

Exploring Student Progression in Higher Education

Profile of Speakers (in order of appearance)	
Launch of Student Progression Data	
	<p>Dr Vivienne Patterson, Head of Skills, Engagement & Statistics, HEA</p> <p><i>Vivienne has a degree in Zoology from UCC and a master's in biotechnology and Doctorate of Science from DCU. In 2006 she joined the team at the Higher Education Authority as Head of Statistics where she led the Statistics Unit for 10 years. During that time Vivienne was responsible for transforming the communication of education data publishing a number of key reports. Since becoming Head of Skills, Engagement and Statistics in 2016, her responsibilities include the management of both Springboard+, a national upskilling and reskilling programme and the oversight of national apprenticeships in higher education. In 2019, she implemented the Human Capital Initiative, a €300m investment in Agility and Innovation across the Irish Higher Education System. Vivienne led the establishment of the National Apprenticeship Office for the HEA in 2020. Her role in the HEA involves active strategic engagement with enterprise to strengthen the relationship between higher education promotion and future employment and innovation. She is a member the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, the National Skills Council and the National Training Fund Advisory Group.</i></p>
Progression Rates: Overview & Key Findings	
	<p>Janice Lau, Senior Statistics Manager, HEA</p> <p><i>Janice is the Senior Statistics Manager in the Higher Education Authority. She leads the development and management of the national database on higher education students in Ireland, ensuring the delivery of a quality evidence base for higher education policy in Ireland. In her time in the HEA, Janice has worked on various projects, including the Graduate Outcomes Survey, StudentSurvey.ie,</i></p>

	<p><i>Socio-Economic Profiles, and Profile of Students with a Disability. She has transformed the visualisation and communication of data, advocating the use of interactive reports and dashboards to enhance accessibility for all.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to working in the Higher Education Authority, Janice was a Statistician in the Central Statistics Office, leveraging the Educational Longitudinal Database, and exploring the outcomes of further education awardees, and apprentices.</i></p>
	<p>Panel Discussion</p>
	<p><i>Chairing</i></p>
	<p>Tim Conlon, Head of Policy & Strategic Planning, HEA</p> <p><i>Tim leads the policy and strategic planning and system development & performance management units at the HEA. His work is concerned with the strategic performance, development and public accountability of Ireland’s higher education system. Tim graduated from the University of the Creative Arts (UK) and has an MBA from the Smurfit School of Business at UCD. Tim has worked at the HEA for almost twenty years, holding various posts at the national research council, in HEA research and infrastructure, in system development and in policy and planning. Tim has worked on strategic instruments designed to enhance national research output, improve ICT skills provision and to provide for labour market activation. He has carried out research on the nature of relationships between business, enterprise and academia and on research prioritisation. He has led or conducted quality reviews in broad areas from architecture education provision and international quality assurance through to reviews of arts and medical education provision as well as the allocation of degree awarding powers. On behalf of the HEA, Tim leads the reform process which is driving the creation of new technological universities. Tim is a former co-Chair of the National Open Research Forum, the Doctoral Advisory Forum and also Chaired the HEA working group which produced Ireland’s first National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework. He has also worked on the recent HEA process to examine options for the expansion places in Dentistry, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine provision. Tim is currently a co-Chair of the European Higher Education Area, BFUG Working Group on Learning and Teaching.</i></p>
	<p>Participants</p>



Cáit Noone, Head of Galway International Hotel, Atlantic Technological University

Cáit is an internationally experienced educator and has worked in the UK, Switzerland and China. She joined GMIT in 2007 and has held several positions since then. She was a member the CUA Steering Group in advance of GMIT becoming ATU. Cáit works across several collaborate committees including university integration, faculty formation, and EDI.

Cáit is a Fellow of the Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI) and is Vice President at Galway Chamber of Commerce. She has collaborated on several regional and national committees including the National Athena Swan Committee, the Galway European Capital of Culture Steering Committee, and the Galway European Region of Gastronomy Executive. She is also the higher education representative for THEA at the National Careers Oversight Group for the Tourism industry and is an expert member of IGCAT – Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism based in Catalonia.



