**NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Award 2018**



**Project Background**

The [NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020](http://www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability/strategy/) was launched in November 2017 and sets out a vision of establishing the University as a top-class, green, smart and healthy campus. The Strategy was developed by the Community and University Sustainability Project Team (CUSP) following a yearlong comprehensive and inclusive communication and engagement process. Views of the University and wider communities were gathered through a four step approach including awareness, outreach, action and empowerment.

The Strategy sets out policies, objectives and targets for the next three academic years. The Strategy is based on a **Learn-Live-Lead** model whereby the University will build on its core strengths in teaching and research to **learn** about the environment and new techniques, analyse campus operations, building performance and user habits to **live** more sustainably and connect to the broader community and other institutions, to **lead** by example. The Learn-Live-Lead model is organised around six themes (Research and Learning, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Nature and Ecosystems, Health and Wellbeing, Built Environment and Governance and Leadership), each comprising objectives and targets for our journey towards sustainability. The Strategy identifies 20 measures for success, which serve as indicators for more extensive work under each theme and an annual Sustainability Report will be produced outlining progress against targets.

**Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2018**

To advance the roll-out of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy applications are now being invited for the NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2018.

* CUSP is seeking to offer scholarships awards to up to 4 NUIG Galway students to support the implementation of Strategy targets and objectives across the project theme areas of Energy, Water, Nature & Ecosystems, and Communications & Engagement.
* The Awards are open to all NUI Galway Students and successful applicants will be awarded an 8-12 week scholarship (June-August 2018) funded by the NUI Galway Student Union through the Student Project Fund.
* 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.

**Overview of the Roles**

Successful candidates will work under the direction of the Principal Investigator and the designated Work Package Leaders in one of the four main sustainability project theme areas including Energy, Water, Nature & Ecosystems and Communications & Engagement.

Details of expected project outcomes in each of the theme areas are outlined below:-

***Project 1*** *Water Project*

NUI Galway Buildings and Estates and the Department of Civil Engineering are working together to progress the University’s Water Sustainability Objectives. As part of this Campus Water Sustainability Project, with the help of a Sustainability Summer Intern, we seek to complete, in Summer 2018, a baseline analysis of water usage and water metering infrastructure on the campus and progress the development of actionable initiatives to achieve measureable water-use savings.

In brief the project involves the following:

* Collate and review existing water usage data;
* Identify data gaps;
* Review, verify and record existing water infrastructure;
* Update mapping existing infrastructure mapping as required;
* Prepare data analysis strategy;
* Carry out existing water usage data analysis;
* Carry out high level water audit;
* Identify and verify most significant water consumers;
* Carry out water audit of most significant water consumers;
* Carry out consultation with relevant stakeholders regarding water consumption in particular most significant water consumers;
* Develop actionable initiatives for stakeholder groups to reduce, where practicable, water consumption;
* Develop actionable initiatives for stakeholder groups to promote responsible water Usage at NUI Galway;

***Project 2*** *Energy Project*

NUI Galway Building and Estates manage the Building Management system on the NUI Galway campus and one of its main functions is metering of the current energy usage for Gas, Oil, Wood Pellets, Electricity and LPG. With the help of a Sustainability Summer Intern, the Energy team within Buildings & Estates wish to develop a new system of metering each utility to allow a monthly report to be created and issued for each building to indicate progress of their building energy consumption.

In brief the project involves the following:

* Collate and review existing energy meters on campus.
* Develop a single line schematic of the current metering system.
* Identify data gaps in the system currently.
* Review, verify and record existing metering infrastructure.
* Update mapping existing infrastructure mapping as required.
* Benchmark against other Universities to see how they record energy consumption.
* Carry out high level energy metering audit.
* Identify and verify most significant energy users.
* Carry out research of current metering packages available on the market.
* Develop schematic of the proposed system of metering.
* Review web-based metering systems and storage of data.
* Develop webpage to allow users access to review energy consumption specific to their building.
* Present findings to the Director of Buildings and Estates and CUSP group.
* Asset in preparation of tender documents for possible purchase of software and metering package.

***Project 3*** *Communication & Engagement Project*

The engagement of the campus community and other key stakeholder is vital to the success of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy. The Sustainability Engagement Associate in conjunction with the Communication and Engagement work package leaders are working closely together to achieve objectives outlined in the communication and engagement section of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy. There is a body of work to be carried out particularly from a marketing, social media and on-line perspective that would take these efforts to the next level. This would further ensure that students and staff, our greatest resource, are at the heart of the sustainability journey.

