

# Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) Impact Award

## Call for nominations 2026

|                                        |                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Call open</b>                       | 1 July 2026                  |
| <b>Expression of Interest deadline</b> | 11 September 2026            |
| <b>Full application deadline</b>       | 30 October 2026              |
| <b>Evaluation</b>                      | November 2026                |
| <b>Outcomes</b>                        | December 2026 / January 2027 |

## Contents

|                                                           |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Context .....                                          | 2 |
| 1.1 SATLE fund .....                                      | 3 |
| 1.2 SATLE Impact Award .....                              | 3 |
| 2. Call for nominations .....                             | 3 |
| 2.1 Eligibility criteria .....                            | 3 |
| 2.2 Application process .....                             | 4 |
| 3. Assessment process .....                               | 4 |
| 3.1 Assessment panel .....                                | 4 |
| 3.2 Assessment criteria .....                             | 5 |
| 4. Outcomes .....                                         | 5 |
| Appendix 1 – Eligible Higher Education Institutions ..... | 6 |
| Appendix 2 – Conditions of funding .....                  | 7 |

# 1. Context

## 1.1 SATLE fund

The Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement Funding in Higher Education (SATLE) is administered by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). It was launched in 2022, and it is made up of €5m base allocation distributed to the higher education sector on an annual basis.

SATLE funding is designed to drive teaching and learning innovation across the higher education sector, with a focus on:

- The Second *National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development to 2030* (DFHERIS/DoE) aligned with the pillars of the UNESCO ESD Framework to 2030
- Digital transformation in the tertiary sector
- Best practice in upholding and cultivating academic integrity

## 1.2 SATLE Impact Award

The SATLE Impact Award launched in 2024. It recognises impact and excellence of SATLE-funded initiatives and projects developed under one of the three SATLE thematic areas. The award aims to highlight institutional and sectoral efforts to promote, learn from, and extend the reach of excellent practices in teaching and learning across Irish higher education.

Each awardee will receive €25,000 in funding to support a project to further develop their work or to focus on a new avenue of research. A maximum of six awards totalling €150,000 will be supported as part of this Call. Conditions of funding are included in Appendix 2 (p. 7).

Since its launch, 10 awards have been made across the higher education sector. More details can be found on the [SATLE Impact Award](#) page.

# 2. Call for nominations

## 2.1 Eligibility criteria

### *Applicants*

Staff members in eligible Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as listed in Appendix 1 (p.6), who have been in receipt of SATLE funding, may submit an application to the SATLE Impact Award.

### *Projects*

Projects or initiatives **that have been funded by SATLE and are completed or near completion** by the EoI deadline can be nominated for the SATLE Impact Award.

### *Applications*

Applications can be made by the project lead or a team member of the SATLE-funded project or initiative. Cross-institutional applications are welcome. In such instances, a lead applicant must be nominated for administrative and financial purposes.

Applications can be submitted for **projects or initiatives carried out in one of the three SATLE thematic areas**, as follows:

- Academic Integrity
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Digital Transformation

Cross-thematic projects (covering more than one SATLE theme) are also eligible.

## 2.2 Application process

The application process requires the submission of an initial Expression of Interest (Eoi), followed by the submission of a Full Application. Submissions must be based on **completed or near completion projects or initiatives previously funded through the SATLE fund**.

**Expression of Interest (Eoi)** – Eoi should be submitted [online](#) by **5pm, 11 September 2026**. Only applications that meet the eligibility criteria highlighted above (§ 2.1) will be invited to submit a full application. Invitations to submit the full application will be issued by 18 September 2026.

**Full application** – Full applications should be submitted [online](#) by **5pm, 30 October 2026**.

Templates for both the Expression of Interest and the full application forms can be downloaded from the [SATLE Impact Award](#) page. All queries related to the SATLE Impact Award Call should be sent to [SATLE@hea.ie](mailto:SATLE@hea.ie)

In submitting an application, applicants and HEIs will be deemed to have accepted the conditions outlined in this and any subsequent clarifications from the HEA regarding this initiative, and to have agreed to be bound by them. Furthermore, applications must be endorsed by the institutional head of teaching and learning (Registrar or Vice President Teaching and Learning or equivalent).

