

**Centre for Teaching and Learning**

**2025 SPARK Initiative Funding – ‘*Empowering Teaching & Learning Practice*’**

**Call for Applications**

The 2025 SPARK Initiative aims to support individual staff and teams in implementing small-scale Teaching and Learning enhancement projects. The idea behind SPARK is to identify one aspect of your Teaching and Learning that you would like to enhance and to begin to address this issue with a starter project that creates opportunity to build on the project beyond the funding timeframe. The funding’s motto captures the spirit of the initiative: ‘*Change one thing’.*

Examples of previous projects are available [here.](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning/funding-opportunities/spark-funding)

**Theme and Funding**

The theme for this year’s SPARK call is: **‘Empowering Teaching & Learning Practice’.**

This year, there are up to **10 grants of €1,000** available for individuals/teams.

Suggested themes for projects could include, but are not limited to, the following:

* teaching, learning and assessment enhancement
* inclusive education
* GenAI in teaching, learning and assessment
* student skills and competency development
* experiential learning
* Education for Sustainable Development and Social Justice
* T&L community of practice development
* teaching and learning for greater flexibility
* pedagogy of kindness
* transnational and intercultural learning

**Who Can Apply?**

This funding call is open to all MU staff who teach and support teaching and learning at Maynooth University. We particularly encourage staff new to teaching and/or those who have not previously received funding through CTL to apply. Staff are encouraged to partner with students in the project team. Staff who have previously received a SPARK may apply in this call but only to extend an existing SPARK initiative or to develop a new initiative, and not to sustain work.

**Conditions of Funding**

* Funding must be spent on the implementation of the proposed SPARK Initiative.
* Funding must comply with [University Guidelines on Procurement.](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/procurement-contracts)
* Where budget is allocated to software licences, applicants should consider how licences can be sustained beyond the funding.
* All funding must be spent and all projects completed by **30th August 2026.**
* Project leads will be required to disseminate findings from their projects at a Centre for Teaching and Learning showcase event and in a short project report.
* Projects will be supported by the Centre for Teaching and Learning staff where requested.

**Application Process and Key Dates**

1. Complete the online SPARK Application Form available here: [SPARK Application Form](https://forms.office.com/e/jG40ERPyr1)
2. This is a rolling call. Colleagues can submit an application any time up to **30th August 2025.** Applications will be reviewed as they are received.
3. Applicants will receive an email from CTL acknowledging their application form.
4. Applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application within 2 weeks.

**Selection Criteria**

Proposed projects must:

* Be narrow in focus i.e. associated with one small change/enhancement to a teaching/learning /assessment aspect.
* Be informed by literature or recognised good practice in teaching and learning.
* Demonstrate how the proposed project will contribute to student learning.
* Outline a process and timeline for planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project.
* Provide a brief breakdown of how the €1,000 grant will be spent.

Please note SPARK funding cannot be used to supplement other funded projects or initiatives e.g. T&L Fellowship.

The selection team will include representatives from the Centre for Teaching and Learning and representatives from the Faculty T&L Committees.

If you have any questions, please contact [teachingandlearning@mu.ie](mailto:teachingandlearning@mu.ie)