Damien Owens, Director General, Engineers Ireland

Damien is the Director General of Engineers Ireland. An electronic engineer, Damien joined Engineers Ireland in 2010, serving as its Registrar and Chief Risk Officer. Damien has represented Engineers Ireland in both national and international matters and was elected president of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE) for the 2019-2022 terms and chair of the International Engineering Alliance for 2019-2023. He is a former member of the Accreditation Board of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, a board member of the European Society for Engineering Education and a member of the Medical Devices Committee of Ireland's National Office for Research Ethics Committees. A native of Dublin, Damien graduated as an Electronic Engineer from Trinity College Dublin in 1983 and with a Masters in Engineering and an MBA. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland.



Martha Ní Riada, UCD Students' Union President

Martha is a graduate of Law with Social Justice at UCD. Martha was previously elected as the UCD Students' Union Education Officer in 2022/23 and is the UCD representative on the UnaEuropa Student Board. As chief spokesperson for the Union, Martha's core responsibilities are to lead the political direction of the Union, advocate on behalf of students, create strong relations with faculty and staff, and ensure that the work of the Union is impactful at both local and national levels.



Professor Paul McSweeney, Head of Teaching & Learning, UCC

Paul is Vice-President for Learning and Teaching in University College Cork where he also holds a Personal Chair in Food Chemistry. His office coordinates the activities of the University's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL), Adult Continuing Education (ACE), Centre for Digital Education, Skills Centre, Examinations Appeals, the Language Centre the university's Library system and Cork University Press. He has an active research profile in dairy chemistry and is co-editor of 18 books and numerous research papers and reviews and in 2009 was awarded a higher doctorate (DSc) on published work. He is a regular chair of quality enhancement panels in UCC and elsewhere and is a member of the Student Experience, Teaching and Learning committee of Ireland's Higher Education Authority which guides the activities of National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. In addition to his current role, Prof McSweeney has considerable leadership experience in higher education, including as interim Head of College, acting Vice-President for External Relations, as a governor of the university and head of the School of Food and Nutritional Sciences.



Rhona McCormack , Director of Student Affairs, UL

Rhona is the Director of Student Affairs Division at the University of Limerick. She is responsible for delivery of a broad portfolio of student support services, including in the areas of Access and Widening Participation, Student Health and Well-being and Student Support and Development. She has held a variety of practitioner posts in Irish higher education over 30 years, including roles as Careers Advisor, Project Manager, and Mature Student Officer. Before taking

	<p><i>up the Director of Student Affairs role her most recent professional experience has been in access and widening participation, and specifically in adult access to higher education. Rhona is currently undertaking a Professional Doctorate in Higher and Adult Education, researching teacher experience and relational pedagogy on mature student access programmes framed within broader higher education policy contexts.</i></p>
	<p>Keynote Speaker</p>
	<p>Nick Hillman, Director of HEPI, UK</p> <p><i>Nick has been the Director of HEPI since 2014. He worked for the Rt Hon David Willetts MP (now Lord Willetts), the Minister for Universities and Science, from 2007 until the end of 2013, as Chief of Staff and then Special Adviser in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Previously, he was a History teacher and worked at the Association of British Insurers. At the 2010 general election, he was the runner-up in Cambridge.</i></p> <p><i>Nick’s recent research for HEPI includes papers on the sixtieth anniversary of the Robbins Report of 1963, the Graduate Route visa and free speech.</i></p> <p><i>Nick has written for a range of think tanks and journals. His journal articles include pieces on the Coalition’s higher education reforms for the Oxford Review of Education, on access to schools and selective universities for Higher Education Review and on the fifty-year history of student loans for Contemporary British History. He also wrote the authoritative account of being a special adviser for the Institute of Government.</i></p> <p><i>In 2020/21, Nick was shortlisted for the first Prospect magazine Think Tanker of the Year Award. He is an Honorary Fellow of both Queen Mary University of London (2016) and the National Conference of University Professors (2022) and also a Companion of the British Academy of Management (2022).</i></p> <p><i>He is currently a governor of the University of Manchester and the University of Buckingham as well as a Trustee of the National Foundation for Educational Research.</i></p>
	<p>Policy Workshops: Strategies to Support Student Success</p>
	<p>Chairing</p>



Dr Louise Callinan , Head of Access Policy, Higher Education Authority

Louise is Head of Access Policy with the Higher Education Authority (HEA). She has held various roles within the HEA, most recently as Head of Research and Research Policy, and as Director of the Irish Research Council, the national funding agency for research across all disciplines. Prior to this, she was responsible for managing the higher education landscape reform process including the creation of technological universities and for the associated national funding streams.

