# The Value and Impact of Higher Education Student Volunteering in Ireland

## Delivering Purpose through Practice

# Contents

# Introduction

## Student Volunteering in Irish Higher Education

Student volunteers are a major force underpinning Irish higher education institutions' (HEIs) civic role and driving Ireland's agenda to create an island of inclusion and engagement. The current COVID-19 health crisis has shone a light on the hands-on approach of our third-level student volunteers, addressing real-world problems through volunteering.

During the height of the pandemic, thousands of Irish higher education (HE) students were at the frontline, applying their skills as volunteer paramedics, supporting vulnerable older people, carrying out peer-to-peer mentorship, online school support programmes and homework clubs, keeping the most vulnerable members of our society in school and enabling them to transition to further and higher education. Their volunteer activities have helped raise essential funds, with a profound impact on supporting local community services to function. Students' pro-action has enhanced their personal resilience, work-ready skills and their sense of well-being and purpose in society.

This report celebrates the exceptional achievements and impact of student volunteers and reflects on the benefits of the first-ever student volunteering online platform www.StudentVolunteer.ie.

The report also highlights a series of recommendations for all stakeholders to contemplate about how we best work together to meet future demand and maintain a quality student volunteer experience for all. The co-authors of this report hope the next phase of development will build on Ireland's established base, recognising that a concerted national coordination infrastructure would enable student volunteering to flourish across every campus and community on the island of Ireland.

Le gach dea ghuí,
**Student Volunteering Working Group
- December 2021**

The Student Volunteering Working Group (SVWG) was established in 2013, supported by our individual higher education institutions (HEIs) and Campus Engage within the Irish Universities Association (IUA). The SVWG vision is to extend the reach of student volunteering to higher education (HE) students across Ireland and across all communities.

To explore opportunities related to student volunteering, find us at **www.StudentVolunteer.ie/contact**

**Students' Voice**

"There is no greater satisfaction than realising you have made a difference to the life of someone else. Giving your time to help others is giving a piece of yourself, it is food for the soul."

**- Vera Stojanovic, Social Sciences Student, University College Cork**

**Community Partners' Voice**

"Essentially…they're absolutely fantastic – we couldn't actually run our programs without them."