In brief the project involves the following:

* Review current NUI Galway promotional material to identify areas to include sustainability messages.
* Participate in the development of a communications ‘tool-kit’ and materials for use by all CUSP members.
* Review and improve NUI Galway Sustainability website to ensure the website reflects the strategy, functions as a central knowledge base and communication vehicle, and showcases NUI Galway Sustainability related activities.
* Contribute to the roll-out of a social media campaign with specific focus on *Twitter, Instagram* and *Snap Chat* to generate further awareness of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy and encourage active involvement by the campus community.
* In conjunction with key stakeholders, contribute to the development of an inaugural NUI Galway Sustainability Newsletter.
* Produce short videos about aspects of the Strategy.
* Conduct market research/competitor analysis on up to date literature, case studies, strategy from other campuses to assist in the development of engagement material suitable for incoming first year students sustainability orientation programmes
* Develop engagement material e.g. questionnaire’s and surveys suitable for gathering ideas, views and opinions of the campus community on NUI Galway’s Second Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030
* Assist in project management of a number of key events, with the aim of raising the profile of the sustainability strategy.

**Vacancy 4 Nature & Ecosystems Project**

The University boasts Ireland’s most biodiverse campus. The strategic aim of this work package is to enhance biodiversity on campus. A key measure of success for the University is to compile and implement a biodiversity management plan by 2019. To prepare for this, the Sustainability Engagement Associate, NUI Galway Buildings and Estates in conjunction with the Nature and Ecosystems work package leaders are working together to progress the University’s Nature and Ecosystems Sustainability Objectives. With the help of a Sustainability Summer Intern, we wish to investigate, devise, implement and assess impact trials of viable alternatives to pesticides in Summer 2018. This would ensure that NUI Galway is meeting its objectives in relation to reducing the use of pesticides on campus, and raise student and staff awareness of biodiversity issues on campus.

In brief the project involves the following:

* Collate and review existing literature on impacts of pesticides in relation to biodiversity, and human health; Collate and review case studies e.g. public parks, recreation spaces, or other campuses
* Consult with relevant stakeholders regarding use of pesticides on campus
* Prepare a briefing note of the impacts of pesticides on nature and human health
* Identify, verify and collate viable alternatives to using pesticides, in conjunction with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan
* Assess the evidence to support at least 4 viable alternatives to using pesticides
* Prepare a proposal to trial 4 viable alternatives to pesticides. This proposal will assess the effectiveness the alternatives in terms of impacts and feasibility.
* Consult with relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of the impact trial
* Assess and monitor the effectiveness of the impact trial. Identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and further recommendations in relation to the trial.
* Prepare a briefing note for the website, and interpretation material on the use of alternatives. Prepare and present findings to relevant stakeholders including Buildings and Estates and CUSP group. Liaise with Communications staff in relation to the project. Compile a short report on the trial, taking into account feedback from stakeholders.

**Essential Requirements of all of the Roles**

* Excellent written and oral communication skills.
* Excellent computer literacy and information technology skills.
* The ability to work independently, whilst also being able to contribute effectively to team-based projects.
* Determination, enthusiasm and drive to maintain projects.
* Reliable, organised and innovative.

**Specific Requirements of *Energy Role***

* An Engineering Student with knowledge of Building Services and Energy savings is required for this role.

**Specific Requirements of *Water Role***

* An Engineering Student with an interest in Building Services and Water savings is required for this role.

**Specific Requirements of *Communication & Engagement Role***

* Excellent consulting, writing, editing (photo/video/text), presentation and communication skills.
* Demonstrable social media networking and marketing knowledge.
* Knowledge of website design and lay-out.

**Specific Requirements of *Nature & Ecosystems Role***

* Student from a science related discipline ideally Environmental Science/Plant Science/Botany is required for this role.

**Reporting Structure**

The successful candidate will report to the Principal Investigator and/or designated Work Package Leader.

**Timeline**

Application opens: April 18th, 2018

Application closes: April 30th, 2018

\*Project Commencement Date: June 11th, 2018

\*Project End Date: August 31st, 2018

*\*NOTE: There is some flexibility regarding the start/finish dates and the scholarship is for 8-12 weeks*

**Scholarship Funding**

The role is designed for a current student as a 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@nuigalway.ie.

Please put **CUSP along with your preferred area of interest** in the subject line of email**.**

**e.g. CUSP Energy or CUSP Water or CUSP Nature & Ecosystems or CUSP Communications & Engagement**

Closing Date: **30th April @5pm**

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

**CUSP Project Principal Investigator**

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**Links**

See [www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability](http://www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability) to find out more about the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy and CUSP Project Team.