



The University of Limerick
Sustainability Report 2019



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Call to Action

We face unprecedented global, environmental, social and economic challenges, approaching a tipping point that threatens to overstep our planetary boundaries (Steffen et al. 2015).

As a higher education institution that is rooted in the region and globally connected, we have significant opportunities to deliver against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working with our staff and students, as well as our alumni body, local and regional communities, business and industry, and the government.

‘A fundamental change is needed in the way we think about education’s role in global development, because it has a catalytic impact on the well-being of individuals and the future of our planet. Now, more than ever, education has a responsibility to be in gear with 21st century challenges and aspirations and foster the right types of values and skills that will lead to sustainable and inclusive growth, and a peaceful living together.’

(Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO).

In 2015, 193 countries came together to define and adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. With the ambition to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity (United Nations General Assembly, 2015). The UN SDGs goals form the basis for our continued journey towards a sustainable university.

President's Welcome



The University of Limerick is committed to the development and implementation of a holistic approach to sustainable development, in partnership with the communities we serve, locally and regionally, and through our national and international alliances.

We aim to enable our students, graduates and staff to engage as 'active citizens' who contribute to the well-being and future of our planet and our communities.

Kerstin Mey
Kerstin Mey
President
University of Limerick

Strategic Intent

Our Charter

University of Limerick is committed to:

- I** The principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- II** Pioneering educational experiences for our students to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to promote sustainable development.
- III** Undertaking research that provides insights and potential solutions to the sustainable development challenges.
- IV** Contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring our campus is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.
- V** Building and shaping our interactions with external stakeholders to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals across our region and beyond.
- VI** Reporting on our activities in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Vision

2020 – 2030 ▶ A **Sustainable** University

2030 – 2050 ▶ A **Regenerative** University

Our Pillars

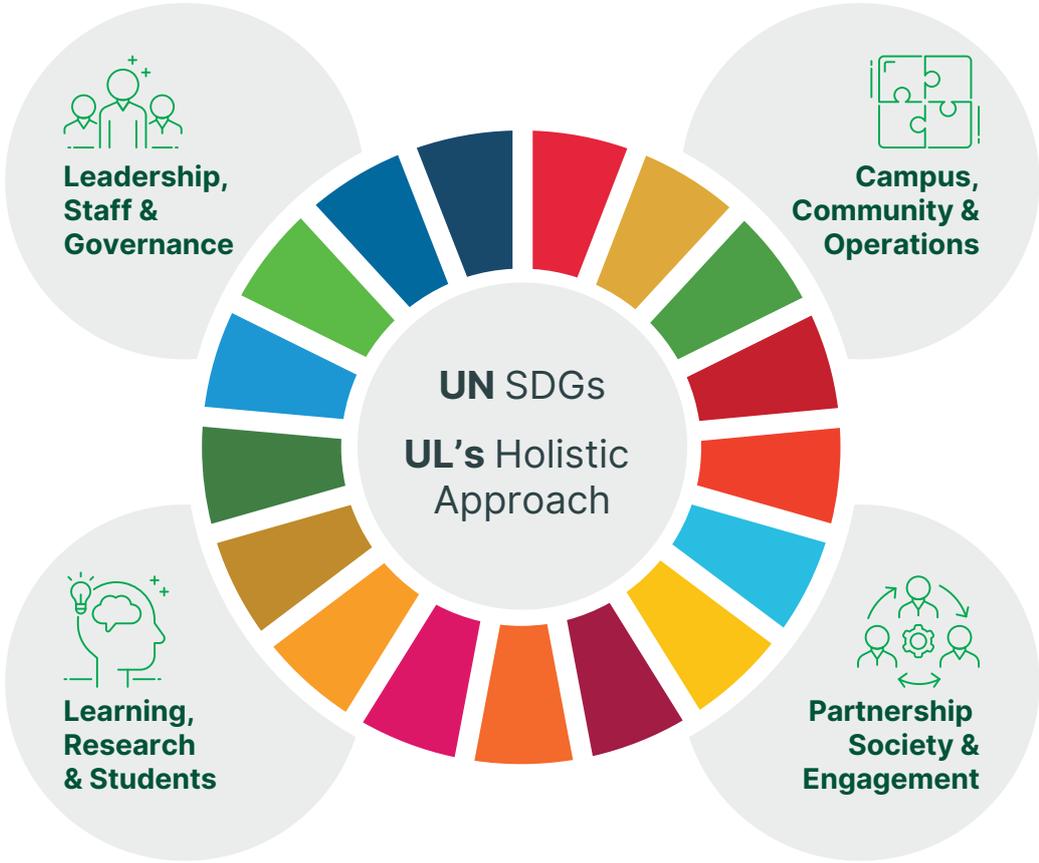


Inspiring Global Citizenship
(our people)



Driving Sustainable Development
(our planet)

UL's Systems Wide Approach



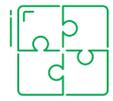
UL's strategic approach will see the SDGs embedded across every facet of university life. This is crucial to ensure deep meaningful engagement and alignment across the whole organisation.

Initial Steps



Leadership, Governance and Staff

1. To map our current organisational structures and processes against the UN Framework.
2. To ensure the SDGs are implemented through embedding each SDG in university governance structures, processes, and policies.
3. To collectively identify a set of key measures against the SDGs which are closely aligned to our strategic plan.
4. To undertake initiatives and actions as outlined in the work programme approved by the Steering Group.
5. To contribute to the annual university report on performance against the UN SDGs Framework.
6. To actively promote the SDGs and pioneer new university-wide initiatives.



Campus Community & Operations

1. To continue to develop our campus and our other sites in line with the principles of sustainable development.
2. To measure the key environmental impact of our campus and to set ambitious goals to improve our performance.
3. To apply new methods and approaches to address the integration of sustainably sourced foods, clean water, renewable energy, transport solutions and circular waste across our campus and through our contracted services.
4. To protect, monitor and improve the biodiversity of our campus.



Learning, Research & Students

1. To provide students and staff with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to understand and address the SDGs.
2. To pioneer new campus-wide programs.
3. To equip learners to act as active citizens within society.
4. To provide accessible, affordable, and inclusive education to all.
5. To provide capacity building for students and professionals from developing countries.
6. To pioneer and share new knowledge and evidence-based solutions that address the SDGs.
7. To co-develop societal impact metrics and models.
8. To partner with innovative external stakeholders to co-design, develop and implement SDG solutions.
9. To design and develop student training for sustainability development research.



