

Student Progression and Continuation in Higher Education — Exploring Next Steps

8 October 2026, Cusack Suite, Croke Park, Dublin 1

Conference Programme

10:00am	Registration
10:25am	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Dr Laura Keane (Policy Forum), Dr Vivienne Patterson (HEA)</i>
10:40am	Policy Forum on Student Progression in Higher Education <i>Linda Darbey (HEA)</i>
	Working Groups: Overview and Outcomes <i>Dr Rachel Keegan, Prof. Brian Bowe, Dr Deirdre Ryan (Working Group Chairs)</i>
	Report and Recommendations of the Policy Forum <i>Dr Áine Ní Shé (Chair, Policy Forum)</i>
11:35am	National Good Practice Guidelines on Student Progression and Continuation: Proposed Structure and Content <i>Prof Brian Bowe (Working Group Chair)</i>
	Sectoral Responses to the Proposed Structure of the Guidelines
	Plenary Discussion <i>Prof. (Emeritus) Barbara Dooley (Chair, HEA Working Group: National Good Practice Guidelines on Student Progression and Continuation in Higher Education)</i>
1:00pm	Lunch and Poster Session: Exemplars
1:50pm	Keynote: Shattering assumptions: How the first national pilot of the Pre-Arrival Questionnaire (PAQ) is helping to shape how the sector understands undergraduate student needs on entry, and how this can impact on progression and continuation <i>Dr Michelle Morgan, Student Experience Transitions Specialist, Dean of Students (University of East London)</i>

2:35pm

Lightning Talks: Policy Forum Exemplars

MTU Ready — Arrival Toolkit for First-Year Students

Róisín O’Grady, Linda O’Sullivan, Dr Angela McGlynn (MTU)

Online Student Transition Programmes at Maynooth University

Prof. Tim Thompson (MU)

REAL Analytics: Making Learning Trajectories Visible, Measurable and Responsive at Scale

Dr Etain Kiely, Dr Cormac Quigley (ATU)

UCC Response to Early Withdrawal

Danielle Byrne (UCC)

PreSS (Predict Student Success) Usage in the Computing Learning Centre (CLC) across Computing

Dr Keith Quille (TU Dublin)

3:35pm

Closing Remarks

Tim Conlon (HEA)

3:45pm

Close