

The Maynooth University 'THRIVE' Initiative has been established in order to build on our Student Success Strategy and related opportunities for action over a 3 year period (2023-2026).

We work collaboratively with students, staff, and other stakeholders across the University to deliver on the following priority strands; **Student Engagement through Partnership** and **Student Transitions & Belonging**

The project is supported in its work by an Advisory Group of students and staff:

THRIVE Advisory Group (AY 2023/24)

- Sam Blanckensee (Prof. Services Member)
- Laura Connaughton (Prof. Services Member)
- Jodie Chalkley (Student Member)
- Dr Susi Gottlöber (Academic Faculty Member)
- Kyla Henry (Student Member)
- Dr John Keating (Academic Faculty Member)
- Emma McDermott (Prof. Services Member)
- Lauren McGrath (Student Member)
- Charli Middleton (Student Member)
- Carrie O'Neill (Student Member)
- Dr Helen Shaw (Academic Faculty Member)
- Sarah Lyndsay Swan (Student Member)

Maynooth University Student Success Strategy Vision:

Our vision at Maynooth is to develop and embed a university-wide, integrated, and holistic approach to student success so that each student is empowered to recognise and fulfil their potential academically, personally, and professionally

THRIVE Initiative Project Priority Strands:

Student Engagement through Partnership

Developing our student-staff partnership culture to enable students to become authentic partners in decision-making and shaping their own education and student experience

Student Transitions & Belonging

Fostering a strong sense of belonging and connection among students to support students in navigating through key transitions in their university journey

Projects & Collaborations

Student Engagement Through Partnership Framework

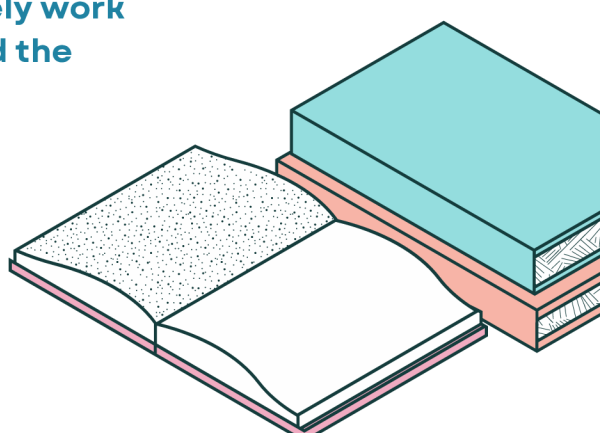
A guiding framework for staff and students to effectively work with and learn from each other; with students, staff and the Maynooth University experience benefitting as a result



- 15** National Policy Documents Analysed
- 8** European Policy Documents Analysed
- 8** Key Policy Messages Developed



- 19** Institutional Partnership Agreements Analysed
- 12** Dominant Themes Identified
- 10** Dominant Purposes Identified



Initial research phase complete

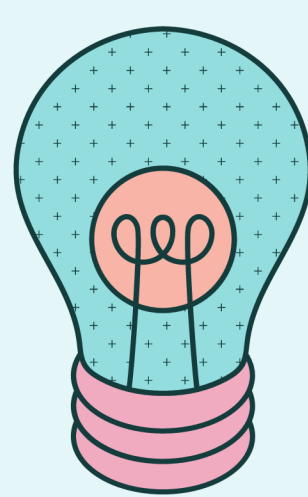
Students and staff co-creation on draft framework for committee approval.

Student Partnership Opportunities

Development of opportunities and mechanisms for students to partner with faculty & staff on projects and research initiatives

- 2** Collaborations with UpSkill Programmes
- 18** Student Micro-Internship Places
- 11** Student Ambassador Places

Student Success Micro-Internships offer students the opportunity to gain practical experience, develop skills, enhance employability, and contribute to the enhancement of the student experience through working with university services.



Collaboration with existing UpSkill Programmes through providing funding and student partnership guidance.

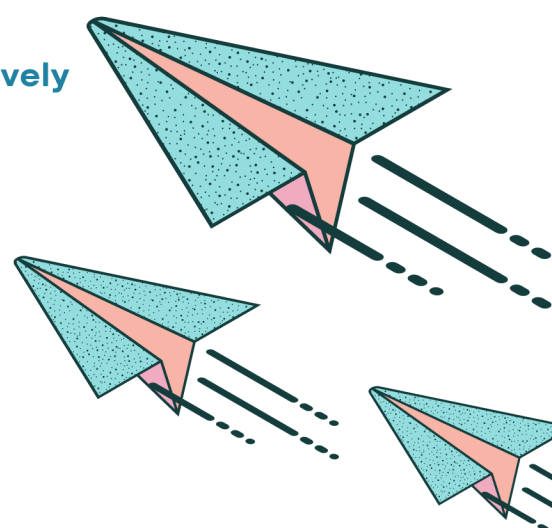
Continued collaboration and support of the UpSkill Micro-Internship and Student Ambassador programmes.

Student Success Project Fund

Supporting University units to develop projects that positively impact on student engagement, partnership, and success across key student transitional periods

- 13** Projects Funded
- 9** Departments/Schools engaged
- 2** Professional Services engaged

Projects are working across a diverse range of activities including; enabling social connection between first-years and advanced years, conferencing and networking, learning development, and peer mentoring.



Project criteria and application process finalised and first call issued.