She also managed the implementation of the System Performance Framework and the annual strategic dialogue process with higher education institutions. Before joining the HEA, she was a lecturer.



Dylan Mishenko Student, TUS

Dylan is a final year student pursuing an Honours Degree in Business Studies at the Athlone Campus of the Technological University of the Shannon. Hailing from Longford, Dylan commutes to college while balancing his academic pursuits with part-time employment at Center Parcs.

Last year, Dylan encountered a setback when he failed a module during the academic year. However, with perseverance and the assistance of resources provided by TUS Second Shot, Dylan passed the module. He believes several supports helped him, but the tutorial support and mock exams offered by the business tutor were especially invaluable in his academic progress.

Looking to the future, Dylan is contemplating various avenues for his future endeavours. His aspirations include the possibility of working abroad, delving into the realm of data analytics through pursuing a master's degree, or transitioning into full-time employment upon completing his studies.



Dr Owen Ross, Head of Transitions & Student Success at the Technological University of the Shannon

Owen is Head of Transitions & Student Success at the Technological University of the Shannon. He completed his PhD in 2023, which focused on evaluating a Student Success Model he developed during his time as Head of Department of Business & Management at the Athlone Institute of Technology. The model comprised three foundation blocks, six student success pillars and twenty-seven actions or interventions. His research found that implementing the model led to a substantial gain in student retention, with the departmental non-progression rate reducing from 36% to 12% over eight academic years.

In April 2023, the TUS Student Education and Experience function launched TUS Second Shot, a multi-annual initiative aimed at increasing student participation and success in the autumn repeat sitting. The initiative adopts a collaborative institutional-wide team-based approach involving multiple stakeholders. TUS Second shot supplements university-wide activities with targeted approaches informed by data. The initial implementation of TUS Second Shot has shown some success at the university level, with notable successful case studies emerging at the departmental level.



Dr Billy Bennett, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar at Atlantic Technological University

Billy is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar at Atlantic Technological University, having previously held the posts of Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar; Head of School of Business; and Head of Teaching and Learning at Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT).

He chairs the Board of Alcohol Forum Ireland and is on the Boards of the Central Applications Office (CAO) and HEAnet. He is a member of the Technological Higher Education (THEA) Apprenticeship Committee; the THEA Internal Audit Steering Group; the QQI Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee; and the National Tertiary Office - Tertiary Partners Network.



Professor Ciara Meehan, University of Galway as Dean of Students

Ciara joined the University of Galway as Dean of Students in September 2023. Her office is committed to empowering the student voice, fostering a sense of belonging, and enhancing student experience. Previously she was Associate Dean Student Experience and Head of History at the University of Hertfordshire. Ciara is a Senior Fellow of the HEA.



Dr Gina Noonan, Teaching and Learning Integration Lead in SETU

Gina is the Teaching and Learning Integration Lead in SETU, on secondment from her position as Head of the Teaching and Learning Centre. She has over twenty-five years' experience in Higher Education as an educator and researcher. She is Programme Director for the MA in Teaching and Learning and is leading on a number of integration projects within SETU. In her past role as Programme Director of the BBS (Hons) in International Business, Gina was instrumental in developing the first international double degree within the institution. She currently fulfils external examining roles in a number of HEIs and is Chair of the Academic Board of the International School of Business (ISB) in Dublin.

