

Establishing the diverse meaning of Student Success at UCC

Authors

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Findings

To build on the university's existing Student Success commitments outlined in Pillar 3 of *UCC 2022 – Delivering a Connected University*, the survey findings will be analysed once the survey closes on 1 November, to underpin UCC's first standalone Student Success Strategy.

A whole-of-institution approach was taken to finalise the survey questions involving input from senior management and the Student Success Working Group comprised of representatives from all areas of the university, including the Students' Union. National Forum publications on Student Success also informed the question content.

The survey consists of seven questions, a mixture of both Likert scale answers and free-text answers:

- Student Success to me is...
- My Student Success is underpinned by...
- UCC enables my Student Success through the following support services...
- What, if any, barriers to Student Success currently exist in UCC?
- What additional services/supports/facilities do you think UCC could offer you that would help you achieve your personal vision of Student Success?
- At UCC, our graduate attributes and core values are the bedrock of our student experience. Please rate how your university experience has helped you developing the following attributes and values that contribute to Student Success...
- Describe what Student Success means to you in a sentence...

Impact

UCC is the first Irish Higher Education Institution to undertake a survey of this scale and type, providing all students and staff with the opportunity to share their important views on the meaning of Student Success. Participants are able to detail their opinions about barriers to Student Success at UCC and additional university initiatives that would enable students to achieve their full potential. The survey also signposts UCC activities that are fostering successful outcomes for students.

This students-as-partners approach ensures that the university's decision-making in terms of Student Success is evidence-based and we listen to and respond to the student voice. It also ensures that feedback from our staff, including those in subsidiary and auxiliary companies, guides the university's future direction in key areas, including teaching and learning and student experience.

A detailed communications plan is in place to generate awareness and encourage participation. This includes a dedicated [webpage](#), social media posts on [UCC](#), [Skills Centre](#) and [Student Surveys](#) accounts, with a combined reach of over 15,000 followers. Snapshot [videos](#) of staff and students answering "What does Student Success mean to you?" to help publicise the survey. The clear and accessible survey is hosted on Microsoft Forms and was circulated on 18 October through internal email to all staff and students by senior management. Printed posters containing QR codes enable the contributions of staff from auxiliary companies. Information stands in key campus locations allow the Student Success team, including student ambassadors, to speak to students and staff directly.

Aims

The aim of the research is to provide all students and staff with the opportunity to share their views on Student Success, building on the consultation process undertaken by the National Forum in November 2018 of a large sample of Irish students. The resulting data will help to establish the diverse meaning of Student Success within UCC, to identify what services and supports contribute to Student Success, and areas that the university may need to focus on in the future. The data will also provide an evidence base for the university's first Student Success Strategy, which is currently in development. An additional objective through engagement with students and staff is to increase awareness about the concept of Student Success, introducing the term for the first time to many in the UCC community and embedding it into the university landscape. The survey will act as a temperature check following the disruption caused during the COVID-19 restrictions and provide valuable insight into the opinions of the university community post-pandemic.

Visuals



Additional Content

"To me, Student Success means knowing that you've tried your hardest to reach your full potential, both academically and on a personal level." – UCC undergraduate student

"I think success has many definitions, and at this stage in my professional work, Student Success relates strongly to research; being able to solve problems and pushing the boundaries of science and technology by making new discoveries." – UCC postgraduate student

"Student Success means that the student has a positive experience at the University, develops their knowledge and skills, and comes away from their time in University with a feeling of accomplishment and having achieved something that will support them into their professional lives." – UCC staff

References

[UCC 2022 – Delivering a Connected University](#)

[National Forum, Understanding and Enabling Student Success in Higher Education](#)