Partnership, Society & Engagement

1. To continue to develop our campus and our other sites in line with the principles of sustainable development.
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4. To protect, monitor and improve the biodiversity of our campus.

Contributing to the well-being & future of our planet and our communities

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

1 NO
POVERTY



8%

of UL's student
population come from
disadvantaged areas
(HEA Deprivation Index Score report)

Student social entrepreneur Jack O'Connor is providing solutions to developing world agricultural problems

Inspired by the movie 'One Dollar A Day,' 3rd year International Business Student at Kemmy Business School in UL, Jack O'Connor says that he was struck "to the core" when he began to understand and research the plight of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. 'Moya Nua' takes its name from a combination of the word 'Moyo,' meaning life in the Malawian language of Chichewa, and 'Nua,' meaning new in Irish Gaelic. Moya Nua is the producer of agricultural seeding planters which utilise simplified agricultural technologies that are both ergonomic and environmentally friendly for small holder farmers - one of the poorest demographics in the world. Jack's seed planter won the national pitching competition at Enactus Ireland's national finals and moved to win international fame where he was invited to present the project to UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, MIT Sloan School of Management at Dublin Castle.



Diarmuid Curtin, Jack O'Connor, Donal Enright, with a smallholder farming family in the Blantyre District of Malawi.

The need for and innovativeness of this project is evidenced in its success as the winner of the inaugural 'Peace Through Trade' competition hosted by The World Trade Centre's Association Foundation (WTCAF). Jack O'Connor was invited to present onstage at the General Assembly to close to 500 representatives from Member World Trade Centre and their local companies. The Peace through Trade competition aims to identify and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders in World Trade Centre (WTC) cities. "The selection committee was immediately taken with the submission and we are immensely proud to name Moyo Nua as the first winner of the 'Peace Through Trade' competition."

"Through innovation, a steadfast commitment to sustainability, and hard work, the Moya Nua team has created a successful business that is changing the world for the better," said Rani Dabrai, Director of WTC Dublin. "These bright young minds represent the future of business, one that is global in vision and sustainable in practice, and we congratulate them both on this well-deserved honour." Having an article published in Forbes for the project was the icing on top for that academic year.

New four-year scholarships for asylum seekers and refugees at University of Limerick

University of Limerick (UL) announced that it will offer 15 new four-year undergraduate scholarships to refugees and asylum seekers beginning in September 2018. This is in addition to 15 one-year Mature Student Access Certificate (MSAC) scholarships, which were first introduced last year for people living in Direct Provision. Furthermore, funding has been committed for an additional cohort in the 2019/2020 academic year, bringing the total number of Sanctuary Scholarships at UL to 60 over the next two years. UL was awarded University of Sanctuary status on World Refugee Day 2017 and announced the introduction of its Sanctuary Scholarships programme.

"UL is immensely proud of its University of Sanctuary status and is committed to continually broadening access to higher education across the entire population. We hope to enable as many students as possible who have the potential to go to university to make it there, in this case by removing insurmountable financial barriers," said President Kerstin Mey.

"Without a scholarship, many young refugees and those young people seeking asylum and living in Direct Provision would not have the means to pay international fees to attend university in Ireland" said Dr Máiréad Moriarty, Chair of the University of Limerick's Sanctuary steering committee. According to Sikhulekile Ruth Ndlovu, an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe who has been living in Ireland since 2015 and was a Sanctuary Scholar. "I came to Ireland three years ago and I had not attended third-level education at home in Zimbabwe. There were challenges such as personal issues but with determination to better myself, I managed to graduate with a Mature Student Access Certificate (MSAC) with top grades, something I am very proud of."

To end homelessness in Europe (H2020)

UL is a part of HOME_EU which provides a comprehensive understanding on how the Europeans stakeholders perceive, tolerate, and confront inequalities. The global aim of HOME_EU is to contribute towards the advancement of homelessness policies and practice to end homelessness in Europe. The global aim of HOME_EU is to contribute towards the advancement of the homelessness policies and practice to end homelessness in Europe.

The HOME_EU project conducted research in Portugal, France, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Spain and compiled data from diverse sources such as: citizens, service users, providers, and policy actors to understand how this phenomenon is viewed and to highlight effective solutions, such as the Housing First approach. The research and comparative analyses that will result from the project will have a transnational effect on national homelessness policies and on organisational strategies to reverse the social inequality associated with long-term homelessness.



End hunger
achieve food security
and improved nutrition
and promote sustainable
agriculture.

2 ZERO
HUNGER



58

publications related
to Zero Hunger
(Scopus Publication 2010-2019)



Sean Whyte and Roberta Harrington at the launch of UL Student Life Pantry Scheme

UL Student Life pantry offers green support to struggling students

University of Limerick Students' Union Student Life has launched a new hardship support service for students experiencing extreme financial difficulties. The new service, which includes a textile and food bank, is also environmentally friendly, helping to reduce waste among students and staff. A student hardship fund already exists offering financial support to those most in need, however, those working at the frontline of the service identified the related issue of food poverty as an urgent concern not currently being addressed. "It came to our attention that quite often students leave it to the last minute to seek financial assistance without realising that the application can take a number of days to process. At that point, students can sometimes have absolutely nothing and indeed not have eaten. With the help of donations from our on-campus students and the financial aid committee, we decided to create a food pantry here in Student Life, with non-perishable foods to help students through this time," explained Adele O'Carroll, head of facilities, supports and services with UL Student Life. In December, the accommodation office on behalf of UL Student Life, accepted donations of non-perishable food, clean bedclothes and blankets from students not returning for the second semester, including international students and UL students taking part in study-abroad and cooperative-education programmes.

"With these items, and others bought through the hardship fund, we have set up a food pantry as well as a bed-in-a-bag offering for any students needing to avail of the service. So far, we have had a positive response from students donating items as a means of helping other students who find themselves experiencing real hardship," Adele said.

"We are currently accepting donations of sealed, non-perishable food items, clean towels and bedding and financial donations to the student hardship fund administered by the financial aid committee. Unfortunately, this is a very real and regular need for many students," she continued.