Her research interests include the lived experiences of learners transitioning to higher education, co-creation and student success, practitioner CPD and reflexivity, and the occupational positioning of postgraduate researchers who teach. Since 2015, she has collaborated on a range of funded projects with the National Forum, and was part of the National Recognition Advisory Group for T&L, as well as being a member of the consultation group for the development of a Student Success Strategy Toolkit with the Forum. She led IT Carlow's Graduate Attributes Development Framework Project and developed the mission and strategy for eduCORE, the Institute's centre of research excellence. She has also acted as editor with AISHE-J (All Ireland Society for Higher Education).



Sue Meehan, learning technologist with SETU’s Teaching and Learning Centre

Sue is a learning technologist with SETU’s Teaching and Learning Centre. Sue was the project lead on the [Higher Education Learner Programme \(HELP\)](#) which launched in SETU in September 2023. This is an online programme designed to support learners in the transition to HE. Prior to this, Sue worked in UCD for 7 years as a learning technologist and assistive technology specialist. Sue has a particular interest in UDL, accessibility, student supports, and leveraging technology to support learner confidence and motivation.

Policy Workshops: Supporting & Responding to At-Risk Cohorts

Chairing



David Denieffe, Vice-President for Student Experience

David is the Vice-President for Student Experience at South East Technological University. He has been a leading academic for over 25 years, building on his previous military career as an officer with the Irish Defence Forces. An engineer by profession, he obtained his degrees in engineering from University of Galway and Dublin City University.

Having chaired several national and international conferences, he also continues to serve and chair on leading national professional and industry groupings. He is a recognised leader in the area of Quality Assurance of Education having chaired over 80 national and international programme, professional and departmental review processes in Ireland and globally.

Speakers



Dr Fiona Boyle , Head of Department- STEM (Director of REEdI- Rethinking Engineering Education in Ireland)

Fiona is Head of Department- STEM (Director of REEdI- Rethinking Engineering Education in Ireland) within the School of STEM at MTU- Kerry Campus. Dr Boyle was awarded a B.Sc. (Hons) in Microbiology from the University of Galway, a M.Sc. in Biomedical Science from University of Ulster Coleraine, a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology from the University of Galway and a Diploma in Change Management, also, from the University of Galway. Her early research and work centred on the topic of antimicrobial resistance in

	<p><i>bacteria. Fiona’s Industry experience spans over 14 years in the MedTech and Pharma sectors, holding key roles in the areas of Terminal Sterilization, Microbiological quality and Biocompatibility of life saving and life enhancing medical products. Fiona’s recent experience focuses on agility and innovation in education, with a goal to ensure the talent pipeline can meet the future skills needs of the manufacturing industry in Ireland. This involves the use of virtual and augmented reality, emerging technologies, eLearning, and the inclusion of significant work-based project centric learning in undergraduate programmes. Fiona is extremely passionate about promoting STEM as a career option for young women and in linking employers with female engineers of the future.</i></p>
	<p>Dr Lorraine Gilleece, Research Fellow at the Educational Research Centre (ERC) in Dublin</p> <p><i>Lorraine is a Research Fellow at the Educational Research Centre (ERC) in Dublin. The ERC was established in 1966 and designated as a Statutory Body in 2015, in accordance with the Education Act (1998). Lorraine is currently responsible for overseeing the ERC’s work on educational disadvantage and has co-authored a number of reports in recent years examining the achievement of students in DEIS schools at primary and post-primary levels. She has extensive experience of large-scale educational assessments and surveys, having worked on international studies such as the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) and the OECD’s Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), as well as Ireland’s National Assessments of Mathematics and English Reading. She is a member of the DEIS Technical Group chaired by the Department of Education. Her current research interests include the use of evidence to inform educational policy and the socioeconomic compositional effect.</i></p>
	<p>Colette Murphy, Vice President for Welfare in the Union of Students in Ireland</p> <p><i>Colette Murphy is the Vice President for Welfare in the Union of Students in Ireland. Student issues she has worked on this year include mental health resourcing, SUSI grant reform, students in digs report and She studied a BSc in Psychology in DCU, before working in the Students’ Union for a year as the Vice President for Wellbeing. During her time in college,</i></p>

