Overview: Postgraduate Student Engagement (PGSE) Working Group

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What is NStEP?

- National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) founded in 2016
- Seeks to not only embed the student voice across all levels of the sector, but actively creates initiatives that supports a vision of a learning community where students are partners in the decision-making process
- NStEP champions a democratic Higher Education and a student learning experience that is collaboratively co-created by students and staff together
About the PGSE working group

The PGSE working group consists of staff and students across HEIs and was formed in 2021

- Aim of the group is to promote and enhance postgrad student engagement, linking to the National Framework for Doctoral Education (NFDE) Advisory Forum

- Members are exploring actions aligned to the recommendations relating to PGR student engagement made the [2021 EUA Solutions Report on the implementation of the NFDE](#)

- ‘Building on ongoing efforts such as by the National Student Engagement Programme, a clear vision of PGR student representation and their involvement in governance should be developed across all institutions to optimise their impact on quality’
Membership of the Group

For this working group, there is a minimum of 10 members in the group, as follows:

- Chairperson: USI Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs Mohammed Mubashar Saeed (formerly Waqar Ahmed and Jenna Barry)
- Reps from QQI (secretariat), NStEP and USI
- Staff reps (academic staff with supervisory experience, post-doctoral researcher, HEI professional staff)
- Student Reps (Doctoral-level student, master’s level research student, SU rep)
- National organisations including StudentSurvey.ie

- Group typically meets monthly during the academic year
Progress and Work

Jan 2022
- First meeting of the group
- Briefing on EUA Solutions report
- Initial Terms of Reference discussion

Early 2022
- Briefings from NStEP and sparqs
- Work began to develop resource to map PGR SE in HEIs

Feb 2023
- Resource finalised and sent to 18 institutions - 17 returned completed responses on PGR & PG engagement practices and structures

Ongoing
- Analysis of responses (sub-group)
- Draft report to working group at next meeting (autumn 2023)
Next Steps

Following the results and findings in the report from information gathered from institutions next steps are:

- Establishment of a National Postgraduate Student Engagement Network (NPSEN)
- This Network will act as a platform to further this work – mapping current practice and broadening discussion around gaps and good practices identified
- Projected the NPSEN will be formed in late 2023 and convene in early 2024