**- Andrea Smith, Barretstown**
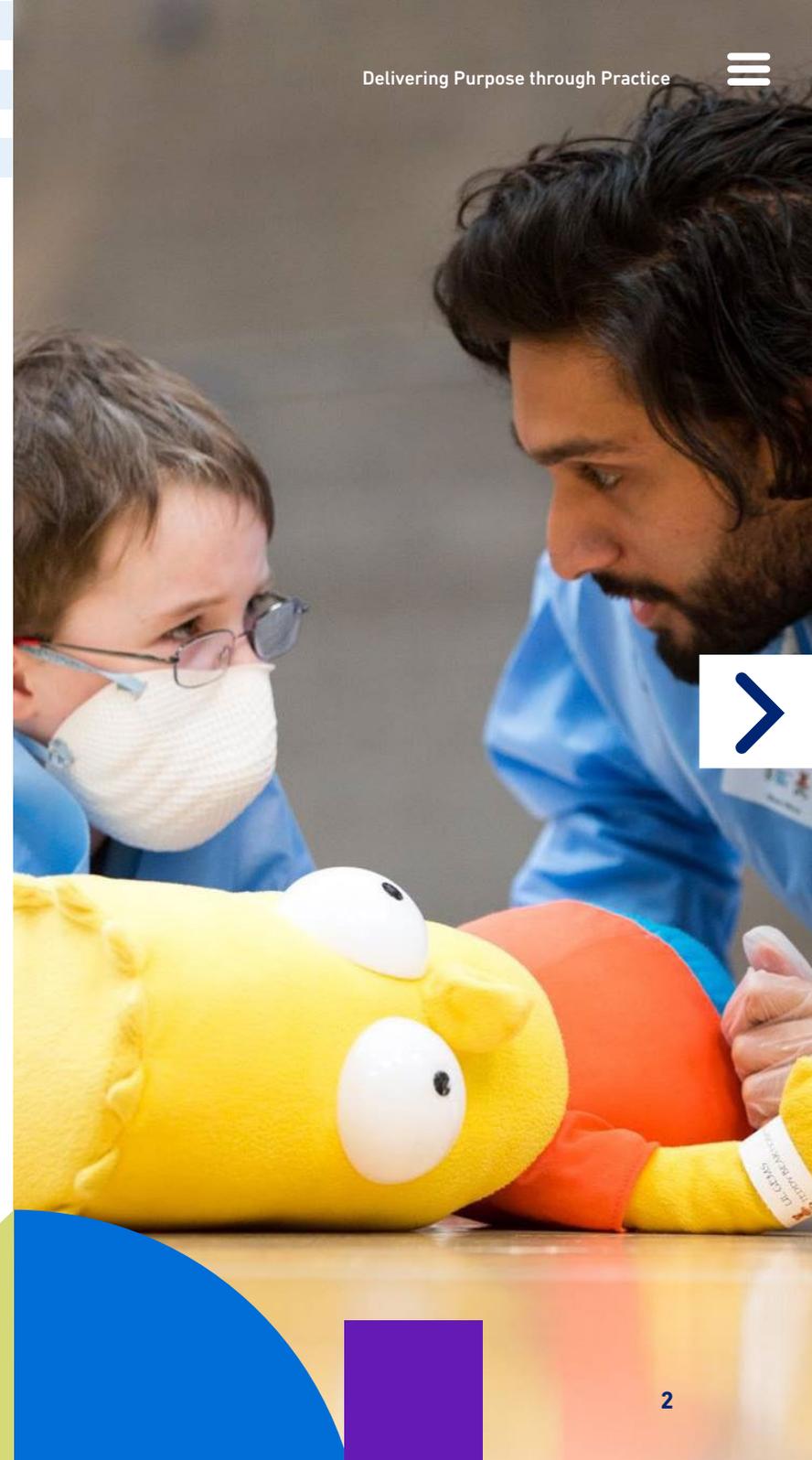
# What is Student Volunteering?

## What is Student Volunteering?

Student volunteering is unpaid time, given freely, to on and off-campus engagement with communities in Ireland and worldwide. This work is an invaluable component of student life, benefitting students' learning and personal, academic, and social development, as well as wider individual and societal benefits.

Each HEI in Ireland has a unique approach to student volunteering. Some HEIs award academic credit for volunteering, a component of Community Engaged Learning (CEL), other institutions focus on formal volunteering experiences, while others encourage a combination of informal and formal experiences. It is important to embrace the diversity and individual approaches to student volunteering captured in the following all-encompassing definition:

*"Volunteering is any time willingly given, either formally or informally for the common good and without financial gain."National Volunteering Strategy of Ireland (2021)*

## Introducing StudentVolunteer.ie

StudentVolunteer.ie is a free interactive online platform for higher education (HE) students, HEIs and community organisations. This management system tracks, records, and reports on HE student volunteering and learning through reflection. It enables Clubs, Societies, volunteer initiatives, and community organisations both on and off-campus to promote their volunteer opportunities to HE students in one or all partner HEIs, accept or reject student applications and approve and record volunteer hours. Students can apply and record their volunteer hours and volunteer experience and HEI administrators can record and report on their student's volunteering. It is a bespoke, state-of-the-platform, the first of its kind for student volunteering anywhere in the world.

### Community Partners' Voice

"Every year without fail, every single person always comes back and says that the students in UL were fantastic. They show compassion, they show commitment, and they are our lifeline, without the volunteers, for us the event wouldn't be successful. We bring in over ¤120,000 from that event alone"

**- Anne Marie-Hayes, Milford Care Centre**

# Student Volunteers
## Implementing National Policy & Building Reputation

### National Higher Education Strategy to 2030 (2011)

The Strategy emphasises the involvement of students in civic engagement and service-learning activity to become "fully engaged citizens within society."

### National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland 2014-2020 (2014)

HE is recommended to: "...equip students with the knowledge, skills and values to motivate and empower them to live more sustainably," with student voluntary action as a clear response to this.

### National Skills Strategy 2025 (2016)

Focuses on graduate attributes, such as high level cognitive, leadership, entrepreneurial, analytical, and interpersonal skills. Volunteering is an ideal conduit for students to test, hone and put these skills, valued by employers, into action.

**IRELAND'S NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY 2025**

### Irish Aid Development Education Strategy 2017-2023 (2017)

"We will support Higher Education institutions, NGOs, and DE practitioners to increase the number and spread of third level students engaging in quality DE in both the formal and non-formal spheres of Higher Education."

**Irish Aid**
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

### National Volunteering Strategy 2021 to 2025 (2021)

Higher Education is referenced as a key partner to achieve the strategy's ambitious goals. StudentVolunteer.ie is acknowledged as a key mechanism to introduce and measure volunteering.

**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and Community Development

### Times Higher Education Impact Ranking

Global performance tables now assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals; including engagement with local, national, and international civic society organisations.

**THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS** **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

# How Students Volunteer

## Student volunteering permeates across all higher education institutions, and throughout our local, national, and international communities.

The following graphic offers a snapshot of the breadth of existing student volunteering. Students sometimes volunteer without realising they are doing so, missing out on the potential for reflecting on its value for career-building skills, leadership development and its value to the institution or community. One of the aims of the Student Volunteering Working Group (SVWG) is to raise student awareness of the positive personal, professional, and societal outcomes associated with volunteering. Student volunteering is strong, active and growing across Irish higher education. Student volunteers participate in local, national, and international community projects, charity fundraising, campus peer support mentoring, clubs, societies, unions, and class representative programmes, after school clubs and campus conferences, to name just a few. Award ceremonies - both on-campus and virtual events - and certificates, raises the student's awareness of the significance of their contribution, and institutional recognition rewards and acknowledges their volunteering efforts.

Student and community voices are central to the work and direction of the SVWG.
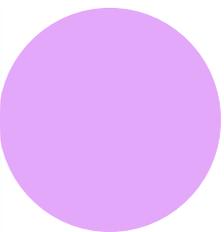
*"It has been said that volunteers and their work is the backbone of a community, a region or indeed our country and that through the smallest act of kindness, so much can be achieved. At UL, our students are renowned for that heart and spirit of giving through the Presidents Volunteer Awards initiative. We have an unwavering spirit and commitment to volunteerism at our institution and it is a commitment that has stood strong in times of prosperity, and more recently, in times of challenge."*

**-UL President, Professor Kerstin Mey**

**Students' Voice**
"Volunteering is a great opportunity to do some amazing things and meet some amazing people. You get to learn and achieve a lot, and it's an incredibly fulfilling experience!"