	<p><i>she chaired the Feminist Society and volunteered with various organisations like 50808 Textline, the Aisling Project and Vision Sports Ireland.</i></p>
	<p>Sarah Gibbons, Educational Developer, Student Engagement and Success and works at the Centre for Transformative Learning, University of Limerick (UL)</p> <p><i>Sarah is an Educational Developer in the area of Student Engagement and Success and works at the Centre for Transformative Learning, University of Limerick (UL). Sarah is a founding member of the Student Engagement and Success Unit at UL which represents both the academic and support needs of new students. Sarah has been involved in the development of a range of transition, progression, and data-driven initiatives to improve the student experience locally and nationally.</i></p>
	<p>Podge Sheehan, Head of Leadership and Student Engagement, DCU</p> <p><i>Podge leads on strategy, policy development, and governance work for DCU Student Life as the Head of Leadership and Student Engagement. He is dedicated to leveraging education as a tool for transformative change, particularly in creating equitable opportunities for students. Podge’s recent research projects have focused on understanding the lives of students in the current climate and how to support ‘engaged’ students in their career transitions. In 2024, he focused on developing key initiatives like the Pantry Store and free breakfast offerings positively impacting the physical well-being and mental health of students enhancing student continuation, completion, and success. With extensive national and international involvement, including roles in the Glasgow Caledonian Students’ Association as a board member and the Association of College Unions International Leadership Team, Podge collaborates widely to drive positive change in student communities. His commitment to inclusivity and support for students underscores his passion for shaping a brighter future in higher education.</i></p>
	<p>Policy Workshops: Transitions & Pathways to Higher Education</p>
	<p>Chairing</p>



Dr Jim Murray , Director, Development Directorate, at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

Jim is Director, Development Directorate, at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). He has previously held senior executive roles in Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI)/Technological Higher Education Association (THEA), 2011-2021; and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI), 2003-2011. A historian by training, Jim began his career as an archivist in the UK's National Archives in 1990 and moved into education policy and administration in 1995 at Dublin City University, where he served successively in the roles of Senior Faculty Administrator (Science Faculty) and Assistant Registrar (Policy and Planning) until 2003.

Speakers



Dr. Fiona Maloney, Director of the National Tertiary Office

Fiona is the Director of the National Tertiary Office which was established with the goal of creating a more unified tertiary education system and is part of a wider reform agenda aimed at ensuring that Ireland's further and higher education system is well-equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Fiona's role includes leading the development of the office's strategic plan and overseeing its implementation.

Fiona's role involves providing strategic direction and leadership in the development of tertiary programs and arrangements. A key element of this role focuses on maximizing the impact of initiatives aimed at enhancing the pathways for students from Further Education and Training to Higher Education. Fiona's role has responsibility for creating and strengthening strategic and regional partnership arrangements between Education and Training Boards and Higher Education Institutions to allow learners to progress in a clear, seamless manner between FE and HE with pathways that are clearly defined and easily accessed.



Arlene Forster, Chief Executive Officer, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

Arlene is Chief Executive Officer of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). She leads the Council's work in developing and providing advice to the Minister for Education on curriculum and assessment for early childhood education, and for primary and post-primary schools. This currently includes an extensive programme of work to redevelop the senior cycle of post-primary education.

	<p><i>Arlene began her career as a primary school teacher. Working in schools in counties Monaghan, Tyrone and Dublin, she has taught at all class levels across multi-grade and single-grade settings. She contributed to school and curriculum development as part of the middle leadership team, and held roles with particular responsibility for music, mathematics and science. Having completed postgraduate studies in school leadership, Arlene joined the NCCA in 2001. Through her roles as Education Officer (2001-2002), Director (2003-2015) and Deputy CEO (2016-2020), she led work on curriculum review, assessment, reporting to parents, language, mathematics, science and early childhood education. Arlene was appointed CEO in late 2020.</i></p>
	<p>Bridie Killoran, ATU Career and Learning Pathways Manager</p> <p><i>Bridie is ATU Career and Learning Pathways Manager (HCI HigherEd 4.0 Project), managing the establishment of a Regional Service for Careers and Learning Pathways, including Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for people in the workplace.</i></p> <p><i>Over 18 years' experience of managing, developing and delivering excellent outcomes for the careers advisory and guidance services in higher education. Thorough understanding of national and international labour market skills and knowledge requirements sought by employers. Experienced in the design and development of career learning pathways, including employability frameworks and RPL to help graduates and employees achieve career success and sustainable lifelong employability.</i></p> <p><i>MSc in Careers Guidance: University of Ulster, Diploma in Careers Guidance in Higher Education: University of Reading B.Sc. (Management): Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology</i></p> <p><i>Accredited professional development in RPL, neurolinguistic programming, universal design in teaching and learning, facilitation, coach practitioner and other psychometric assessments.</i></p>