This initiative comes just months after the UL Student Life introduced another environmentally and socially conscious campaign whereby it installed water filling stations in the Students' Centre providing chilled, filtered water free of charge for use by the entire campus community, saving students the cost of purchasing bottles of water and reducing plastic bottle waste.



Students on the MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics programme will complete **1000 hours of clinical & community placement over two years**

Dairy Processing Technology Centre

The National Dairy Processing Technology Centre (DPTC) hosted by UL, was established in 2015 as a centre of excellence for dairy processing research and innovation. Funded by Enterprise Ireland and the Dairy Industry Partners, the Centre will help to fuel growth in the Irish dairy sector by performing research focused on cost-efficient processing, facilitating a step-change in environmental sustainability, and creating, validating and commercializing a pipeline of science and technology-based manufacturing platforms for dairy ingredients. The foundation of the DPTC is a strong, long-term industry-academic collaborative partnership that will develop, build, and translate the knowledge and capabilities in dairy processing that are needed today and for the long-term growth development of the sector.

UL and the Institute of Food Science and Technology of Ireland (IFSTI) hosted the 48th Annual Food Science and Technology Conference on the 16th of December 2019. The focus of the conference was to assist the professional development of young food scientists by providing them with opportunities to present their research in the broader food science and technology area. The conference provided an exciting snapshot of the diversity and depth of food science and technology research ongoing in Ireland.

MSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics launched

The MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics programme offered at University of Limerick (UL) is a Graduate Entry Masters of Science programme delivered over two years, full-time. This innovative evidence-based interfaculty programme is an opportunity for honours graduates to pursue studies that will lead to them becoming competent nutritionists and dietitians working in a variety of settings. Broadly, graduates of the programme will build on a prior knowledge base of physiology and biochemistry and apply it to the role of food and nutrition in health and disease. Students will undertake modules in the School of Allied Health (Faculty of Education and Health Sciences) and in the Department of Biological Sciences (Faculty of Science and Engineering). Students will undertake shared modules with other healthcare disciplines in the School of Allied Health through an interprofessional education model, thereby being exposed from the outset to an integrated multidisciplinary team approach to healthcare. In addition to academic modules at UL, students on the MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics programme will complete 1000 hours of clinical and community placement over two years which includes a summer study period. Clinical placement modules will take place in a range of settings (tertiary and secondary hospitals, primary care, public health, and food service establishments) and with patients of all ages.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



18% / **58%**
of staff / of students
walk or cycle to campus



Professor Catherine Woods, Chair, Healthy UL, President Kerstin Mey, Minister Catherine Byrne TD, Senator Maria Byrne, Ruth Maher, Director, Strategic Projects and Transformation, UL and Alanna O'Beirne, Healthy UL Manager

Healthy Framework launched to further support students and staff at University of Limerick

In November 2019 Minister of State Catherine Byrne TD launched the 'Healthy UL Framework.' to support students and staff at the University of Limerick in optimising their health and wellbeing. The Healthy UL Framework is UL's response to the Healthy Ireland initiative and was made possible due to the tireless work and efforts of committees, working groups, stakeholders, colleagues, and students coming together to design a framework that will seek to implement, monitor and evaluate health and wellbeing initiatives across UL for staff, students, and the wider community. Healthy UL Chair, Professor Catherine Woods said: "The Healthy UL Framework adopts a systems approach to ensure health is central to everything we do. We intend to infuse health into the everyday, committed to improving the wellbeing of people, places and the planet for the current and future generations." In recent years, UL has put in place a broad range of initiatives that support this ethos and will continue to do so through the implementation of this valuable framework.

Exercise as Medicine – Silver Campus

University of Limerick is one of only 139 universities and colleges around the world to be honoured by Exercise is Medicine® for its efforts to create a culture of wellness on campus. "We are thrilled to recognize these campuses' commitment to make movement a part of daily campus culture and give students the

tools to cultivate physical activity habits that will benefit them throughout their lives," said Robyn Stuhr, Vice President of Exercise Is Medicine. "These campus programs are nurturing future leaders who will advance a key tenet of Exercise is Medicine: making physical activity assessment and promotion a standard in health care."

Limerick Sports Partnership

University of Limerick is an active member of Limerick Sports Partnership. The aim of Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) is "Getting Limerick Active" and increasing participation in sport. The LSP is an inter-agency and multi-sector organisation established as a limited company with representatives from all the main statutory, community and voluntary fora represented on a dedicated Board of Directors.

Research Unit at University of Limerick designated as WHO collaborating centre

The Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) Research Unit at UL's School of Medicine, has been designated by the WHO as a Collaborating Centre for Migrants' Involvement in Health Research. The goal of the Centre is to build capacity for participatory research to involve migrants in health decision-making. Professor Anne MacFarlane, Chair of Primary Healthcare Research at UL, who established the unit in UL's School of Medicine, said: "Migrants are often excluded from the places where decisions are made about health services, policies and research. This is

because they are considered ‘hard to reach,’ perhaps because of language and cultural differences. Just like other population and patient groups, however, migrants need to have a voice in the health decision making. Their perspective on factors that impact positively and negatively on health are vital to identify priorities for researchers, health care providers and policy makers. Our collaboration with the WHO will look at how migrants’ involvement in health decision making can be supported through the development of training and other resources for universities and research partner organisations such as the HSE and NGOs working with migrants”.

Volunteers from University Hospital Limerick and UL travel to Ghana to provide crucial life-saving skills training

Staff and students from UL Hospitals Group and



UL AND UHL Volunteers leaving to Ghana

University of Limerick have flown to Ghana for the final phase of a joint project running since 2017, to establish a pre-hospital emergency care training programme in the remote Upper West region of the African nation. Learning for Lives – Ghana, is a collaborative programme run by UL Hospitals and UL in partnership with the national health service of Ghana. It has provided primary healthcare staff in the Upper West and its capital Wa with crucial life-saving skills that will benefit the almost one-million strong population of the region. Learning for Lives – Ghana is the realisation of a key strategic objective by UL Hospitals Group to establish links with a developing country.