**- Evin Hughes, Computers & Communications Engineering, TU Dublin**

## INTERNAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERING – WITHIN HEIs

### Student Sports
—
Aligned to Student Sport Ireland mission; Volunteers involved in intramural and inter-HEI sport and events

### Student Engagement
—
Aligned to NStEP mission; Curriculum committees, quality assurance roles, including DEI targets for representation

### Student Support
—
Supporting SAI and CN3 mission; Initiatives like CÉIM and peer assisted learning

### Student Media
—
Radio stations, newspapers, magazines

### Student Governance
—
Aligned to USI campaign work; Students' Union, class representation

### Student Societies & Clubs
—
Aligned to BICS mission; Leadership involvement in clubs & societies

## STUDENT VOLUNTEERING

### Local Community Volunteering
—
Formal volunteering (e.g. secured through StudentVolunteer.ie)

### Civic engagement projects
—
Volunteer project involvement for ECTs or not for credit

### Youth Mentorship / Buddy programs
—
Programs like Foróige and/or Big Sister or Big Brother

### Science & Education Outreach
—
Initiatives like Cell Explorers, Coder Dojo, Homework clubs

### International volunteering
—
Initiatives aligned to Comhlámh code and eligible for Global Citizen Award

### Social Entrepreneurship and National/ Global work
—
Initiatives like Gaisce, Enactus, STAND and Amnesty

## EXTERNAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERING: BEYOND HEIs IN OUR COMMUNITIES

# Case studies:
## Student Volunteers Supporting Frontline Community Services

### Healthcare Students Deliver Medicines to Elderly and Vulnerable During Pandemic:

A group of UCD volunteer medical students spearheaded an initiative to deliver medicines to people who are self-isolating at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been an incredible response to the scheme, which is coordinated through the COVID-19 Medicine Deliveries Facebook group. There are more than 750 volunteers and 250 participating pharmacies nationwide.

### Respite Care for Families living with Cystic Fibrosis:

At the onset of the pandemic, UCC student volunteers rallied together to support a social media campaign to raise over €500,000 in donations for a new respite service for the Julian Benson Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The money raised now provides respite and accommodation for families visiting people during the pandemic with cystic fibrosis. The service provides support for many vulnerable people from all over Ireland, who cannot afford expensive accommodation in Dublin when they travel to care for their loved ones in hospital.

### Student Mentoring – Support Pathways to Higher Education:

In Moyross, a suburb and council estate in Limerick city, a community of Franciscan Friars, the Monks of Moyross, work with UL volunteer students on an afterschool service and homework club for local primary and secondary school children. This partnership provides all students with an opportunity to meet, chat and learn about opportunities within higher education, share their dreams and explore together their lives, experiences and possibilities in higher education.

### Empowering our Travelling Community:

Across the west of Ireland, the Mincéirs Misl'd in Education project works to develop an inclusive programme that empowers the Travelling community to identify and overcome barriers to access, progress, and stay in higher education. Grinds4Mincéirs offers Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) students from the Irish Traveller community with additional support for exam subjects. The Traveller students are located in counties Galway, Mayo and Sligo with grinds during COVID-19 delivered online. Evidence shows that this work leads to personal resilience and social development of persons who are economically and socially disadvantaged.

## Keeping Dog Rescue Services Running:

The TU Dublin student volunteers identified a major challenge for Ash Animal Rescue during the lockdown and worked as a team to find ways to help Ash Animal Rescue overcome the 5km travel restriction of the pandemic which had drastically affected the supply of donations of much-needed animal care supplies. They brainstormed to come up with the innovative 'Doggy Donation Drive' along with a number of other fundraising initiatives. The student volunteer team applied for a special dispensation for the travel rule in order to collect supply donations on behalf of the charity and as a result of the volunteers' innovative thinking, many people were able to make donations that they otherwise couldn't have.

**Community Partners' Voice**

"Students act as role models for our at-risk children, young people that use our services."

**- Maxine, Oberstown Youth**

**Students' Voice**

"I think volunteering has allowed me to look at the world in a different way and be more conscious of the social problems that exist in the world. Volunteering has been my favourite part of my time being in college, and I wouldn't change my experience at all."

**- Andrea Whelton, Business and Law Student, University College Dublin**

# Societal & Economic Impact of Student Volunteering

We know that the societal and economic impact of student volunteering is remarkable. An Indecon Report on the Impact Assessment of Irish Universities, 'Delivering for Ireland' (2019) found that an estimated 17,569 students from the 2017/18 academic year engaged in volunteering with an economic value of €28.4 million. However, it should be noted that this impact analysis is based only on StudentVolunteer. ie platform recorded activity with 10 partner HEIs. Across the entire HE sector in Ireland the full value of student volunteering is a multiple of StudentVolunteer.ie recorded activity. According to the 2020 results of StudentSurvey.ie, 45.6% of students across the entire Irish HE sector plan to do/ have done/were in the process of doing community service or volunteer work. These survey results indicates quite starkly that HE students are willing and ready to volunteer.