	<p>Bryan O'Mahony , Vice President for Academic Affairs and Deputy President, USI</p> <p><i>Bryan is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Deputy President in the Union of Students in Ireland. He graduated from BSc (Hons) in Sport & Exercise Science from SETU. He was elected as the Vice President of Education and Deputy President for SETU Waterford's Students' Union for the 2022/2023 academic year before being elected to the Union of Students in Ireland.</i></p>
	<p>Dr Rory O'Sullivan, Adjunct Professor, FET Research Centre and School of Policy and Practice in Dublin City University</p> <p><i>Rory is an Adjunct Professor in the FET Research Centre and School of Policy and Practice in Dublin City University. In 2023, he was appointed by Minister Harris to the Board of the Higher Education Authority. Having spent his entire career in FET in Ireland, he retired as Principal of Cathal Brugha College of Further Education (formerly Killester and Marino College of Further Education) after 22 years in January 2023. He was the Chair of the FET Colleges Ireland, and member of the National Executive of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals. He has been involved in several international projects in the field of inclusive FET. In 2013, he was invited to speak at the European Parliament on the work being done in Killester College on inclusive further education. He was a member of the Board of AHEAD (2016-2021) and chaired the FET2HE project steering committee (2018-2021). He is currently a member of the QQI Appeals Panel, and the Creating Pathways Advisory Group in SOLAS. He represented City of Dublin ETB on the Dublin Regional Skills Forum (2016-2022) and Dublin Chamber. In 2018, Rory was conferred with a PhD in FET Policy from Trinity College, Dublin. He was a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the School of Education in the University of Limerick (2018-2022).</i></p>
	<p>Policy Workshops: Student Experience, Belonging & Connectedness</p>
	<p><i>Chairing</i></p>
	<p>Dr Ross Woods, Senior Manager, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, HEA</p> <p><i>Ross is Senior Manager of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at the Higher Education Authority. From 2019-2023, he led the HEA's</i></p>

	<p><i>Centre of Excellence for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion's work on gender equality and other areas of equality, diversity and inclusion. This included initiatives such as the Senior Academic Leadership Initiative, the first ever National Survey of Race Equality in Irish Higher Education and, more recently, work to address sexual violence and harassment in higher education institutions.</i></p>
	<p><i>Speakers</i></p>
	<p>Prof Stephen Smith, Senior Tutor, Trinity College.</p> <p><i>The Senior Tutor directs the Tutorial Service, which comprises of professional staff within the office as well as 300 tutors who provide pastoral and academic support to undergraduate and postgraduate students. He was elected to that post in 2022. Those who may wish to contact the Senior Tutor's office include: tutees, tutors, academic staff, professional staff and students requesting advice, advocacy or to enquire about financial supports offered by this office.</i></p> <p><i>Stephen is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Microbiology, School of Medicine TCD. His research lab is at St James's Hospital Dublin and focuses on bacterial pathogenesis and most especially on bloodstream infection. He has taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, has a special interest in technology-based teaching and learning, and also was instrumental in setting up an MSc in Healthcare Infection.</i></p>
	<p>Prof. Barbara Dooley, Dean of Graduate Studies & Deputy Registrar, UCD</p> <p><i>Barbara is UCD's Dean of Graduate Studies & Deputy Registrar. She is Director of the Ad Astra Academy, UCD's scholarship programme for exceptional students. Professor Dooley was Acting Registrar & Deputy President (2022-2023), Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning in the College of Human Sciences (2009-2014) and Head of the School Psychology (2005-2009). Professor Dooley is an active researcher and research supervisor in youth mental health with a particular focus on student mental health. She co-founded the UCD Youth Mental Health Lab with colleagues in the UCD School of Psychology. She is a member of the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention Evaluation Advisory Group, Vice-President International Association for Youth Mental Health, member of the Health Research Board (HRB) National Drugs Strategy Research Subcommittee, member of</i></p>