Iveagh Fellowship Experience

John Healy, a third year Law and Accounting student, completed an internship with the Red Cross EU Office, as a fellow of the inaugural Iveagh Fellowship programme supported by Saothar and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The fellowship aspires to develop experience in international development or

humanitarian aid and European or international policy. The experience has been full circle for John, from a young cadet with Irish Red Cross – the Red Cross EU Office – now returning to work with the Irish Red Cross. John’s time was spent aiding and delivering welcome packs to MEPs in Parliament and promoting Red Cross priorities. He had input into legal projects and reports regarding topics as varied as: sexual violence in disaster and humanitarian contexts; and legal barriers to implementing cash programmes or the *sui generis* status of Red Cross-National Societies in national provisions to act independently as an auxiliary.

Student Health, Wellbeing and Support

Student Affairs provides a comprehensive range of professional administrative and support services to the entire university campus. It is done in a spirit of partnership within the University and wider community to support academic activities and to contribute to the University goal of providing an outstanding and distinctive student experience.

The Student Health Centre is an urgent care/advisory service and deals with all general health issues as they present. The services includes access to: doctor (GP), nurse, contraceptive clinic, sexual health clinic and physiotherapy. The Student Health Centre is part of the Student Affairs Division which provides a comprehensive range of professional administrative and support services to the entire university campus.

UL Éist - Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service is a free and confidential service which is available to all registered UL students. It offers a stepped-care model of service which provides low-medium level support within a high-demand environment, tailoring support to the individual. The stepped-care model works by providing the least intensive, yet effective, intervention appropriate to the presenting needs of each individual. Students with high level, intensive needs, chronic difficulties, or entrenched problems can be referred to specialist support services, as determined by their presentation.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



PASSION LED US HERE

2,017

Students Cooperative Work Placements 2018-2019



Students collaborate in newly refurbished UL Glucksman Library

Memorandum of Understanding signed to strengthen Learning Limerick

In March 2019, University of Limerick signed the Learning Limerick's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signalling its commitment to advancing Limerick's progress as a Learning Region. Learning Limerick is a partnership forum to promote awareness of the importance of lifelong learning for every person, family community and workplace in Limerick, and to influence education and skills policy on a local, national, and international level. The Forum also looks to position learning at the centre of development planning in the Limerick region in all communities, sectors, and settings. Speaking of the initiative the then Mayor of the City and County of Limerick Cllr James Collins said:

"The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding reinforces and strengthens the collaboration that is the hallmark of the Learning Limerick initiative. All the signatories realise the importance of lifelong learning, be it for personal or professional reasons, and we all strive to provide the best education opportunities and supports. Learning Limerick and the Learning Limerick Festival has been an important development for the city and county as it brings learning right into the heart of communities allowing people who may think learning is not for them, to get involved."

University of Limerick Academic won National Teacher Research Innovation Award

In November 2019, Dr Joanne O' Flaherty, School of Education lecturer, was awarded a prestigious Teacher Researcher Award within the national –T-REX (Teacher's Research Exchange) Module Innovation Framework. Dr O' Flaherty's is responsible for the Coordination of the Micro-Teaching Program (a lab-based practicum experience prior to school placement which focuses on the development of a number of competencies and practices of the beginning teacher). Her expertise is in critical decision-making and global citizenship education and she works with pupils, teachers, and post-primary schools, as well as work in teacher education with pre-service teachers, teacher educators and policy makers. Coordinated by Mary Immaculate College, Limerick with partners NUI Galway, University of Limerick, and Marino Institute of Education, Dublin - T-REX is a nationally funded online platform and set of tools to support teachers and educational researchers and professionals to collaborate, undertake and share research, and is freely available to all teachers in Ireland. Of her award Dr O' Flaherty said: "This funding from the T-REX Module Innovation Framework will support the development of a community of practice between pre- and in-service teachers, thus providing opportunities to critically reflect and problematise professional competences of the teacher."

Numeracy across curriculum initiative launched at UL

In May 2019, a year-long pilot programme aimed at developing strategies for teaching numeracy across the school curriculum was launched at University of Limerick. EPI•STEM, the National Centre for STEM Education based at University of Limerick, announced the new Numeracy Across the Curriculum (NAC) initiative. The year-long research and development project aimed to develop strategies for teaching numeracy across the curriculum and will be piloted in primary and secondary schools across Limerick and Clare. Numeracy connects the mathematics learned at school with real-world situations that require problem-solving and critical judgment. The NAC project looks to develop teachers' understanding of numeracy, while also guiding teachers on how to recognise and embed numeracy opportunities within their subject area.

This programme will provide teachers with ideas, classroom activities and resources that they can use to develop students' numeracy skills and will offer practical guidance for both schools and teachers. Jerry O'Sullivan, Deputy Chief Executive, ESB, welcomed the initiative. "The Numeracy Across the Curriculum project will provide teachers with ideas, classroom activities and resources that they can use to develop students' numeracy skills and will offer practical guidance for both schools and teachers," he said. "ESB is committed to supporting STEAM education and learning as a way of empowering young people to fulfil their potential and encouraging them to positively engage with the issues and challenges facing society.

16% 16% of all Irish publications relating to quality education (Scopus Publication 2010-2019)

UL's Access Campus

"Bringing the University to the Community and the Community to the University"

The 'AccessCampus' is a unique partnership initiative between Education (University of Limerick), the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP), and the technology sector (DELL) creating a mini campus which supports Limerick people in realising their potential through outreach educational opportunities. The AccessCampus caters for a diverse range of learners, ranging from primary school children to mature learners. All groups using the AccessCampus can use state of the art technology in the centre's computer lab, with broadband internet access. The AccessCampus, which is based in Roxboro, Limerick, is fully wheelchair accessible, and is a model of what partnerships between an academic institution, community-based organisations and a private enterprise can achieve when all are working together to a common goal - furthering the educational opportunities of the Limerick community. The AccessCampus study club supported 136 secondary school students in 2019

470 Students participated in President's Volunteer Award Program, 2018-2019.



UL President's Volunteer Awards

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



25%

of UL professors
are female
(30th Sept 2019)



Dr Marie Connolly, Head of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, UL, Carol Reddy, Northern Trust Vice President, Sophie Kiely, Northern Trust, Associate Relationship Manager & Dr Christine Cross, Head of Work and Employment Studies Dept

UL initiatives to encourage and support women in STEM education

In February 2019, two UL initiatives aimed at encouraging and supporting women in STEM education were awarded funding by Science Foundation Ireland. Minister for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development, John Halligan TD, announced a national investment of €3.6 million through Science Foundation Ireland's Discover Programme, to fund projects dedicated to educating and engaging the public in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). UL's projects include:

1. SOPHia

Science Outreach to Promote Physics to Female Students (UL) - a project that aims to encourage female students to take up physics as a Leaving Certificate Subject.