The aim of the national Student Volunteering Working Group is to provide the support and infrastructure to enable all students across the HE sector who want to volunteer during the course of their academic studies.

The diagram on the next page depicts natural overlap between areas of impact and benefit for students, HEIs and communities.

*The estimated annual economic value of student volunteering is €28.4 million*

**- Indecon Report Impact Assessment of Irish Universities, 2019**

**Students' Voice**

"Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet new people and learn how to work together. I gained a great sense of wellbeing and was able to use the experience to develop both personally and professionally."

**- Michelle Mitchell, Ph.D. candidate, NUI Galway**

## Impact on Students

- Fosters real-world application of skills and enhances workplace readiness
- Students gain social capital and facilitates transition to future workplace
- Delivers on graduate attributes, enhances student experience and academic performance
- Drives and supports the delivery of an outstanding student experience
- Safeguards against student isolation, disengagement, facilitates peer mentoring for retention of students on programmes
- Fosters student mental health, well-being, active citizenship and a sense of belonging
- Integrates new and international students into their community, and extends friendship networks
- Fosters a culture and life long commitment to giving back to both their HEI and wider society

## Impact on Universities

- Boost the institution's reputation and cohesion in local, national and international communities
- Delivers on HEIs commitment to meet societal needs (e.g enables cost-effective running of large scale on-campus events like COVID-19 tracking and vaccination programmes)
- Provides readily available data on societal impact for institutional ranking across the implementation of the 17 UN SDGs
- The commitment and uniqueness of the HE approach to student volunteering attracts international and Erasmus students to choose Irish HEIs
- Delivers on HEs commitment to reducing educational disadvantage through student volunteer mentoring and afterschool clubs
- Provides evidence on implementation of government and HE national policies
- Delivers on HEs commitment to support the development of grounded graduates equipped with the knowledge to tackle societal issues
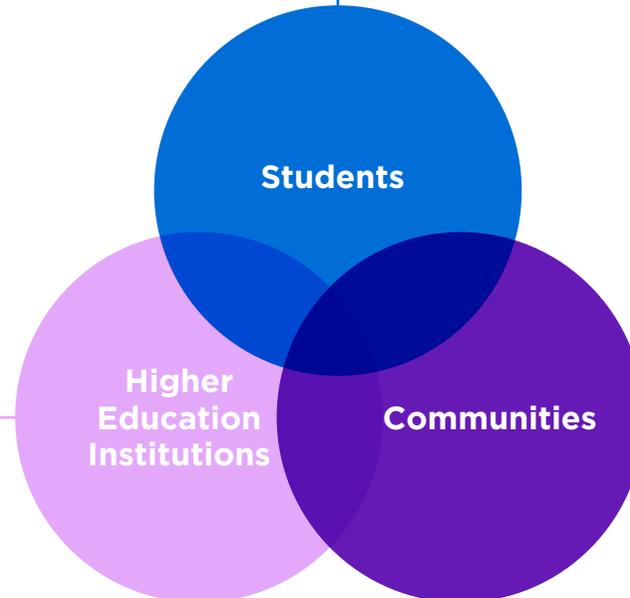
## Impact on Civic Society

- Student volunteers deliver an average annual economic value of €28.4 million to civic society (Indecon Report Impact Assessment of Irish Universities, 2019)
- Student volunteers are essential to running community-based programmes and delivering bespoke community-based services
- Student volunteers act as mentors and role models for at-risk children and young people who use community services
- Provide national and local community organisations with significant human resources for fundraising
- Graduates transfer to workplace with invaluable 'work ready skills', ready to make an impact
- Opens up and drives community-HE partnerships for community-based learning, research and funding opportunities
- Helps to build sustainable partnerships and break down potential barriers between HEIs and local communities

**Students**

**Higher Education Institutions**

**Communities**

# Building Irish Student Volunteering Infrastructures

There are a number of pillars that support student volunteering across Ireland. As well as the network of professional HE student volunteer practitioners driving student volunteering across the sector, both locally and through the national Student Volunteering Working Group, student volunteers are also most notable supported by Student Unions, through Clubs and Societies, and student council. Significant to the acknowledgement and growth in volunteering over the past decade is the unique online HE management platform StudentVolunteer.ie, and the establishment and growth of institutional awards and recognition ceremonies.

**Community Partners' Voice**

"HE students provide pivotal support to our school volunteer programmes as volunteer adult leaders. This partnership model is helping to create new pathways of volunteer engagement."

