

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for staff and students:

What is NTUTORR?

Ireland's technological sector, combining new technological universities and institutes of technology, have formed a partnership to develop and deliver on the National Technological University Transformation for Recovery and Resilience (NTUTORR) programme. This programme, which is EU funded and overseen by the HEA, proposes to utilize the national scale and scope of the sector to deliver a best-practice suite of initiatives and opportunities for the learner, for staff development and supported by necessary enabling technologies.

The NTUTORR programme is designed to transform learning, teaching and assessment by focussing on transforming the student experience and developing the capabilities of all staff to address a sustainable pedagogical and learning environment with particular and critical focus on digital transformation, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

What are the benefits for you as a student if you decide to participate?

The Students as Partners NTUTORR Fellowship Scheme will help you to make a difference as it will:

- give you the opportunity to work collaboratively with staff and fellow students outside of your normal coursework to design initiatives which will have a lasting impact;
- allow you to develop your personal and professional skills such as leadership, team working, organising, time management, listening, researching and evaluating, interpersonal communication, facilitation and presentation skills, these are important skills that you will be able to use again in other situations;
- help you to develop your confidence;
- provide valuable experience to enhance a CV and prepare for the world of work.

How much funding is available?

Up to €5,000 is available for each project. We would like to support as many high-quality projects as possible so please apply for the amount needed for the project rather than the maximum if it is not necessary.

What can funding be spent on?

Funds can be spent on events, materials and consumables, travel, catering, speakers, training, conferences, lunch vouchers, one for all vouchers, printing cards/vouchers, activities, student reward packs, resource development and

small items of equipment. All spend must be in accordance with the HEI's finance policies and procedures. Some staff buy-out may be funded, subject to agreement by relevant line manager. Funds may also be used for student stipends if appropriate.

When must the funds be spent?

Project funds must be spent by the 31st of March 2024. No further spend is permissible beyond this.

*Projects should be sustainable. Specific software may be funded to complete a specific project; however, consideration should be given to the sustainability of the project and to HEI software policy and guidelines. If the software is required beyond 2024, consideration should be given to how this will be funded.

What are the benefits for students?

- development of their personal and professional skills such as leadership, team working, organising, time management, listening, researching and evaluating, interpersonal communication, facilitation and presentation skills;
- increased confidence;
- development of transversal skills;
- provides valuable experience to enhance a CV and prepare for the world of work;
- provides an opportunity to collaborate with lecturing or professional services staff to co-create learning resources or initiatives to enable student success.

What are the benefits for staff?

- through collaboration with students in co-creating resources and initiatives to support innovation and enable student success, will enrich the teaching and learning experience and provide opportunities for enhancement across a programme or at module level.
- helps students to become better prepared for their lectures, seminars/tutorials, practicals, and work-based learning opportunities.
- helps students to learn about project management and managing their course workload.
- help students learn more effectively in a collaborative learning, peer-based group.
- student partners provide regular feedback to the academic or professional services staff fellowship lead supervisor, which feeds back to their programme and faculty management, teaching strategies or university functions and services.

What kind of projects are eligible?

Proposals should address at least one of the Fellowship themes and outline projects that will contribute in some way to enhancing learning and or the student experience locally. This enhancement might be specific to a particular module, programme, skill, approach (e.g., Field trips, problem-based learning) or discipline or might have a more general, campus or HEI-wide focus (e.g., academic writing, induction etc.). The project outcomes should include enhancements and changes which have an immediate impact on the student experience, e.g., change to an assessment process on a module, development of general or discipline-specific resources, enhancements to the first-year experience at a programme, department or wider level etc. They might also include discipline-specific outreach activities linked to the themes. These changes should be sustainable, i.e., they should continue to have a positive impact for future cohorts of students.

An important aim of the fellowships is to empower students as change agents within their institution and to provide inclusive opportunities for a wide range of students to contribute. Proposals should clearly explain how the project will contribute to these aims, outline the approach to partnership and how this will be supported.

Link to guidance on student partnership and engagement visit [Resources | NStEP \(studentengagement.ie\)](https://studentengagement.ie/resources/)
<https://studentengagement.ie/resources/>

What is a 'Students as Partners' approach?

This approach to student engagement offers opportunities to for students and staff to collaborate meaningfully on activities to enhance education. It can be considered "...a collaborative, reciprocal process through which all participants have the opportunity to contribute equally, although not necessarily in the same ways, to curricular or pedagogical conceptualisation, decision-making, implementation, investigation or analysis' (Cook-Sather, Bovill & Felten, 2014, pp.6-7).

The National Student Engagement Network (NStEP) has developed a framework to promote authentic student engagement. This is available here [Steps to Partnership | NStEP \(studentengagement.ie\)](https://studentengagement.ie) and includes 5 principles that should inform these proposals: Dialogue, Building Trust, Equity and Inclusivity, Empowerment and Students as co-creators.

How can we ensure that the partnership is inclusive?

Projects will benefit from including a wide range of student perspectives. Does the project set up barriers to participation for students from under-represented backgrounds? Barriers might include (i) significant time demands, (ii) requirements to be on-campus for extended periods outside class time, (iii) GPA requirements, (iv) additional costs for students (e.g. travel).

Consider how student partners are identified. Who will have the opportunity to participate? How will be this be promoted in inclusive ways. Bear in mind that students may 'self-deselect' if they lack confidence. Making the connection between the project and learning/skill development can help to overcome this. For example, a project might support the development of particular communication, technical or research skills.

Students have many demands on their time, and it is important to work together to plan the project so that they have time and space to contribute in a meaningful way but are not over-burdened.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any undergraduate or postgraduate student currently registered at one of the Technological Universities or Institute of Technology who will be continuing their studies in academic year 2023/24, i.e., who will be available to participate until April 2024. Full-time and part-time students are eligible.

Any member of academic or PMSS staff at one of the Technological Universities or an Institute of Technology.

What size should a project team be?

A minimum of two students must be part of each project team and at least one member of staff. It is likely that many teams will be larger than this and the team size will depend on the nature of the project.

How much time will I need to spend on the project?

Projects will be designed to ensure that the workload is manageable for students and staff. The amount of time will depend on the nature of the project and the size of the team but should not exceed an average of 2-3 hours per week in term time for students.

Does the project need to last a calendar year?

No, some projects may be shorter and projects are likely to start at different times for practical reasons. However, the project must be completed by or before April 2024.

