



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Forum Student Associates in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), is currently looking to recruit a student associate from each higher education institution (both USI affiliated and non-affiliated institutions) for the coming academic year, on a part-time paid basis.

The student associates will support teaching and learning enhancement both within their institutions and at a national level by providing their views and opinions on higher education teaching and learning activities and developments. The student associates will work collaboratively to bring a strong student voice, informed by their lived student experience, to national teaching and learning enhancement in higher education. In addition, student associates will work on such activities as promoting the student-led Teaching Hero Awards and representing the student voice on National Forum funding applications and review panels. At least one student associate will be recruited from each higher education institution. All currently registered students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, across all modes of study are welcome to apply. The student associate recruitment process will be mindful of the diversity of learners within the student population.

This is a part-time position, up to 25 hours per semester (a total of 50 hours per academic year), at a rate of €13.91 per hour.

The student associates will work closely with the National Forum Student Associate Intern and the Student Success Educational Developers, who will provide comprehensive induction and ongoing support for the role. The student associates will form the Student Associate Assembly, which will mirror the existing National Forum Staff Associate Assembly and reinforces the importance of student engagement and partnership as core enablers of student success.

The student associates appointed will work to enhance and develop a partnership approach to ensure that students continue to play a central role in shaping the future landscape of teaching and learning in Irish higher education. The role of student associate offers successful applicants an exciting opportunity for personal and professional development.

Key relationships for the student associates will include:

On a national level:	On individual campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Forum team • USI officers • Non-USI affiliated student representatives • National Forum Staff Associate Assembly • Other sectoral bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student community • Student Representatives • National Forum Staff Associate/s • Teaching and Learning centres • All those who teach

Student associates will work from their existing location. There may be times when student associates will be asked to travel within Ireland for meetings, updates and reviews subject to COVID 19 restrictions. Travel and subsistence associated with such meetings will be covered by the National Forum in accordance with agreed expenses guidelines.

The Role

Induction and ongoing support will be provided to successful candidates.

The role will involve:

- Supporting the work of the National Forum by bringing the student perspective to its initiatives by contributing to discussions at the National Forum Student Associate Assembly.
- Developing working relationships with key stakeholders on campus including the student community, the National Forum Staff Associate/s, teaching and learning staff, and student representatives.
- Creating awareness of the work of the National Forum within institutions and on social media.
- Updating students in the respective institutions about National Forum events, initiatives and encouraging engagement across the student community in these activities.
- Gathering and sharing feedback from the student population on specific topics and/or projects.
- Promoting and assisting in the administration of the student-led Teaching Hero Awards on campus
- Participating in panels for National Forum projects and funds.
- Attending relevant National Forum events.
- Assisting in the development of materials to promote best practice in enhancing teaching and learning locally within institutions as well as regionally and nationally.
- Support the continued enhancement and ongoing development of the Student Associate Assembly.

Criteria

To be eligible to apply for the student associate position, you must:

- be enrolled as a registered student in an [Irish higher education institution](#) (HEI)

The candidate should also aim to satisfy the following desirable criteria:

- Strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to communicate with fellow students and institution staff.
- An interest in the enhancement of teaching and learning.
- The capacity to commit to working part-time with the National Forum for 25 hours per semester.
- Good organisational skills.
- The ability to work with a diverse team.

The application for this role will include:

- 1 A *curriculum vitae* (no longer than 2 pages)
- 2 A short video (3-5 minutes) introducing yourself, outlining your motivation for applying for the post of student associate with the National Forum, and briefly outlining how as a student associate you would support the work of the National Forum in working towards an excellent teaching and learning experience for all students in higher education.
- 3 A short written piece identifying one of the [National Forum priorities](#) and giving three reasons why this priority is of interest to you.

If you are a student with a disability and wish to submit your application using a format other than video for accessibility reasons, please send an email to studentsuccess@teachingandlearning.ie and we will make arrangements with you.

Closing Date: Tuesday 22 September at 5pm. **No late applications will be considered.**

All applications should be submitted via the [National Forum website](#). Please send any questions in relation to the role and/or the application process to studentsuccess@teachingandlearning.ie

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FORUM

The [National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](#) is the national body responsible for leading and advising on the enhancement of teaching and learning in Irish higher education. The National Forum works in partnership with Irish higher education through its representative bodies (USI, IUA, THEA, HECA), the HEA, QQI, DES, and the wider student, academic and professional services communities, to enhance teaching and learning for real impact on the learning experiences and outcomes of students.

The National Forum has identified four strategic priorities to December 2021:

The Professional Development of All Those Who Teach

Promoting evidence-based, flexible, inclusive professional development for all those who teach, reflecting the contextual needs and drivers within and across higher education institutions

Teaching and Learning in a Digital World

Supporting those who learn, teach, and support learning to embrace and harness the potential of digital technologies with the goal of enhancing learning, teaching, and overall digital capability

Teaching and Learning Enhancement Within and Across Disciplines

Recognising that disciplines are a key unit of change in higher education, with a focus on disciplinary excellence in learning, teaching and assessment

Student Success

Developing a vision of success, in partnership with students, with the aim of providing all students with the opportunity to fulfil their potential and become creators of new knowledge who are community engaged, ethically conscious, professionally competent and equipped to flourish in a global world

ABOUT THE UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND (USI)

The [Union of Students in Ireland](#) (Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn) is the national representative body for third-level Students' Unions in Ireland. Founded in 1959, USI now represents more than 374,000 students in Further and Higher Education Colleges across the island of Ireland. The goal of USI is to work for the rights of students and a fair and equal post-secondary education system in Ireland.

USI is a full member of the European Students' Union (ESU) which represents students from 46 National Students' Unions in 39 countries, and a member of Eurodoc, the European Council for Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers.

USI works with agencies and partners across third level to protect, enhance, and widen access to education, including Quality and Qualifications Ireland, the Higher Education Authority, studentsurvey.ie, and the National Forum.