**- Derek Cleary, Localise National Youth Volunteering**
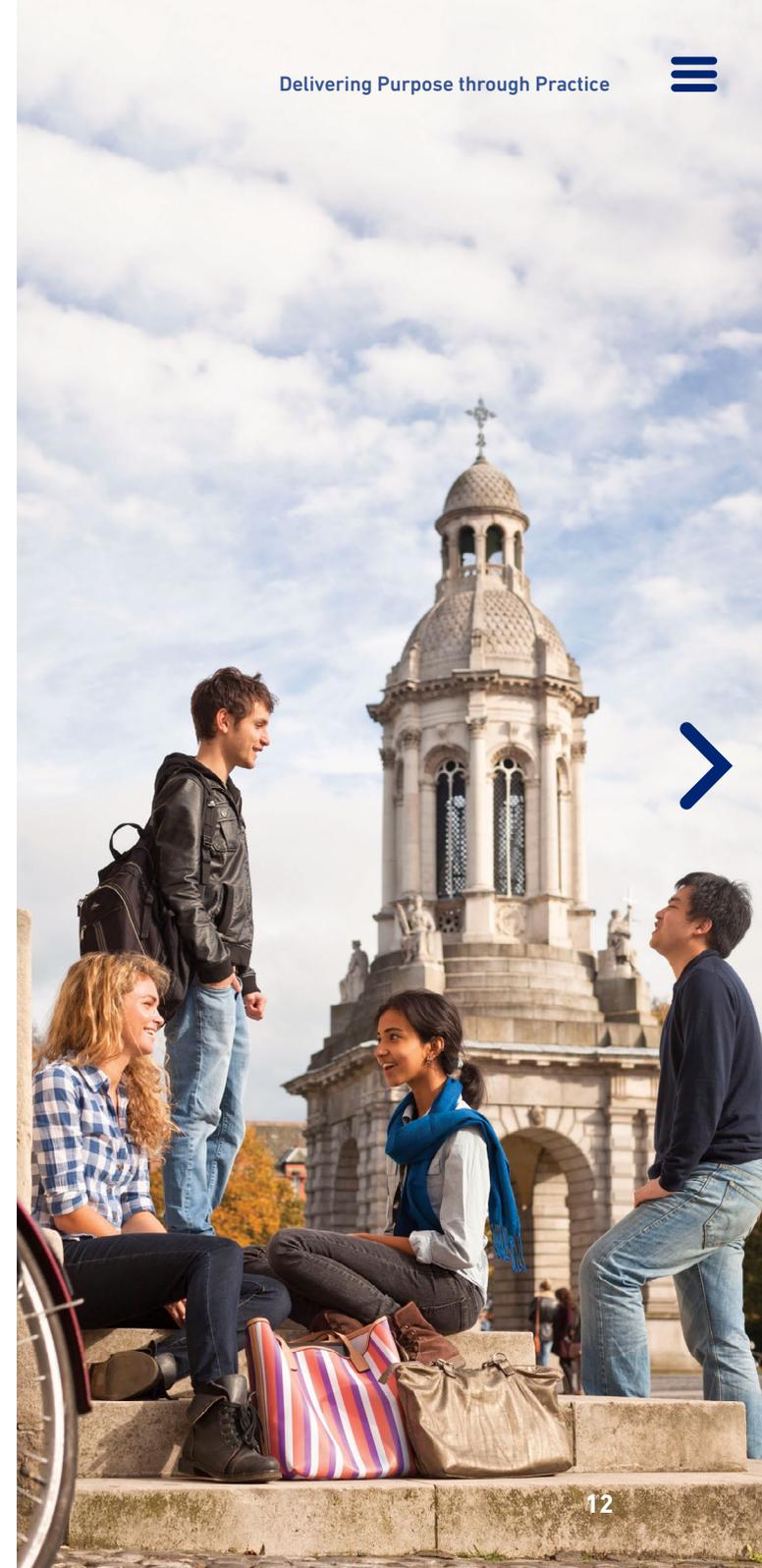
## StudentVolunteer.ie

Supported by Campus Engage at the IUA, a network of student volunteer practitioners, the SVWG, created a 'community of practice'. The working group share knowledge of best practices and policies across the sector. The group are committed to sustaining, recognising, acknowledging, embedding, scaling, promoting and encouraging student volunteering across Ireland and internationally. The group came together in 2013 and by 2016 they had planned, developed and launched www. StudentVolunteer.ie. This technology is now a proven student and community online volunteering platform. This bespoke HE/community volunteer platform drives, records and reports on this student/community activity across partner organsations. It acts as a data management tool, a national portal, quality control, and 'matching service' for student volunteers - to work in partnership with volunteer-involving organisations (VIOs) across Ireland. StudentVolunteer.ie enables synergies between and across HEIs, HE students and communities, promoting the breadth of volunteering available, opening up new volunteer opportunities and encouraging students to create their own opportunities.

StudentVolunteer.ie and the network of HE volunteer practitioners across the HE sector provide:

- A one-stop-shop, matching higher education students with volunteer opportunities both on and off-campus

- The opportunity for VIOs (volunteer involving organisations), societies and clubs to engage HE students in their work (e.g. critical community services, fundraising, enhancing students engagement and experience on campus)

- Supports and enables a reflective volunteering practice

- Easy access to qualitative data on student volunteering societal impact – implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### StudentVolunteer.ie Facts

- Based on data from StudentVolunteer.ie it is estimated that the annual economic value of student volunteering is €28.4 million

- In 2021, 18,878 Students were registered on StudentVolunteer.ie (representing the 10 partner institutions)

- Over 2,400 volunteer opportunities have been advertised on StudentVolunteer.ie

- 250,593 student volunteer hours have been recorded

- 2018-2019 University of Limerick, StudentVolunteer.ie/ul registered an average of 55% of the registered full-time undergraduate students.