	<p><i>the HRB National Mental Health Research Strategy Expert Group.</i></p>
	<p>Thomas Stone, Vice President for Partnerships, Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)</p> <p><i>Thomas was appointed Vice President for Partnerships in Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) in September 2021. The Partnerships function oversees, facilitates, and promotes strategic relationships between the University and collaborating organisations nationally, and internationally in the private and public sectors, international student recruitment and enterprise and societal engagement. He was appointed President of the Institute of Technology Tallaght in 2014, one of the three founding institutions of TU Dublin. He joined IT Tallaght (then known as RTC Tallaght) in 1992 as a lecturer in Accountancy & Taxation. His primary areas of academic interest are Taxation and Strategic Management. He was subsequently the first Head of the Department of Accountancy & Professional Studies followed by Secretary & Financial Controller in the Institute. He worked previously as a professional accountant in practice, industry, the civil service, and a Commissioned Inspector of Taxes in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.</i></p> <p><i>He is an honours graduate of University College Dublin with degrees in Commerce and Strategic Management & Planning and is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).</i></p> <p><i>He is a past President of the Leinster Members Network of ACCA and was Chairman of the Audit Committees of South Dublin County Council and Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board. He is currently President of the South Dublin Chamber of Commerce. He was previously a council member of the Irish Accounting and Finance Association, a body that promotes and supports research by academics in accountancy. He is also a non-executive director of several not-for-profit and cultural organisations.</i></p>
	<p>Niamh Murtagh, Development Coordinator for the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)</p> <p><i>Níamh is the Development Coordinator for the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) project on Student Engagement, Belonging and Wellbeing in collaboration with Healthy Campus. The project aims to develop student-staff</i></p>

	<p><i>partnerships and to produce resources aimed at supporting programme teams, academic staff, institutional leaders, Healthy Campus Coordinators/ Implementation groups and student representatives to better understand and model authentic student engagement in decision-making and student-staff partnerships. Before taking up this role Níamh worked as the Head of Student Engagement and Support in Griffith College focusing on policy development, delivery of Consent and Mental Health framework deliverables, learner resources and support services.</i></p>
	<p>Joshua Dunne, Business Studies, Dublin City University; Student Engagement Intern, Office of Student Life, Dublin City University</p> <p><i>Joshua is a current final year Business Studies student in Dublin City University. Alongside his studies, he is employed within the Office of Student Life which aims to increase student engagement across the college. This has allowed Joshua to undertake projects such as a student wide survey to discover the challenges facing students, gaining over 6100 responses, and a food store named “The Pantry”, located in DCU, as a response to the current cost of living crisis that affects students across Ireland. With both a student and staff perspective, this gives Joshua a unique insight into the current challenges that affect student progression in third level education.</i></p>
	<p>Policy Workshops: Teaching, Learning & Assessment</p>
	<p><i>Chairing</i></p>
	<p>Marie Clarke, Full Professor of Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, University College Dublin.</p> <p><i>Marie is a Full Professor of Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, University College Dublin. She is Chair of the Higher Education Authority Student Engagement and Teaching and Learning Committee (National Forum) and is a Principal Fellow of the HEA: Advance HE UK.</i></p>
	<p><i>Speakers</i></p>
	<p>Dara Ryder, Chief Executive Officer AHEAD</p> <p><i>Dara is Chief Executive Officer of AHEAD, an Irish NGO establish in 1988 which is dedicated to creating inclusive environments for people with disabilities in education and employment. He became CEO in 2020 having previously managed AHEAD’s digital presence and developed a suite of online CPD programmes relating to Universal Design for</i></p>