2. STEMChAT

Women as catalysts for change in STEM education (UL) – looks at the recruitment of female undergraduate STEM Champions and industry mentors who will facilitate informal workshops with school students and parents, in disadvantaged areas.

UL achieves Expanded Charter Bronze Athena Swan Award

In May 2019, UL President Emeritus Dr Des Fitzgerald announced that University of Limerick had reached an expanded charter Bronze Athena SWAN award. He said:

"I am delighted to announce that University of Limerick has been awarded a Bronze Athena SWAN award to the expanded charter."

The Athena SWAN Steering Committee (ASSC), made the decision to apply for the Athena SWAN expanded charter, introduced in Ireland in November 2017, rather than renewing to the AS STEM standard, which primarily focuses on the careers of women in STEM. We are the first institution to upgrade our existing award to the expanded charter and the second Irish university with NUI Maynooth to be awarded the expanded charter. This award recognises work undertaken to address gender equality more broadly, in arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL), and in professional and support roles, and for trans staff and students. Athena SWAN therefore is not just about one gender but promotes equality and diversity across all disciplines. We are the best performing HE institute in Ireland regarding female representation at full professor level, rising from 8% in 2007 to 32% in 2018 – eight points above the national average.

International Women's Day Conference

In March 2019, University of Limerick hosted its 11th Annual International Women's Day Conference. The conference was supported by Johnson & Johnson, Northern Trust, Bank of Ireland, and Dell EMC and was attended by hundreds of people from the business and education community. The keynote speaker was cervical cancer activist Dr Vicky Phelan, and the conference was chaired by Catherine Duffy, CEO of Northern Trust, Limerick. The event followed the International Women's Day theme of #BalanceforBetter and tackled many of the issues facing women in the workforce and in society in general.

UL launches Ireland's first 'Rainbow Housing' for LGBT Students



Carol Jane Shanley, Village Manager, Cappavilla Village (back L), Jenny Blake Student Support Coordinator, (bottom L) Anna Rose Fitzgibbon Co-op Student along with 2019 ULSU Sabbatical Officers Colin Lynch (ULSL Academic), Serena Hare (ULSL Welfare) and Jack Scanlon (ULSL President)

In July 2019, Ireland's first 'Rainbow Housing' initiative for students who live on campus was launched at University of Limerick. Rainbow housing is for students who wish to live together in a house/ apartment that supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and allied community at UL. Residents of rainbow housing create and maintain a living space that is affirming to all sexual and gender identities. UL is the first university in Ireland and the second across the UK and Ireland to provide Rainbow Housing for its students living on campus. Organisations that have pledged to support the initiative include Limerick Pride and GOSHH (Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health, HIV) Limerick. Dr Amanda Haynes, Co-director of UL's Hate and Hostility Research Group, said:

"UL will be enriched by the presence on campus of a resource that encourages all of our LGBT students and allies to be active, critical, political, disruptive and constructive contributors to our collective campus life."

120 Transition Year Students take part in 'I Wish' programme

In January 2019, 120 transition-year students from over 30 second-level schools in Limerick, Cork, and surrounding counties attended female-only programmes the University of Limerick (UL) and at Cork Institute of Technology (CIT). 'I Wish' is an initiative to inspire, encourage and motivate young female students to pursue careers in STEM. Robots, investigating cancer, designing aeroplane parts and computer games are just a sample of the activities that were on offer during the campus weeks at Limerick and Cork. Mary Moloney who, along with Norma Welch, coordinated the highly successful CIT Campus programme over the past 3 years said: *"this is the biggest year yet with over 120 students from across Munster engaging with the sold-out programmes at CIT and UL, these programmes encourage young girls to open their eyes and see the opportunities out there and to keep doors open until they are ready to make an informed choice about what they want to do in the future."*

UL Equality and Human Rights Strategy 2019-2022

In November 2019, UL launched an Equality and Human Rights (EHR) Strategy. This details objectives, actions and expected outcomes for 13 grounds of Equality and Human Rights under 10 themes: Governance, Leadership, Staff Experience, Educational Experience, Research Experience, Campus Development, Events, Clubs and Societies, Public Relations, Marketing and Communications, Technology, Procurement and Budgeting.

50% of UL students are female
2019-2020 (HEA Stats).

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ranked
20th in UI Green Metric
Rankings (out of 780)



Professor Mike Zaworotko, Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering

Why crystals will save the world

Professor Michael Zaworotko of UL's Bernal Institute and his team have developed a crystalline material after decades of research that has favourable properties for absorbing and releasing water from the atmosphere that could revolutionise dehumidification systems in buildings and the availability of water in regions of drought. The discovery of this revolutionary new material could help solve the global water crisis by producing water from air, even in the most remote of locations.

The green material is ROS-037 and it has been developed as a commercially viable nanomaterial by Molecule RND LTD, an international think tank, research group and incubator fund that has located in UL to work in collaboration with Professor Zaworotko and his team. "If we can cut that cost, and we are not talking one or two percent, we are talking 50-90% reduction in the energy footprint – that will then have an effect on CO₂ emissions and the global CO₂ level. We are going after CO₂," he adds, smiling at the prospect of another dream that is about to be realised.

UL Building and Estates Department aspires to be world leader

UL aspires to being a world leader in environmentally friendly university management and is currently accredited under five Green Campus initiatives namely Travel and Transport, Biodiversity, Waste, Energy and Green ICT. Together with the Green Campus committee and other stakeholders, B&E are in the early stages of rolling out a campus wide energy behaviour change campaign. Together with the Green Campus committee and other stakeholders, B&E plans to achieve ISO 50001 (Energy Management) certification, roll out a campus wide energy behaviour change campaign, obtain the 'Green Flag' for Waste, safeguard and enhance biodiversity on campus and continue to reduce UL's dependence on water supplied by Limerick City and County Council. Currently the water used to meet all campus's requirements is drawn from a public water main. B&E will investigate the availability to use ground water sources to meet the campus's non-potable water requirements.