The Call timeline is highlighted below:

|                                        |                              |
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## 3. Assessment process

### 3.1 Assessment panel

The HEA will establish an Assessment Panel to evaluate the applications received. The Assessment Panel will comprise members with expertise in the area of teaching and learning in higher education. In establishing the Assessment Panel, due regard shall be given to gender balance.

The Assessment Panel will consider the extent to which the applications meet the criteria of the 2026 Call as outlined in this document and make a recommendation to the HEA.

All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material provided to the HEA at the time of submission. The HEA's decision on the award of funding under this Call is final.

### 3.2 Assessment criteria

In accordance with the objective of this Call as outlined above, four criteria will be used to assess applications:

- Strategic alignment with national policies and relevant SATLE thematic areas
- Innovation
- Impact
- Overall quality of the application

#### Scoring system

Each criterion will be assessed under the following scoring system.

| Scoring System                                                             |                                                                               |                                                                     |                                                                      |                                                                    |                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Excellent                                                                  | Very Good                                                                     | Good                                                                | Fair                                                                 | Poor                                                               | Weak                                                                                                        |
| The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. | The criterion is addressed very well – e.g. all info provided, no weaknesses. | The criterion is addressed well – e.g. minor weaknesses identified. | The criterion is broadly addressed – e.g. few weaknesses identified. | The criterion is inadequately addressed – e.g. serious weaknesses. | The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. |
| 5                                                                          | 4                                                                             | 3                                                                   | 2                                                                    | 1                                                                  | 0                                                                                                           |

#### Scoring weight

Each criterion will be weighted as follows in relation to the overall score.

| Assessment Criterion                                                        | % of Overall Score |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Strategic Alignment with national policies and relevant SATLE thematic area | 20                 |
| Innovation                                                                  | 25                 |
| Impact                                                                      | 30                 |
| Overall quality of the application                                          | 25                 |

## 4. Outcomes

Applicants will be notified of the outcomes of the assessment process in December 2026 / January 2027.

After the award, successful applicants must submit a project proposal for use of funding awarded as part of this Call. The project must align with SATLE priority themes and be approved by the HEA before release of funding. Awardees will be required to attend progress meetings (twice a year) and submit a final report to the HEA on the outcomes of funded projects within 24 months of the awarding of funding.

## Appendix 1 – Eligible Higher Education Institutions

- Atlantic Technological University
- Dublin City University
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
- Mary Immaculate College
- Maynooth University
- Munster Technological University
- National College of Art and Design
- South East Technological University
- Trinity College Dublin
- Technological University Dublin
- Technological University Shannon: Midlands Midwest
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick
- University of Galway

## Appendix 2 – Conditions of funding

The following funding conditions shall apply to all funding received by a HEI listed in Appendix 1, or an individual associated or affiliated with such a HEI, from the Higher Education Authority (the “HEA”) under the terms of the Higher Education Authority Act, 2022 (“HEAA 2022”). The HEI listed in Appendix 1, or an individual associated or affiliated with such a HEI, receiving funding under this initiative shall:

1. Provide financial and other information to the Chief Executive Officer of the HEA (the “HEA CEO”).
2. Use the funding in a cost effective and beneficial manner.
3. Operate according to standards of good governance.
4. Comply with any guidelines, codes and policies which may be issued by the HEA under section 143 of the HEAA 2022.
5. Comply on a continuous basis with the funding framework.
6. Comply with financial requirements.
7. Comply with the HEAA 2022 and any regulations made thereunder.
8. Comply with such other conditions as may be determined, with the approval of the HEA Board, by HEA CEO.
9. Comply with the Oversight Agreement.
10. In the case of funds from the core grant, ensure that funds from the core grant are used for teaching, research and supporting activities only.