**Community Partners' Voice**

"We've found that volunteers that come through StudentVolunteer.ie, have been just phenomenal"

**- Lauren Murphy Special Olympics Ireland**

## Awards and Recognition

Institutional recognition incentives, such as HEI President Volunteer Awards, ceremonies, and highlighting student volunteer achievements on degree transcripts, reflect the value and significance HEIs place on student volunteering. Taking the University of Limerick (UL) as a case study, 6,588 UL students registered on www.StudentVolunteer.ie in 2019. This represent an average of 55% of their full-time undergraduates. HE awards and recognition proves to be a critical factor in growing volunteering at UL. This case study indicates that a HE President that champions volunteering enables and normalises a culture across campus. For example, the Presidents Volunteer Award (PVA) at UL has led to the development of:

**1** Annual President's Volunteering Award and Ceremony – where students, their parents and communities come together to celebrate the institution's volunteer culture.

**2** Formal recognition of student volunteering - PVA on student transcript – indicates the institutional commitment to student volunteering and the value placed on this student-led activity.

**3** Student volunteering is included in UL's strategic plan with goals and targets to increase the numbers of student volunteers. This enables UL to report on this student activity.

**4** Establishment of mutli-stakeholder engagement and governance across student, staff, civic and business communities.

*"It gives me great pride when I speak of the UL PVA program as an exemplar of an initiative that brings the best out in our students for the benefit of our communities. Since 2010, the recognition of the volunteering movement in UL has highlighted a cohort of extraordinary kind-hearted, engaging people amongst our community who reach out through thousands of volunteering hours to give back something more. We are unquestionably committed to the PVA program at UL and the positive impact it has in our communities and throughout those participating in the Higher Education sector. Long may it continue to prosper and bring about positive change."*
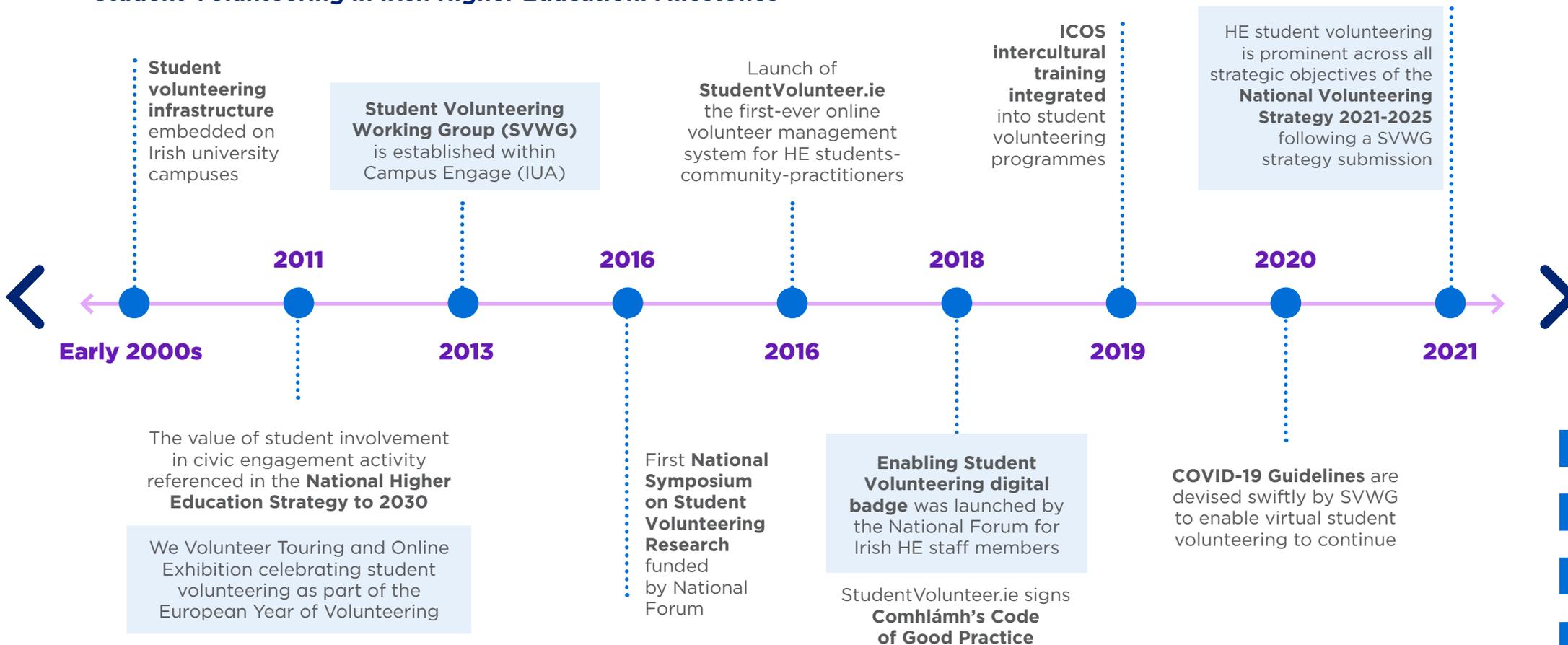
**- UL President, Professor Kerstin Mey**

**Students' Voice**

"I find nothing more enjoyable than making someone's life a little, or hopefully a lot, easier. It is so simple to make a difference in somebody's life whether it be a passing moment in their day or something they remember for years to come."

