RCSI definition of student success was developed:

Following the analysis of survey data and further reflection, the team concluded that, to maximise impact, the projects that support student success are to be embedded in the existing structures of the University. As such, student success is now firmly embedded within RCSI's Annual Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) Agreements, formal agreements between RCSI and the SU and PGSU teams. Feedback from students highlighted the importance of positive mental health, social connection and holistic support systems as enablers of students' success. Similarly, RCSI staff emphasised positive environment and mental health support as important factors.

Inclusion in these Agreements ensures that student success support is formally acknowledged and visible to senior decision-makers and students alike. This integration allows for a better synergy between the existing student support initiatives and student success.

Did you collaborate with internal and/or external stakeholders to deliver?	Student and staff feedback collected through anonymous and voluntary surveys was crucial to developing a better understanding of student success from staff and students' perspectives.
How was the initiative organised?	A student was recruited to be part of a multidisciplinary project team, which also included academic and professional staff members, with an aim to develop RCSI's definition of student success and benchmark it against the national definition by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. The project was supported by the RCSI Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) Programme and spanned over 8 weeks in the summer of the academic year 2021-22. The student worked full time on the project and received a student bursary. Biweekly meetings took place during this timeframe. The project involved the development of staff and student surveys, their circulation across the RCSI community and quantitative and qualitative analysis of survey data feedback. A benchmarking exercise reviewing best practices in other institutions was also undertaken. Additional consultation with key stakeholders was conducted and a definition of RCSI student success ultimately developed in the unique context of RCSI. The project also led to the development of a new RCSI student success logo as well as 'student success' now also being profiled on the RCSI website. See here for further details.
What resources did you need?	The project was supported by the RCSI Student Engagement and Partnership (StEP) Programme and the student partner received a bursary.
Has it been evaluated? How successful has it been?	The framework received positive feedback from senior stakeholders involved in reviewing the student success definition. Priority has been given to fund projects that promote student success as part of the StEP programme. Many of these directly relate to 'Healthy Campus'. For example, current projects include: • *'StEP 1 - Healthy Campus Initiative' – to develop an inclusive and coordinated approach to promote health and well-being across the RCSI campus* • "Let's Talk About It": A Week of Mental Health Discussions for Postgraduate Scholars • 'Schwartz Rounds - Peer-led support for medical trainees (addressing student burn out and peaks of mental strain)

	These projects, in which students and staff work collaboratively, are currently ongoing.
Any future plans, including the sustainability of the initiative?	Student Success is now firmly embedded within the RCSI StEP programme and RCSI's Annual StEP Agreements. Students and staff can submit proposals for projects that support student success which include projects that promote a healthy campus.
<mark>**Key Learning Points**</mark>	1) 'Student Success' and 'Healthy Campus' need a framework to be highlighted and prioritized in institutions. 2) Student success and healthy campus are multifaceted and factors such as students' wellbeing and social connection are important contributors. 3) There are similarities in what student success means to staff and students; for example, both emphasize mental health as a factor in student success.

<mark>**Healthy Campus Framework Categories (please tick all that apply)**</mark>

Healthy Campus Process	Whole Campus Approach	Topic	Population Group
Commit ☒	Leadership, Strategy & Governance ☒	Alcohol ☐	Students ☒
Coordinate ☒	Campus Environment (Facilities & Services) ☐	Substance Misuse ☐	Staff ☒
Consult ☒	Campus Culture & Communications ☒	Healthy Eating / Food ☐	Wider community ☒
Create ☒	Personal & Professional Development ☒	Mental Health & Wellbeing ☒	Other ☐
Celebrate & Continue ☐		Sexual Health & Wellbeing ☐	

		Tobacco Free Campus ☐	
		Physical Activity / Active Transport ☐	
		Wellbeing on the Curriculum ☐	
		Health & Sustainability ☐	
		Other ☐	

Contact Details

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