



Safety of Student Events Overview

Within the University, student events are organised by various parties including Clubs, Societies, the Students Union, Community Knowledge Initiative (CELT), academic staff, etc. Such student events are generally not part of the teaching/research experience, involve a group of people and occur infrequently or on a once off basis. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, Section 12, requires that the University as an organisation must

“manage and conduct... (work/activities) in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that..... individuals at the place of work (not being his or her employees) are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare”.

Such events therefore must be adequately managed to ensure the safety of participants and others. The objective of the NUI Galway Event Safety Management guide is to provide a safe system for the management of such student events in view of the varied and dynamic risks potentially inherent in such events.

The key person in the management of Student Events is the University or SU staff member (i.e. the University Officer) to whom this event idea is first proposed. The University endeavours to be supportive of events that contribute to a positive student experience. However, events that are high risk or where the resources are not available to adequately manage them should be prohibited rather than expend limited time and resources assessing options that are not feasible. A risk matrix has been provided for this initial purpose and the University Officer should use this and the subsequent risk assessment to thoroughly assess any proposed student events and satisfy themselves in the first instance that they can run safely. The full process is set out in the linked **NUI Galway Event Safety Management guide**.