**- Hannah Leonard, Physics and Biomedical Sciences Student, Dublin City University**

## Student Volunteering in Irish Higher Education: Milestones

**Student volunteering infrastructure** embedded on Irish university campuses

**Student Volunteering Working Group (SVWG)** is established within Campus Engage (IUA)

Launch of **StudentVolunteer.ie** the first-ever online volunteer management system for HE students-community-practitioners

**ICOS intercultural training integrated** into student volunteering programmes

HE student volunteering is prominent across all strategic objectives of the **National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025** following a SVWG strategy submission

**2011**  **2016**  **2018**  **2020**

**Early 2000s**  **2013**  **2016**  **2019**  **2021**

The value of student involvement in civic engagement activity referenced in the **National Higher Education Strategy to 2030**

We Volunteer Touring and Online Exhibition celebrating student volunteering as part of the European Year of Volunteering

First **National Symposium on Student Volunteering Research** funded by National Forum

**Enabling Student Volunteering digital badge** was launched by the National Forum for Irish HE staff members

StudentVolunteer.ie signs **Comhlámh's Code of Good Practice**

**COVID-19 Guidelines** are devised swiftly by SVWG to enable virtual student volunteering to continue

# Our Current Partners

**Higher education student volunteering is defined by collaborative processes and dependent on the development of international, national, regional, local and internal, mutually beneficial partnerships. Student, community, and HE's commitment to student volunteering drive the work undertaken by the Student Volunteering Working Group.**

Our HEIs work in partnership with key agencies and community organisations. Some of these strategic partnerships include:

### Campus Engage

Irish Universities Association, Campus Engage strives to promote societal engagement as a core function of Higher Education, and work with a Student Volunteer Working Group

### Comhlámh

Comhlámh promotes international volunteering and developmental work for student volunteers.

### The Global Citizen Award

Students with international volunteering experience are actively encouraged to apply for the Global Citizen Award.

### Gaisce – The President's Award

Students are encouraged to participate in the levels of Gaisce with President's Award Leaders available to support the process at Irish HEIs.

### National Student Engagement Programme: NStEP

NStEP aims to strengthen student engagement in decision-making across Irish higher education.

### Localise: Youth Volunteering

Localise is Ireland's national youth volunteering programme in primary and secondary schools, with long-standing partnerships with a number of Irish HEIs.

### Department of Rural and Community Development

Irish universities are now representatives on the National Volunteering Strategy Implementation Steering Group and Subgroups

### Volunteer Ireland and the Network of Volunteer Centres

Irish Universities sit on many local Volunteer Centre Boards and work with Volunteer Ireland across practice and policy

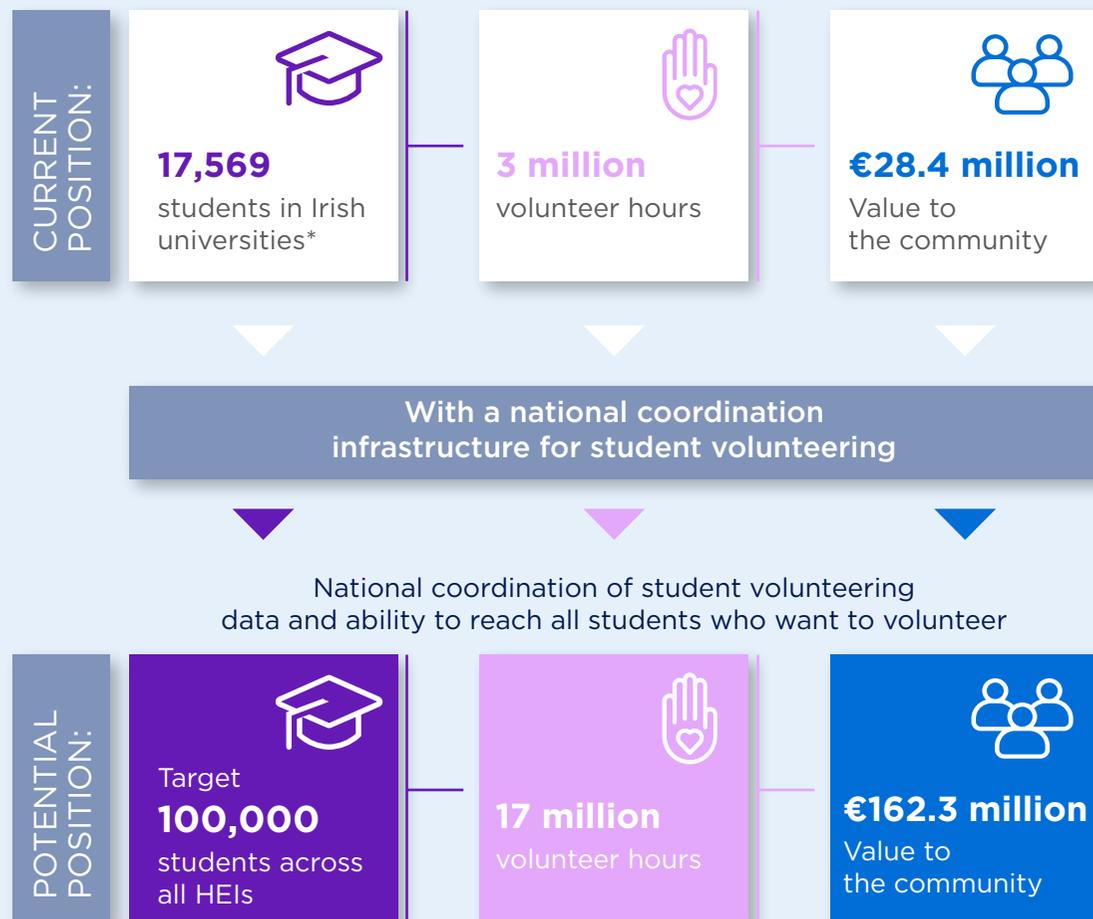### National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning

The National Forum has funded student volunteering initiatives including this document and the digital badge 'Enabling Student Volunteering'.