Water refill stations installed across campus

Winner of the best green procurement project 2019, the Buildings and Estates Division at UL has led the University's drive to reduce single-use plastics on campus. They have successfully installed water bottle filling stations which deliver chilled and filtered mains water in student-friendly locations across the entire university campus. In total, there are 22 water refill stations installed across campus facilitating a dramatic reduction in the volume of single use plastic water bottles generated.

Estimated **1,475,000**
no. 330 ml of water dispensed from
22 refill stations

Ensure access
to affordable, reliable,
sustainable, and modern
energy for all.

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



156,000 kWh

Solar and Geothermal power
produced on campus

UL researcher awarded €1m in world-class frontier research funding that could help to reduce footprint of global energy production

Professor Michael Zaworotko, Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering and Science Foundation of Ireland Research Professor at the Bernal Institute University of Limerick, was awarded just under 1 Million Euro through the Irish Research Council 2019 Advanced Laureate Awards Programme. Professor Zaworotko's research is aimed at solving global challenges related to commodity purification by significantly reducing the energy footprint, currently 20-30% of global energy production, needed to produce the most important industrial commodities. "Water, natural gas and ethylene are the primary targets for study. The Laureate Award will study a new class of materials that we call SALMAs - Switching Adsorbent Layered Materials," he explained. He has published over 400 peer-reviewed papers, review articles and patents that have been cited over 42,000 times. In 2011, Thomson-Reuters listed him as the 20th highest impact chemist since 2000 and in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 he was listed as a highly cited researcher in the field of Chemistry by Clarivate Analytics. In 2018 he was listed as a highly cited researcher in a second field, Pharmacology and Toxicology.

UL and SkyNRG sign deal during Dutch Royal visit to explore development of sustainable aviation fuel in Ireland

In June 2019, The Bernal Institute at University of Limerick signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SkyNRG to explore the development of sustainable aviation fuel manufacturing in Ireland.

The agreement between Bernal and the Netherlands-based firm SkyNRG was signed in the presence of Dutch Minister of Trade, Sigrid Kaag, during the Dutch Royal Visit and Trade Mission at the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin. The Bernal Institute at UL and SkyNRG will explore the potential of a regional Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) supply chain in Ireland, with a strong focus on academic collaboration at University of Limerick. "SkyNRG and Bernal agreed to explore how to stimulate an opportunity for the production of sustainable aviation fuels in Ireland," explained Professor Luuk van der Wielen, Director of the Bernal Institute at UL.

Green Campus

Green Campus encourages a partnership approach to environmental education, management, and action in third level institutions and is internationally accredited by the Foundation for Environmental Education. To secure Green Campus status, long-term commitment to continuous improvement from the campus community needs to be demonstrated. Since first achieving Green Campus accreditation for Energy, Biodiversity and Travel and Transport in 2015, the UL Buildings and Estates department has been working resolutely to retain it. Every three years Green Campus accredited institutions are required to undergo a full reaccreditation assessment in order to maintain their Green Campus accreditation. In 2018 UL successfully underwent a full reaccreditation assessment as well as adding Waste and Green ICT to their list of accredited themes. Achieving the Green ICT accreditation saw Buildings and Estates partnering primarily with academia and Information Technology Division to refine the processes and procedures to safely dispose of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in addition to making



Dr Puneet Saidha, Director of Research Office at UL, signs the memorandum of understanding, in the presence of Dutch Minister of Trade, Sigrid Kaag, and Maarten van Dijk, MD of SkyNRG



Professor Stephen Kinsella, Rosie Webb, TD Richard Bruton and Dr Pat Daly

energy savings in server rooms. Achieving Green Campus accreditation for waste saw, amongst other things, the establishment of a Waste Management group within Buildings and Estates, coordinating the roll-out initiatives aimed at preventing waste (e.g. installation of fit-for-purpose water bottle refill stations), improvements to waste collection and segregation processes and improved data collection on waste.

Biodiversity

1. The UL Community Roof Garden, Annual Riverbank Cleanup, UL Apiary and UL Orchard contributed towards the Green Campus efforts under the Biodiversity theme.

Green Metric

2. UL takes part in the Green Metric World University Ranking each year. This ranking is one method of measuring a third level institution's sustainability. In 2019, UL was ranked 20th out of 780 participants.

Optimising Power at Work

3. The Buildings and Estates Department has teamed up with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to roll out their *Optimising Power @ Work* energy behaviour change campaign. Using *Optimising Power @ Work* initiative the OPW has achieved energy savings of 18% across 275 of its buildings.

Limerick as a 'Lighthouse City'

Limerick city and county is leading Europe in delivering new energy generation technologies in the real world. Last year, together with Limerick City and County Council, University of Limerick led a Horizon 2020 Innovation Action we called Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange). This €20 million project puts Limerick and Trondheim in Norway at the forefront of clean technology delivery in Europe. Limerick is a lighthouse city for five other European cities in producing positive energy blocks.

Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10%

of all Irish Publications related to Decent Work and Economic Growth (Scopus Publication 2010-2019)



Union calls for “right to disconnect” legislation on World Mental Health Day

In October 2019, the Financial Service Union made the call for the right for workers to disconnect as part the of launch of a major University of Limerick report into the future of work and skills. The Financial Services Union (FSU) has marked World Mental Health Day by launching a call for legislation on the “right to disconnect.” The union insists that workers should not be obliged to answer calls or reply to emails or engage in any work-related activity outside of paid working hours. The call comes out of a major report called “Technology, Work and Skills: The Impact of Technology on Employees” by University of Limerick, which was commissioned by the FSU. Head of Industrial Relations and Campaigns with the FSU, Gareth Murphy said: “There is a mental health endemic sweeping the world of work- and work-related stress is a key driver of this. One element of work-related stress is out of hours work and the ‘always on’ culture of many workplaces. “The report by University of Limerick calls for measures to be put in place which prevent the overuse of technology. We are calling on the Minister to introduce legislation on the right to disconnect, which would compel employers not to abuse contractual working hours by overuse of technology.”

