

NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Award 2021



Project Background

The [NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025](#) was launched in March 2021 and sets out an ambitious vision to lead the implementation of sustainability across the campus and beyond. We will do this by embedding sustainability in our culture, operational policies and governance structures and empowering our communities to be champions of sustainability. The Strategy was developed by the Community and University Sustainability Partnership (CUSP) team following campus wide consultation. CUSP is a multi-disciplinary, voluntary team of over 30 students and staff from across the campus and community partners all working together, with the common vision of establishing the university as a leading institutional model for sustainability. The implementation of the work is led by the Community and University Sustainability Officer, appointed in 2019.

The Strategy sets out policies, objectives and targets for the next five academic years. The Strategy is based on a **Learn-Live-Lead** model whereby the University will build on its core strengths in teaching and research to **learn** about the environment and new techniques, analyse campus operations, building performance and user habits to **live** more sustainably and connect to the broader community and other institutions, to **lead** by example. The Learn-Live-Lead model is organised around six themes (Research and Learning, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Nature and Ecosystems, Health and Wellbeing, Built Environment and Governance and Leadership), each comprising objectives and targets for our journey towards sustainability. The Strategy identifies 25 measures for success, which serve as indicators for more extensive work under each theme and an annual Sustainability Report will be produced outlining progress against targets.

Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2021

To advance the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy objective '*to develop on campus student sustainability leadership opportunities*' - applications are now being invited for the NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2021.

- CUSP is seeking to offer scholarships awards to up to 2 NUI Galway students to support the implementation of strategy targets and objectives.
- The Awards are open to NUI Galway students and successful applicants will be awarded an 8 week scholarship (between June & August 2019) funded by the Office of the Deputy President and Registrar in conjunction with the Community University Sustainability Partnership.
- **Role 1 *Student Engagement Project*** The successful candidate will support CUSP at a central level in developing a suite of learning tools, resources and engagement materials aimed at raising awareness and enhancing understanding of sustainability among the student cohort. The aim of the project is to develop resources and platforms to effectively communicate and engage with our students; a resource of expertise and experience, to progress the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy.
- **Role 2 *Battle of the Buildings Project*** The successful candidate will support key staff in Engineering and Buildings & Estates to progress an online platform to share energy data for three campus buildings. The aim of the project is to make students and staff more aware of the energy use of campus buildings and to encourage energy-efficient behaviour through collegial competition.
- The central aim of the awards is to develop student leaders that are dedicated and enthusiastic about developing a more sustainable campus and community. It is envisaged that the positions will deliver a positive experience for the successful candidates by providing an opportunity to gain invaluable experience in sustainability knowledge and application, research, networking, teamwork and communication.
- **Please Note: You are not eligible to apply to this awards scheme if you have previously been awarded an NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards.**

Overview of the Roles

Successful candidates will work remotely, under the direction of the Principal Investigator and the Community & University Sustainability Officer on one of the two main sustainability projects that are listed below.

Role 1 *Student Engagement Project*

The NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy commits to *embedding sustainability across the entire student experience including student recruitment stage, new student orientation activities and life on campus*. Working under the direction of the Sustainability Officer, the successful candidate will support CUSP at a central level in developing a suite of learning tools, resources and engagement material aimed at raising awareness and enhancing understanding of sustainability among the student cohort. This will include leading the development of a sustainability orientation ‘tool-kit’ and materials; reviewing and improving NUI Galway Sustainability website to ensure the website reflects the Strategy; developing a social media campaign to engage NUI Galway students on sustainability; producing short videos about aspects of the Strategy; with reference to up to date literature, case studies, experience from other campuses assist in the development of engagement material suitable for incoming first year sustainability orientation programmes.

Role 2 'Battle of the Buildings' Project

The NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy commits to *designing and implementing an ambitious programme of active engagement among the entire campus community which focuses on energy reduction in our buildings and utilises the campus as a living lab for sustainability*. The *Battle of the Buildings* project aims to make students and staff more aware of the energy use of campus buildings and encourage energy efficient behaviour through collegial competition.

The successful candidate, working under the direction of the Principal Investigator, will support key staff in Engineering and Buildings & Estates to develop an online platform to share daily energy use of three campus buildings. The role entails activating the on-line platform, reviewing daily energy data for three campus buildings (Áras Moyola, Cairnes and Alice Perry Engineering Building), identifying opportunities for energy savings and designing a comprehensive energy awareness campaign, to raise awareness, influence attitudes and encourage behaviour change. The aim of the project is to make students and staff more aware of the energy use of campus buildings, offer ways to reduce energy consumption and to encourage energy efficient behaviour through collegial competition. The project is inspired by the US EPA ENERGY STAR [Battle of the Buildings competition](#).

Essential Requirements of all of the Roles

- Proven commitment to and interest in sustainability
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent computer literacy and information technology skills
- The ability to work independently, whilst also being able to contribute effectively to team-based projects
- Determination, enthusiasm and drive to maintain projects
- Reliable, organised and innovative

Specific Requirements of *Student Engagement Role*

- Excellent consulting, writing, editing (photo/video/text), presentation and communication skills
- Demonstrable social media knowledge and skills
- Knowledge of website design and lay-out

Specific Requirements of *Battle of the Buildings Role*

- An Engineering/Science/Information Technology Student with knowledge of website development.

Reporting Structure

Student Engagement Project: The successful candidate will report to the Sustainability Officer
Battle of the Buildings Project: The successful candidate will report to the Principal Investigator

Timeline

Application opens: April 12th, 2021
Application closes: **April 23rd, 2021 @ 12 noon**
Interviews: First Week of May 2021
*Project Commencement Date: June 21st, 2021
*Project End Date: August 13th, 2021

**NOTE: There is some flexibility regarding the start/finish date the scholarship is for 8-weeks*

Scholarship Funding

The role is designed as a student learning opportunity and is not a contract of employment.
Funding is provided for the role at a rate of €400 per week

Application Process

Application to include a 2-page **CV** and also **one page covering letter stating why you should be the selected candidate**, to michelle.odowd@nuigalway.ie.

Please put **CUSP along with your preferred project of interest** in the subject line of email.

e.g. CUSP Student Engagement Project or CUSP Battle of the Buildings Project

Closing Date: **April 23rd @ 12noon**

Please contact Michelle O' Dowd Lohan michelle.odowd@nuigalway.ie if you require any further clarification on the awards scheme and application process

CUSP Project Principal Investigator

Professor Jamie Goggins

Chairperson, Community University Sustainability Partnership (CUSP)

E-mail Jamie.goggins@nuigalway.ie