



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Student Sustainability Leadership Awards Programme 2024



INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is a core value at the University of Galway, enshrined in our Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Sustainability and the SDGs are at the heart of everything we do. We are implementing our second Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025, embedding sustainability in our culture, operational policies and governance structures, and empowering our communities to be champions of sustainability and the SDGs.

In January 2024, University of Galway established a centralised Sustainability Office, to champion sustainability in all aspects of university learning and research, culture, operations, and governance structures, and to empower its diverse communities of staff, students, and partners to co-create tomorrow's sustainable campus and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). See Project Background for further information.

Recognising the leading role that our students play in the transition to a sustainable future on our campus, the Sustainability Office is offering two paid summer internships for students passionate about promoting and embedding sustainability on campus. The internships are part of the Student Sustainability Leadership Awards Programme that aims to advance the University of Galway Sustainability Strategy objective 'to develop on campus student sustainability leadership opportunities.

SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY INTERNSHIPS 2024

Student Sustainability Leadership Awards are available for up to 2 University of Galway students to support the implementation of our sustainability strategy targets and objectives. The central aim of the Awards 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.

Awardees will receive an 8-week scholarship during summer 2024, paid at a rate of €500 per week. The role is designed as a student learning opportunity and is not a contract of employment. There is some flexibility regarding the start/finish dates and the working pattern. Awardees will report to the Director of Sustainability, Dr Richard Manton, and will work on one of two main sustainability projects, outlined below.

Role 1 – SDG Research Project

The Awardee will support the gathering of data and case studies, highlighting our university-wide efforts to progress the UN SDGs during the Academic Year 23-24. 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. A final report will be prepared to raise awareness and enhance understanding of sustainability and the SDGs among 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 Awardee will develop the background, strategy, and logistics for hosting student-focused SDG events on campus in September 2024 as part of the University of Galway's SDG Week 2024. The Awardee 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.

REQUIREMENTS

Essential requirements for both roles:

- Be a current University of Galway student
- 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 writing and communication skills
- Demonstrable research skills, including data collection and analysis.
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to put together information and present it clearly

Specific requirements for Role 2 SDG Communication and Engagement Project:

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

Please Note: You are not eligible to apply for the Student Sustainability Leadership Awards if you are a previous recipient.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application to include a 2-page CV and 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: **March 4th @ 12noon**

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.

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

TIMELINE

Application opens:	February 20th
Application closes:	March 4th @ 12 noon
Provisional date for interviews:	March 13th
*Project Commencement Date:	May 27th
*Project End Date:	July 19th

*NOTE: There is some flexibility regarding the start/finish dates. The scholarship is for an 8-week period.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

At the 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

Our University of Galway Sustainability Strategy 2021 to 2025 sets out our vision across the campus and beyond. The University's approach to embedding the SDGs centres on a learn-live-lead model. The focus of learn is to continue to embed SDG literacy into all aspects of University teaching and research. The focus of live is to implement the principles of the SDGs throughout campus operations and engagement activities. From a lead perspective, our aim is to play a central and transformative role in attaining the SDGs by 2030.

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.

University of Galway is recognised by the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings 2023 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 downloaded 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.