



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 new student associates from a number of higher education institutions (both USI affiliated and non-affiliated institutions) for the coming academic year, on a part-time paid basis. Please see Appendix 1 for the list of institutions with student associates vacancies for the coming academic year 2021-22.

Student associates 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 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 contribute to National Forum projects including the *Next Steps for Teaching and Learning: Moving Forward Together*, a sectoral partnership project and VIT&L Week, as well as representing the student voice on National Forum funding applications and review panels. A key activity for the student assembly this year is to consult with students on the development of the National Forum Strategy 2022-2024. At least one student associate will be recruited from each higher education institution with a vacancy. 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 (to a maximum of 50 hours per academic year), at a rate of €14.09 per hour.

The student associates work closely with the National Forum Student Associate Intern and the Student Success Educational Developers, who provide comprehensive induction and ongoing support for the role. The student associates form the Student Associate Assembly, which mirrors 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 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 include:

On a national level:	On individual campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Forum team • USI officers • 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, which meets regularly online. Subject to Covid 19 restrictions, there will also be two face-to-face meetings in the 2021/22 academic year.
- 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.
- Contributing to the success of the National Forum *Next Steps for Teaching and Learning: Moving Forward Together* project and VIT&L Week in November 2021.
- Ensuring student voice is central to the development and implementation of the National Forum's next national strategy.
- 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.
- 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 promotion, enhancement and ongoing development of the Student Associate Assembly.

Criteria

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

- be a currently registered student, and to be enrolled for the 2021/22 academic year 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 up to 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: Wednesday 22 September 2021 at 17:00. **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 an academically-led national advisory body for 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.

APPENDIX 1: HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WITH STUDENT ASSOCIATE VACANCIES

Athlone Institute of Technology

Carlow College

Dorset College

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology

Griffith College

Hibernia College

IBAT College Dublin

Institute of Technology Sligo

Limerick Institute of Technology

Marino Institute of Education

Mary Immaculate College

Maynooth University

Munster Technological University

National College of Ireland

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

St Angela's College Sligo

St Nicholas Montessori

Trinity College Dublin

TU Dublin

University College Cork

University College Dublin

University of Limerick

Waterford Institute of Technology