# Potential for Growth

National data from the **Student Engagement Survey** (StudentSurvey.ie) provides empirical evidence that the potential and demand for student volunteering infrastructures is strong across Irish campuses. The national Student Engagement Survey 2019 showed that **47% of university** (IUA) and IT (THEA) students surveyed have or intend to volunteer during their time in higher education. This is an average **of 116,000 'students plan, want to, or are volunteering annually'**. However, due to barriers, data indicates that the overall reach of StudentVolunteer.ie is limited to **just 6%, or 18,000 university students**.

Based on this information, the national Student Volunteering Working Group are informed and acutely aware that **the demand and potential for student volunteering expansion across all HEIs is greater than at any other time in the history of HE student volunteering.** There is a demand from students, government, and society to reach a further 100,000 students. Meeting this demand would mean answering the call from students, government, and society with a potential 17 million volunteer hours, which would **add a value of €162.3 million per annum** by 2025 to communities across the island of Ireland and beyond. To that end, the working group understand the potential scope to explore an all-island approach to HE student volunteering.

**CURRENT POSITION:**

**17,569** students in Irish universities*

**3 million** volunteer hours

**€28.4 million** Value to the community

With a national coordination infrastructure for student volunteering

National coordination of student volunteering data and ability to reach all students who want to volunteer

**POTENTIAL POSITION:**

Target **100,000** students across all HEIs

**17 million** volunteer hours

**€162.3 million** Value to the community

*this represents only 7 universities supported under the IUA not all the formal student volunteering currently serviced across Irish HEIs. (Indecon 2019)

# How we can Work Together to Grow Student Volunteering

## Call to Action

This document is evidence that there is a great deal of student volunteer activity happening across campuses and communities, and there is an ever-growing appetite and demand from students, HEIs and community organisations to work together. To further build on the work already underway and meet the demands of all, the national Student Volunteering Working Group recognise what is now required is:

**1** Clear and unambiguous institutional support at the highest level.

**2** Investment in www.StudentVolunteer.ie.

**3** A national student volunteer coordinator with administrative support.

**4** Investment in policy development and practice across the sector.

There is much opportunity, energy and strategic vision on how to build on and maximise the potential socio-economic impact of student volunteering in the Irish context. In this setting, a coherent nationwide approach to support and promote student volunteering will enhance the reputation and profile of Ireland, Irish HE students and Irish HEIs, position Ireland as an international leader in higher education civic engagement while implementing the UN SDGs through student volunteering.

### Students' Voice

"Not only does it look good on your CV but the skills and the personal growth one can gain from volunteering is endless. Push yourself out of your comfort zone and you would be amazed at yourself, the potential you have and the impact you can have in your communities."

**- Rahela Beghean, Psychology Student, Maynooth University**

The Student Volunteer Working Group recommend the creation of a formal centralised structure to support student volunteering and ensure a cost-effective and impactful approach to better embed, scale and promote student volunteering across the HE sector. This structure could be set up to:

**1** Advocate for student volunteering in Irish HEIs and build an all-island approach to student volunteering

**2** Incorporate UN Sustainable Development Goals into data StudentVolunteer.ie collects and produce annual societal impact reports to monitor how students are implementing the goals in Ireland and internationally

**3** Create a baseline of statistics related to student volunteering across the sector to report on the implementation of government policy and future policies and practices

**4** Leverage Ireland's existing reputation for student volunteering excellence to showcase good practice student volunteering to key national and international strategic audiences

**5** Expand the use of www.StudentVolunteer.ie across the sector and secure investment in phase 2 development

**6** Consider mechanisms to create second-level to third-level volunteering transition programmes

**7** Devise strategy to respond to training needs

**8** Recruit all Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology to join StudentVolunteer.ie

**9** Create formal partnerships between StudentVolunteer.ie and Board of Irish College Societies to embed all student clubs and societies opportunities across StudentVolunteer.ie

**10** Create opportunities to acknowledge student volunteering on student transcripts

**11** Support the creation of institutional President Volunteer Awards, or other, across each HEI

**12** Create formal partnerships with Volunteer Ireland to explore lifelong volunteer alumni

**13** Create opportunity for students to promote skills and graduate attributes on StudentVolunteer.ie

**14** Coordinate a digital public awareness and recruitment campaign for StudentVolunteer.ie

**15** Create a partnership with SOLAS to begin to scale StudentVolunteer.ie across further education campuses.

# Acknowledgements

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All photographs in this document are of real student volunteers from across our HEIs.

# Connect with us

**The Value and Impact of Higher Education Student Volunteering in Ireland**

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