NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Award 2019

Project Background

The NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020 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 2019

To advance the roll-out of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy applications are now being invited for the NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards 2019.

- 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 NUI Galway Students and successful applicants will be awarded an 8 week scholarship (between June & August 2019) 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.

Please Note: You are not eligible to apply to this awards scheme if you have previously been awarded an NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards.

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 further validate and update the initial baseline analysis of water usage and water metering infrastructure on the campus and to progress the development of building level analyses of water usage. The overall project objective is to progress the development of building level and campus level water management strategies and initiatives to achieve measureable water-use savings.

In brief the project involves the following:

- Review and update existing water usage data, in particular with the benefit of new metering infrastructure;
- Identify any remaining metering gaps and review and update existing metering plans
- Update and validate existing water infrastructure;
- Carryout existing water usage data analysis;
- Validate 2018 high level water audit;
- Identify and verify most significant water consumers;
- Carryout select building level water audits of most significant water consumers;
- Carryout 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

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As part of NUI Galway's Sustainability Strategy we are committed to minimising the local, regional and global environmental impacts of Energy usage by minimizing the use of energy on campus and taking measures to promote reduction in the University Energy consumption by 33% by 2020. Awareness of energy consumption can lead to behavioural changes in energy usage and this is an area which requires further research. NUI Galway has exceeded the Energy target and currently score at 34.1%, with a further goal to achieve 40%.

The objective of this project is to complete analysis of the current metering system and propose alternative metering system to allow live information on energy consumption for each building. Expected project outcomes include the preparation of a tender package to allow Buildings & Estates tender for the metering system and digital display of live energy readings. This will allow users of buildings to observe and react to the energy consumption.

In brief the project involves the following:

- Collate and review existing Energy meters on campus;
- Review 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;
- Carryout high level energy metering audit;
- Identify and verify most significant energy users;
- Carryout 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;
- Present findings to the Director of Buildings and Estates and CUSP group on findings;
-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:

- 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 show cases 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;
• With reference to up to date literature, case studies, experience from other campuses assist in the development of engagement material suitable for incoming first year 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- beyond 2020

Vacancy 4  Nature & Ecosystems Project

NUI Galway boasts Ireland’s most biodiverse campus. The strategic aim of the Nature and Ecosystems work package area is to enhance biodiversity on campus. Building on the success of NUIG’s pollinator plan, 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 compile information and seek views from staff and students to inform the biodiversity action plan, which would be implemented by the end of 2019. In conjunction with surveying staff and students about attitudes to nature, we would also ask them about attitudes to pro-environmental behaviours such as waste minimisation and recycling, with the view to using this to motivate staff to waste less and reuse more. This would ensure that NUI Galway is meeting its objectives in relation to enhancing biodiversity on campus, reducing waste on campus, and raise student and staff awareness of biodiversity issues on campus.

In brief the project involves the following:

• Collate and review existing information on habitats, species and management practices on campus grounds;
• Collate and review existing university biodiversity action plans from other third level colleges;
• Prepare materials for a biodiversity action plan workshop with buildings and estates staff, ecology and other interested staff and students;
• Prepare a survey which would be agreed with Buildings and Estates staff on attitudes to nature and pro environmental behaviours such as recycling and reusing materials to reduce waste on campus;
• Prepare a briefing note evaluating responses to determine can nature connection be used to motivate people to take pro-environmental actions;
• Install a pilot biodiversity engagement project in conjunction with a student explore project on batboxes;
• As a result of the workshop, and survey, and materials and information gathered, prepare a biodiversity action plan to be agreed with buildings and estates staff and CUSP;
• Consult with relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of the biodiversity action plan;
• Prepare a briefing note for the website, and interpretation material on the Biodiversity Action Plan. 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 project, taking into account feedback from stakeholders, to be presented to the CUSP team. Present this at any other public events organised by the CUSP team, such as Sustainability day, or other similar events.

**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 and skills
• 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/Zoology 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: February 20\(^{th}\), 2019  
Application closes: March 19\(^{th}\), 2019  
*Project Commencement Date: June 10\(^{th}\), 2019  
*Project End Date: August 2\(^{nd}\), 2019

*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@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: **19th March @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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