	<p><i>Learning (UDL) and inclusive practice in his role as Digital Media and eLearning Manager there. His research interests include examining the participation of students with disabilities in higher education, exploring the learning experiences and desires of students with disabilities, and examining the implementation of Universal Design and UDL in policy and practice.</i></p> <p><i>After graduating from Queens University in 2005, Dara joined Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education as a lecturer, where he became interested in inclusive education when working first-hand with students with disabilities in his classroom. When the opportunity arose in 2008, he joined AHEAD where he has been working ever since on creating inclusive environments in education and employment for people with disabilities.</i></p>
	<p>Lisa O'Regan, Head of the Centre for Teaching & Learning, Maynooth University</p> <p><i>Lisa is the Head Centre for Teaching and Learning at Maynooth University with responsibility for leading the design and implementation of strategic professional development and change initiatives in relation to learning, teaching and assessment in Higher Education. Lisa has worked in the education field in both academic and corporate contexts since 2001 where she has gained extensive experience in digital education, curriculum planning and strategic project management. Lisa has a particular interest in the areas of digital assessment and feedback and student success.</i></p>
	<p>Ken McCarthy, N-TUTORR SETU Institutional Lead</p> <p><i>Ken is the SETU N-TUTORR Institutional Lead at South East Technological University. The N-TUTORR programme is a national collaborative technological sector project designed to transform learning, teaching, and assessment by focusing on transforming the student experience and developing the capabilities of all staff to address a sustainable pedagogical and learning environment with a particular and critical focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).</i></p>



Gerry Gallagher, e-Learning Development Coordinator, Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), Dundalk Institute of Technology

Gerry has worked as e-Learning Development Coordinator in the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) at Dundalk Institute of Technology for the past 11 years. With over 35 years of teaching experience at second and third level, his work involves Continuing Professional Development in learning, teaching, and assessment at DkIT, in addition to lecturing and supervising educator colleagues on CELT's Masters in Learning and Teaching. His recent doctoral study explores the experiences of educational technology leaders in Irish higher education in their efforts to lead change from the "middle" of their institutions.



Dr Jason Richard Power, Associate Professor of Engineering Education

Jason's research focuses on factors that impact student progression, engagement, and retention. This research is typically conducted within university level STEM education environments and centres on non-cognitive factors. These factors, such as student self-efficacy or motivation, have shown considerable predictive value when it comes to student progression. My most recent work is focused on national datasets and machine learning models with the goal of creating a predictive model of engineering student dropout. This model will include numerous cognitive, non-cognition and socio-economic variables. The ultimate goal of this line of research is to identify the critical factors that impact university level dropout so that we can better direct preventative resources.

Keynote Speaker



Dr Maja Gustafsson, Policy analyst in OECD's Directorate for Education and Skills working on Higher Education Policy

Maja is a policy analyst in OECD's Directorate for Education and Skills working on Higher Education Policy. She is currently leading the portfolio of work on inclusion and equality of opportunity in higher education. Previously, Maja worked for the OECD's Directorate for Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs where she managed the cross-national "Risks that Matter" survey and contributed to work on gender equality, youth policy, and social protection. Before joining the OECD, Maja worked at the Resolution Foundation, a

	<p><i>London think tank focused on improving the living standards of those on low-to-middle incomes.</i></p>
	<p>Closing Remarks</p>
	<p>Dr Alan Wall, Chief Executive Officer, Higher Education Authority</p> <p><i>Dr Alan Wall is the Chief Executive Officer of the Higher Education Authority. He began his career with the Department of Education in 1993 where he served in a number of areas, including the Central Policy Unit, the ICT Policy Unit and the Office of the Secretary General. In 2005 he was appointed Deputy Director of the newly formed Teaching Council where he played a lead role in the establishment of that body. He returned to the Department of Education and Skills in 2007 to head up the Teacher Education Section and the ICT Policy Unit. He was appointed Director in January 2011 with responsibility for curriculum reform and then Assistant Secretary General with responsibility for the Planning and Building Unit in November 2014. Before taking up his current role as CEO of the Higher Education Authority in August 2019, Dr Wall led the Department of Education’s Research, Reform, Policy, and Data Division.</i></p> <p><i>A graduate of Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin and Queen’s University Belfast, he is also a Chartered Management Accountant.</i></p>