



## UCD Sustainability

### Students for Sustainability Funding Call

Call details & how to apply

#### Overview

We all have a critical role to play in making the world more sustainable at local, national and global scales. Through the Students for Sustainability scheme, UCD and the UCD Students' Union seek to support students and student societies in undertaking impactful projects to address pressing sustainability challenges. This partnership emphasises the importance of student leadership and engagement. The call will fund innovative projects that drive sustainability, environmental and climate impacts both on campus and beyond, with strong ties to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The **Students for Sustainability scheme** is supported by Performance Funding from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and linked to UCD's role as one of Ireland's [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Champions for 2024-2025](#) and more broadly UCD's strategy to 2030 '[Breaking Boundaries](#)'. Multiple awards up to €1,000 will be made through this scheme, with a total of €10,000 allocated. The scheme will be managed in collaboration with the UCD Students' Union.

Full details of the scheme including the application process can be found below. We are happy to discuss proposed projects in advance of submission and advise on suitability. If you have any questions, please contact [vpsustainability@ucd.ie](mailto:vpsustainability@ucd.ie).

#### What does the Scheme fund?

The scheme is very flexible and we are open to many types of applications. However all projects must:

- Be led by students or a student society,
- Address a real-world sustainability challenge or tackle a [UN Sustainable Development Goal](#),
- Demonstrate strong potential for impact on the student community, campus, or beyond.

Applicants are encouraged but not obliged to collaborate with academic, technical or professional staff and to engage with external organisations.

### **Example types of projects:**

- Piloting a new approach, project or initiative on campus
- Running a sustainability awareness campaign on campus
- Activities linked to the UN SDGs, aimed at increasing awareness or driving behaviour change in support of sustainability
- Conducting research into student habits or behaviours around sustainability
- Networking or collaboration activities with external organisations, including NGOs, community groups, or social enterprises
- Public engagement or outreach activities including the creation of digital content
- Hosting student-centred workshops or events, for example during UCD Green Week or SDG Week.

When drafting their application, applicants are encouraged to consider involving the UCD Students' Union in their project, initiative, campaign or event. Where appropriate, applicants should consider collaborating with the Students' Union and/or leveraging the Students' Union network and connections.

### **Terms & Conditions**

1. Lead applicant must be a UCD student who remains a student for the duration of the project
2. Applications can have multiple co-applicants from UCD, including other students but also UCD academic, technical and administrative/professional staff. Potential staff collaborators can be identified through the [UCD Sustainability website](#), the [UCD Earth Institute members page](#), the [UCD researcher directory](#) or via Students' Union connections
3. Co-applicants from external organisations are also welcome
4. Projects must begin by February 2025 and completed by December 2025
5. Speakers' costs may be covered on a case by case basis
6. The scheme cannot cover the cost of hiring someone to deliver the project
7. Funding will be co-managed by the UCD Students' Union and the UCD Sustainability Unit
8. The lead applicant will receive part of the funding upfront, with the remainder reimbursed upon project completion and submission of full receipts.

### **Evaluation process & criteria**

All eligible proposals will be reviewed by an assessment committee including the UCD Sustainability Manager, a member of a Sustainability Core Working Groups and a member of the UCD Students' Union.

The committee will evaluate the proposals on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The relevance of the application to the Students for Sustainability Scheme (Answer Yes or No for this criterion only. If No, no further scoring is required).

2. A clear rationale for the project, addressing a sustainability challenge or the UN SDGs (Weighting: 20%). .
3. The project team's expertise to deliver the project (Weighting: 15%).
4. The application demonstrates the potential impacts of the initiative including clearly stating who will benefit and what the expected benefits are, including for instance, increased awareness, external engagement, greater knowledge, behaviour or system change etc. (Weighting 25%).
5. A well-defined plan for successful completion within the timeline (Weighting: 25%).
6. Value for money and budget justification (Weighting: 15%).

### **How to apply**

- Complete and submit the application form ([available here](#)) by Wednesday, 5 February 2025.
- The form requires concise information about the project rationale, team involvement, impact, work plan, timeline, and budget.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by Friday, 14 February 2025.
- Successful applicants must submit a short report detailing outputs and impact within one month of project completion.