KBS 2019 Spring Series of Research Seminars ‘Paradoxes and Partnerships – Knowledge Sharing and Learning in International Development Programmes

The 2019 Spring Series of Research Seminars at the Kemmy Business School took place with a presentation entitled ‘Paradoxes and Partnerships - Knowledge Sharing and Learning in International Development Programmes’ by Dr John Lannon of the Human Rights & Development Practice Cluster. This seminar discussed the paradoxes inherent in international development (ID) programmes and outlined how they shape knowledge sharing and learning. It draws on research undertaken with an international NGO in three African countries, Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. By analysing interrelated paradoxes of learning, performing, belonging, and organising, the study found that international and local non-governmental organisations are constrained at a macro-level by fundamental organising paradoxes that are inherent the way the development sector is structured.

BNest is launched as the first dedicated Social Enterprise Incubator

BNest, the first dedicated Social Enterprise Incubator, was launched as an initiative created specifically to support social entrepreneurs nurture their start-ups and caters to all types of organisations from charities to businesses with a social conscience. BNest has been given a home by University of Limerick, where participants have access to the full facilities of the Nexus Innovation Centre. The venture is being philanthropically funded for three years at a cost of about €20,000 per programme, while participation is free for the enterprises selected. Last year, nine enterprises completed the programme, and there are another eight enterprises taking part in the current programme. At the BNest Showcase 2019, the graduates showcased their enterprises which are achieving real social impact across the Midwest, dealing with various issues from mental health to the environment.

RTE Brainstorm facilitating public debate

Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTE) Brainstorm is a new multi-platform space where the Irish academic and research community can contribute to public debate and comment on issues affecting wider society, offering fresh ideas and perspectives through the state broadcaster RTE. University of Limerick is a foundation partner of RTE Brainstorm and UL’s Marketing and Communications division has been working closely with RTE and the other Brainstorm partners to create a national platform that can bring the academic and research community to a large national and potentially, international audience. UL academics can contribute to popular discourse on radio, TV, digital and print. What distinguishes Brainstorm is the joined-up nature of the initiative – the national broadcaster and seven institutions working together on something designed to give a direct opportunity to any academic with an interest in participating in and contributing to the public sphere. The RTE dimension brings exceptional scale, expertise and a network of multiple opportunities on TV, radio, podcasts, and the largest digital presence in Irish media.

93 publications

relating to Decent Work and Economic Growth (Scopus Publication 2010-2019)

Build resilient
infrastructure,
promote inclusive and
sustainable industrialisation
and foster innovation.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



€7,871,000

Research Income from
industry 2018-2019

Privatisation and Public Private Partnerships

The Privatisation and PPPs (P4) Research Group was established in 2003 as a multi-disciplinary research group at University of Limerick. The group is composed of academic experts in disciplines such as economics, finance, public management, and industrial relations. Those scholars are actively engaged in research into various dynamic policy issues across infrastructure sectors, including privatisation, de-regulation, market liberalisation, and public private partnerships (PPPs). Policy issues include the economic and social effects of such policies (including impacts on workers, consumers, investors, and communities), their corporate governance aspects, management of the alternative processes, legal dimensions, and governance aspects (including the accountability of decision makers to citizens and organisations in different national and international settings). The stated mission of P4 is to collaborate with partners from the public, private and non-profit sectors for the purpose of developing research and disseminating knowledge around change in the infrastructure sectors that are core to sustainable economic development and the well-being of society. On the 19th June 2019, Dr Donal Palcic and Professor Eoin Reeves gave a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the procurement process for the National Broadband Plan (NBP).

Launch of a Department of Work & Employment Studies Report

June 2019, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Mr. Pat Breen T.D. launched a key report on, 'The Future of Work Now: The Digital Transformation of Customer Service and the Emergence of Ireland's Cx Professional'. This research study was undertaken by Irish Centre for Business Excellence's Advanced Productivity Skillnet in partnership with Kemmy Business School at University of Limerick.

11 Patent Applications

UL Enactus Inspire and Impact 2019

UL Enactus were runners up in the Enactus Ireland National Competition in May 2019 receiving positive endorsement of the empowerment of their three social enterprise projects. They increased membership to 160 students who dedicated 6000 hours to volunteering and working with social enterprises and established 12 new social enterprise and corporate partnerships. They established a strong media presence achieving 362,000+ Social Media impressions, being interviewed on RTÉ 2fm, featured articles in the Irish Examiner, Farmers Journal, AgriLand, Limerick Leader, and the Limerick Post. UL Enactus generated impact through three social enterprises as follows:

- I. SparkED – '*Sparkling the Light for a Brighter Future*' is a youth leadership development programme that empowers secondary school pupils with leadership, communication, and personal development skills through a series of workshops and volunteering activities. The Transition Year students were empowered to put the skills they have learned into volunteering with organisations such as Limericks Gateway to Education, Claire's Wish and Limerick Animal Welfare. Several transition year students also gained work experience opportunities in UBER and UL Law Department.
- II. ReStart project aims to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into the Irish community through various initiatives such as cooking and selling food products and gardening. Asylum seekers in conjunction with Enactus students developed a range of traditional dishes from countries spanning Zimbabwe to India and sold those at a weekly food stall at the UL Market and they secured one commercial contract. The Enactus members delivered several workshops on developing business skills in customer care, pricing, budgeting, and marketing which were applied by individuals selling food weekly in the UL Market.
- III. Moya Nua has designed handheld seed planters for smallholder farmers in Malawi reducing labour intensity for farmers, increasing productivity, and reducing costs. Complementing the range of products, the team has created an e-learning platform to teach Malawian students practical business skills in social media, business management and bookkeeping.



UL Campus in close proximity to the National Technological Park

Who speaks for whom at work: worker voice and social dialogue

Over the last few decades academic research has often neglected issues of power and influence concerning labour market institutions, employment regulation, models of collaborative partnership between workers, unions and employers, and systems for inclusion and wider stakeholder voice. Through a body of research involving international collaborators, Professor Tony Dundon has provided evidence on new processes and forms of worker voice and social dialogue that can enhance decent work goals, expose labour market inequalities, and support collaborative employment partnerships. The research was undertaken with policymakers, consultancies, employers, employer associations, trade unions, HR managers, workers, and shop steward and non-union employee representatives.

