



**National Student
Engagement Programme**

Clár Rannpháirtíochta Náisiúnta
na Mac Léinn

Overview: Postgraduate Student Engagement (PGSE) Working Group

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QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

HEA

HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

What is NStEP?

▶ National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) founded in 2016



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- ▶ 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