



Healthy Campus Case Study



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AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

The Pantry – addressing food insecurity at DCU

Name of institution and initiative lead
Dublin City University The Office of Student Life
Date and timeframe
2023-2024 Academic Year
What was the reach?
2800 students recorded
Aims and Objectives
The Pantry is a cost-of-living crisis response that aids students to combat food insecurity experienced throughout third level institutions due to the high cost of living.
Aligned frameworks, policies, or strategies
DCU Student Life Strategy DCU Care and Connect (University Student Wellbeing Initiative/Strategy) Dublin City University Strategy HEA Healthy Campus Charter and Framework

Project Collaborators
Office of Student Life Staff (Padraig Sheehan, Joshua Dunne, Ann-Marie Brophy). DCU Care & Connect Group DCU Restaurant DCU Marketing & Comms DCU Health & Safety
Key Learning Points
Marketing and Comms The Pantry Store became a victim of its own success in many ways. We began marketing and promoting the initiative through social media predominantly. After approximately a fortnight, we made the decision to no longer promote it as the demand was far outreaching the supply. This ensured that those who were most in need were able to access it.

Key Learning Points
Stigma We very intentionally selected a location front and centre of our student centre where The Pantry was impossible to miss showing that we were proud to showcase it in the hope students would not feel shame walking to a hidden room in a corridor. Sustainability Sustaining the initiative is key, we have begun talks with the Educational Trust for sponsorship and FoodCloud for delivery of the service.
Summary
This initiative aims to tackle food insecurity amongst students across the institution and provide the base for a substantial meal. Through the creation and analysis of a student wide survey (32% response rate; 6100 responses), it was found that 25% of students agreed to the statement “I worry about being able to afford all of my meals regularly”. The Pantry store operates from Monday to Wednesday between 9a.m to 5p.m and students can pick their own 6 items (including toiletry products). Students enter the store and are recorded by the attending student staff in the store. In addition to The Pantry store, we have developed a free breakfast available to all students between 8:00a.m to 9:30a.m. with the intention of targeting commuting students.

Healthy Campus Process	Whole Campus Approach	Topic	Population Group
Consult	Campus Environment (Facilities & Services)	Healthy Eating / Food	Students
Create		Mental Health & Wellbeing	
		Health & Sustainability	
		Other	



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