

## SPECIALIST DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Course Director: Dr Maura Adshead, Associate Professor, Politics & Public Administration

AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
UP5101 Engaged Research Design(12 ECTS)	UP5102 Engaged Research Delivery (12 ECTS)	UP5105 Engaged Research Evaluation (6 ECTS)

### WHAT IS IT?

The Specialist Diploma in Community Engagement offers accredited learning at graduate level equivalent to 30ECTS. This credit can be transferred and used as a recognized prior learning in any third level institution in Ireland and maybe used as an entry route to UL's Masters in Community Research.

### LEARN BY DOING

The diploma provides a unique opportunity to work and learn with local communities in local communities. Over 11 months, you will be part of a diverse team charged with designing and delivering a project to address a local identified need.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

The Specialist Diploma in Community Engagement is designed to meet the needs of professionals and practitioners in community based settings in the public, semi-state and not-for-profit sector.

### COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

This programme facilitates student involvement in a number of community / university partnership projects (locally and nationally), providing the necessary training and facilitation between students and community partners to enable them to effectively identify the tasks and work packages that students can reasonably carry out in order to address identified community needs.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have a first or second class level 8 honours degree (NFQ or other internationally recognised equivalent) in a relevant or appropriate subject, or equivalent prior learning that is recognised by the University as meeting this requirement.

Applicants must also satisfy the English language requirements of the university. The University reserves the right to short-list and interview applicants as deemed necessary.



CWELL students working in the Southill community garden.

# COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING IN UL

The Specialist Diploma in Community Engagement is co-designed with community partners locally and nationally.

**In Limerick**, we work with local community consortia in Moyross, Southill, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Mary's and St Munchins as part of a wider UL ambition to support university-community collaboration that is reciprocal, beneficial and goal-oriented.



CWELL/UL students in St Mary's, Limerick



stands for **Community, Wellness, Empowerment, Leadership and Life-skills**.

It is a UL diploma designed by communities for communities, in order to address specific community identified needs. CWELL presents more collaborative way of learning in the community, one where local knowledge is recognized as having a real value. The ambition of the university is to engage with the community, utilizing the store of tacit knowledge and experience that already exists in local communities, and combining this with university supports and expertise.

Students on the Specialist Diploma in Community Engagement and the CWELL Diploma programme will work together in teams, supported by a network of local partnerships, to deliver community projects.

## Knowledge for Change (K4C)

Consortium for training in Community Based Research

UL is a member of the UNESCO Knowledge for Change (K4C) global consortium of Higher Education Institutions committed to best practice community based learning and research.

**For more information about this programme contact:**

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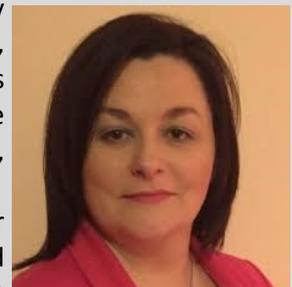


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## COPING WITH COVID

**Nationally**, we work with *e-Townz*, a Dublin-based digital R and D company specializing in developing tools for the community and voluntary sector. *e-Townz* were recommended to us by our community partners, evidence of their many connections with the community sector in Ireland at local and national level. In the current COVID climate, our collaboration with *e-Townz* is especially important: we are working together to develop useful tools for our students and our communities; to find new ways of carrying out community engagement that is reciprocal, beneficial and goal oriented.

**Locally** our programme is delivered in conjunction with a network of local community partners. With years of practitioner experience, Eileen Hoffer, CWELL Community Engagement Facilitator, supports our students and their projects in the university and outside, personalising programme support for both practical and virtual work carried out in the programme.



Our colleagues and friends in e-Townz.

