

University of Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Award 2023



Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2023

At University of Galway we recognise that our students are motivated and demand action on sustainability. The Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2023 is an opportunity for our students to actively contribute to campus engagement on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); to progress our institutional commitment to the UN SDGs; and to advance the University of Galway Sustainability Strategy objective ‘to develop on campus student sustainability leadership opportunities’.

Applications are now being invited for the University of Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2023.

- Scholarship awards are available to up to 2 University of Galway students to support the implementation of our sustainability strategy targets and objectives.
- The Awards are open to University of Galway students and successful applicants will be awarded an 8 week scholarship (between June & July 2023) funded by the Office of the Deputy President and Registrar.
- **Role 1 SDG Research Project** The successful candidate will support at a central level, gathering of data and case studies, highlighting our university-wide efforts to progress the UN SDGs during the Academic Year 22-23. Data will be collected and collated across each of the 17 SDGs under 3 key headings: Students and Learning; Research; and Community Engagement. This will involve desk research, categorising and organising information, and outreach to contacts in other offices. The material gathered should particularly reflect the contributions made by our students in progressing the SDG framework. Data will be collated into a final report that seeks to raise awareness and enhance understanding of sustainability and the SDGs among the students, staff and the wider community.
- **Role 2 SDG Communication and Engagement Project** This project focuses on developing strategies to involve students across campus in the SDGs. The successful candidate will develop the background, strategy and logistics for hosting a student focused SDG showcase event on campus in September 2023 as part of National SDG week. The successful candidate will compile a suite of learning tools, resources and

engagement material aimed at raising awareness and enhancing understanding of sustainability and the SDG among the student cohort; assist in the development of engagement material suitable for incoming first year sustainability orientation programmes; and refresh our website and social media platforms with up to date content reflecting efforts across campus to embed sustainability and progress the SDGs.

The central aim of the Student Sustainability Leadership Awards programme is to develop student leaders that are dedicated and enthusiastic about developing a more sustainable campus and community. It is envisaged that the positions will deliver a positive experience for the successful candidates by providing an opportunity to gain invaluable experience in sustainability knowledge and application, research, networking, teamwork and communication.

Overview of the Roles

Successful candidates will work remotely, under the direction of the Community & University Sustainability Officer, on **one** of the two main sustainability projects listed above, namely Role 1- SDG Research Project; Role 2- SDG Communication and Engagement Project.

Essential Requirements of all of both Roles

- Proven commitment to and interest in sustainability
- Demonstrated ability to work independently on a sustainability related project
- Demonstrated interest in the UN SDGs
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent computer literacy and information technology skills
- Determination, enthusiasm and drive to maintain projects
- Reliable, organised and innovative

Specific Requirements for Role 1 *SDG Research Project*

- Excellent consulting, writing, and communication skills
- Demonstrable research skills. Experience with data collection and analysis.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to put together information and present it clearly

Specific Requirements of Role 2 *SDG Communication and Engagement Project*

- Demonstrable event planning skills
- Demonstrable social media knowledge and skills
- Knowledge of website design and lay-out

Reporting Structure

Successful candidates will work under the direction of the Community and University Sustainability Officer.

While successful candidates may work remotely, on-site meetings may be required at the start and the end of the project.

Timeline

Application opens: March 22nd, 2023

Application closes: **April 5th 2023 @ 12 noon**

Interviews Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.

Provisional date for interviews is **April 12th**.

*Project Commencement Date: June 5th, 2023

*Project End Date: July 28th, 2023

**NOTE: There is some flexibility regarding the start/finish date the scholarship is for 8-weeks*

Scholarship Funding

The role is designed as a student learning opportunity and is not a contract of employment. Funding is provided for the role at a rate of €400 per week.

Application Process

Application to include a 2-page **CV** and also **one page covering letter stating why you should be the selected candidate**, to michelle.odowd@universityofgalway.ie

Please put **your preferred project of interest** in the subject line of the email, for example, **Role 1 SDG Research Project** or **Role 2 Communication and Engagement Project**

Closing Date: **April 5th @ 12noon**

Please contact Michelle O' Dowd Lohan michelle.odowd@universityofgalway.ie if you require any further clarification on the awards scheme and application process

Project Background

At University of Galway we are critically aware of the leading role that universities can play in the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are committed to the SDGs at an institutional level on multiple levels:

- As a signatory to the [SDG Accord](#), we have committed '*to align all major efforts with the SDG targets and indicators, including through our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities*' and to '*share our learning*'.
- Our [Climate Action and Sustainability Policy](#) formalises our commitment '*to lead the transition to a sustainable future by embedding the SDGs into all our major efforts*'.
- Our [Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025](#) (launched by Dr Mary Robinson), which is mapped to the SDGs, sets out our vision across the campus and beyond.
- As an active member of [UN Academic Impact](#), [sharing our learnings](#) is at the core of our sustainability approach

University of Galway is recognised by the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings 2022 as Top University in Ireland and Top 50 in the world for our efforts in progressing the SDGs. We are ranked 5th in the world for our progress on SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production. To learn more about our efforts in progressing the SDGs, a copy of our latest Annual Sustainability Report can be download here. Each Annual Sustainability Report includes an individual report on each of the 17 SDGs and provides examples of our leadership in tackling the SDGs in three ways: Students and Learning; Research; and Community Engagement.

Through our [University of Galway Sustainability Strategy 2021 to 2025](#), we recognise that our students are the current and future sustainability implementers, leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and citizens. Our Strategy firmly places students at the heart of our sustainability journey and aims to develop our graduates as future sustainability leaders in Ireland and globally, developing the next generation of students, researchers and innovators for tackling the world's evolving sustainable development challenges.