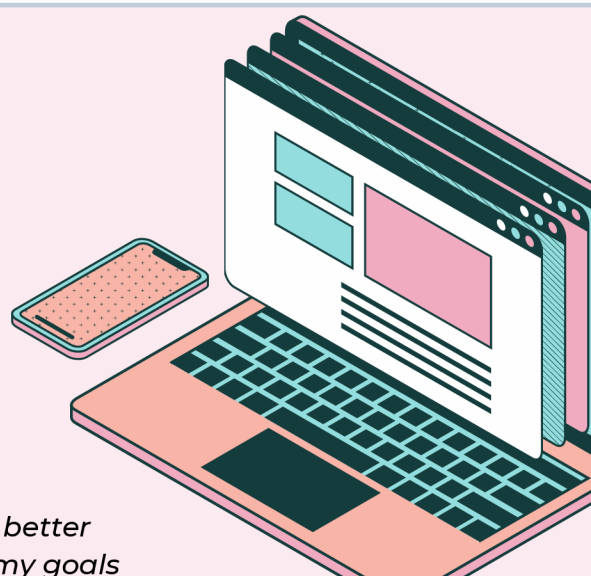
Support and evaluation of first-call projects and issuing of second-call.

Online Orientation Programme

Available to students 24/7 in advance of starting at Maynooth, allowing them to become familiar with the university experience before they arrive

- 5** Modules released to students across AY 23/24
- 62%** of student population who accessed course
- 87%** reported being better prepared for starting university
- 93%** rated overall experience as Very Good / Good

"I found this course very engaging and worthwhile. I already feel better prepared for starting student life and how to plan and achieve my goals"



First release of an online orientation programme for the University to all first-year under-graduate students.

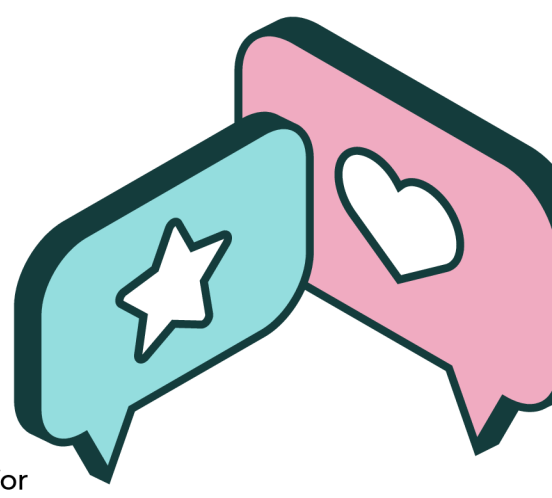
Feedback has led to enhancement work with more student input and a monthly release schedule across AY 24/25.

Peer Mentoring Programme

Helping first-year students transition into university life through peer-led guidance, signposting to supports, and forging a sense of belonging and community

- 25** Peer Mentors recruited and trained
- 90+** Mentees signed up to programme
- 8** Themed weekly sessions planned

The School of Law and Criminology and the Office for Students and Learning, through Healthy Campus and the THRIVE Initiative, are collaborating to develop and run a pilot Peer Mentoring programme for the Academic Year 2024/25



Pilot project developed and launched, including development of training and evaluation methods.

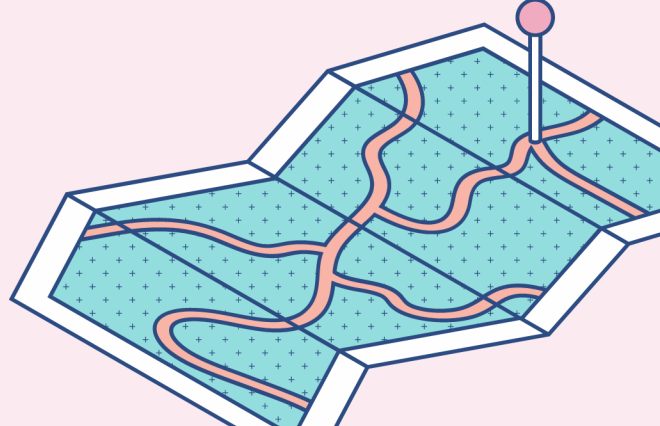
Support and evaluation of pilot and consideration of how the programme could be adopted by other departments.

Student Journey Mapping

An holistic representation of the student journey at Maynooth, with consideration given to different 'lenses' of student experience

- 1** Student Micro-Internship Project
- 3** Journey Mapping Workshops
- 11** Student Transitional Phases Identified
- 26** Barriers to Progression Identified

As an example: A Goal during the 'Familiarisation' phase is to 'Understand Department Conventions'. A Barrier to this is the perceived disconnect between lecturers and students.



The workshoping phase has led to an outline structure of the yearly journey of the Maynooth student body

Sense checking of the workshop phase, refinement, and visual representation of the Student Journey Map

Thank You!

This has been an exciting first year for the THRIVE Initiative-developing new programmes and schemes and working with partners across the University community to enhance Partnership and Belonging among our students and staff.

We look forward to engaging further with you over the next two years of the project. If you have any questions, or an idea you would like to discuss, please reach out!



eddie.corr@mu.ie

Visit our Webpage

The Maynooth University 'THRIVE' initiative is funded by the Higher Education authority (HEA) in partnership with the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education under the Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Funding (SATLE) in Higher Education 2022.