Impact

Firstly, it has impacted employee voice mechanisms at workplace levels. Second, it has impacted employee information and consultation policy, including European Directive transposition issues at national and organisational levels. Third, it has impacted labour market reforms for enhanced collective bargaining and work futures. Finally, it has impacted policies on accessing apprenticeship skills and learning in Ireland. In terms of people and organisations: workers, trainees/apprentices, trade unions, multinational. The research contributes new insights concerning corporate behaviours and how employer groups function as dominant actors with 'power over' others in the labour market corporations, labour market agencies. In terms of mechanisms and practices: policy on employee engagement, equality and diversity, voice channels, and collective bargaining.

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



12% of all Irish publications relating to Reduced Inequalities
(Scopus Publication 2010-2019)



'Call it Out': Campaign against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia welcomed to UL

In May 2019, a ground-breaking LGBT+ public education and awareness campaign was featured on the UL campus. 'Call It Out' a joint initiative of the Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI) and the UL Hate and Hostility Research Group (HHRG) sought to shine a bright light on the sometimes visible, often hidden phenomena of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and the corresponding impact on Ireland's LGBT+ community. "The Call It Out campaign aims to raise awareness of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia and their manifestations in Ireland," explained Dr Amanda Haynes of the HHRG, whose research with Dr Jennifer Schweppe underpins the public awareness campaign. "It aims to empower LGBT people to seek support where they are subjected to anti-LGBT violence and intimidation."

Stop talking about my generation: the problem of ageism at work

A team of three from UL including, Ashley Bamberg, Dr Jean McCarthy and Dr Noreen Heraty contributed to the RTE brainstorm on the topic the problem of ageism at work. Managing an increasingly age diverse workforce presents a significant challenge for leaders and organisations worldwide. As workers of varying ages interact with each other daily, there exists increasing pressure to deal with the presence and impact of ageist attitudes in the workplace. Given that ageist attitudes have the potential to affect many people across the lifespan as we age, any lack of attention to combatting ageism in the workplace may suggest an implicit acceptance that ageism is inevitable and give longevity to what has been identified as the pernicious problem of ageism today.

Midwest Empowerment and Equality Conference addresses social issues affecting both women and men

The Midwest Empowerment and Equality Conference was designed to empower, educate, and encourage men and women both young and old to take better care of themselves. The conference was organised and presented by Dr Mary Ryan, Consultant

Endocrinologist, Bon Secours at Barrington's Limerick, and Senior Lecturer at Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS), University of Limerick. Dr Ryan said, "The conference was organised as a means of giving back to society by empowering, educating and encouraging men and women both young and old to how to empower one's self to take better care of themselves."

Combating discrimination of the Roma community in the changing political climate of Europe

Dr Anca Murescu is involved in a project which is working to identify evidence-based methods to effectively combat discrimination of the Roma in the changing political climate of Europe funded by the Justice programme of the European Union (2014-2020). Comprising an international team of social psychologists from five European countries committed to bringing about change in the situation of Roma people and Travellers in Europe. The collaboration includes local and international NGOs, state institutions and European stakeholders to address the challenges created by the current political climate of rising right-wing populism and identify effective methods to combat discrimination.

1. Objective One is to identify how politicians and public figures talk about Roma people, how much space Roma people get to form the public opinion about them.
2. Objective Two is to evaluate and improve existing anti-discrimination interventions in order to efficiently reduce prejudice towards the Roma in Europe.

School of Education research highlights educational inequalities facing transgender youth

The UL School of Education have published key findings from a two-year long research project exploring the experiences of transgender and gender diverse (TGD) youth in second-level schools in Ireland.

UL University of Sanctuary

A University education should be a possibility for all. UL is committed to providing equal access for people from all backgrounds. It is within this spirit of welcome that UL has sought recognition as a University of Sanctuary. The designation is built on an existing history of engagement with refugees and asylum seekers across multiple programmes of education and research. This is a commitment by the University of Limerick to a three-year action plan including:

1. The provision of sanctuary bursaries to refugees and asylum seekers.
2. The formation of the UL University of Sanctuary steering group.
3. English Language provision to refugees and asylum seekers.
4. Refugee week events in the University.
5. Establishing a regional HE research network for refugees and asylum seekers.
6. To have Limerick City and Region designated as a place of sanctuary.

Dr Sindy Joyce is first Traveller to graduate with a PhD in Ireland

A Limerick woman who has become the first Traveller in Ireland to graduate with a PhD, said she has “mixed emotions” about the accolade, as it reminded her of the Traveller community’s long struggle in accessing education. Dr Sindy Joyce is a human rights activist, and doctoral graduate of the department of sociology at University of Limerick. Dr Joyce, from Newcastle West, said she was “overwhelmed” with emotion, and very proud of her PhD, but added: “I’ve mixed emotions – on the one hand it’s really great, especially being a woman and breaking that glass ceiling, but it’s sad too that it has taken this amount of time for someone from my community to get a PhD.”

Dr Sindy Joyce at the University of Limerick receiving her PhD

Participatory and Arts-Based Methods Involving Migrants in Health Research (PART-IM)

This group brings together arts-based and participatory scholars from medicine, nursing & midwifery, and the performing arts, as well as a leading NGO for migrants. Their vision is to develop increased understanding of the role of arts-based methods as participatory strategies for involving migrants in health research, with three key goals:

1. To expand the evidence base for the role of arts-based methods in migrant health research and to evaluate training in the use of participatory and arts-based methods.
2. To develop stronger links between arts, health, and migrant research energies within the university and beyond, and model networking strategies such as the Irish World Music Café.
3. To develop training opportunities in arts-based research methods for health workers, migrants, and researchers, with a view to building skill, knowledge, resources, and confidence in the application of this approach.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



470

students participated in the President's Volunteer Award Programme

UL Engage: A UNESCO sponsored Knowledge for Change Hub

UL Engage was established in September 2015, in accordance with the University of Limerick's Strategic Plan. The aim of UL Engage is to integrate civic engagement into the University's core missions in research, teaching and internationalisation. UL Engage supports university/community collaborations in all shapes and sizes through a variety of new and existing UL programmes and projects. It serves as the hub for civic engagement activities across campus and works with staff in all faculties to amplify, incubate and co-ordinate the various ways that students, faculty, and staff can work to make a difference. UL Engage is undergoing transformation into the UL Community Engagement hub. Supported by an HEA award for UL Meitheal project it aims at the strategic re-organisation of diverse academic and practitioner expertise and experience in existing engaged activities to remove intellectual, structural and financial constraints to the achievement of cost-effective, cross university approaches to test best practice civic engagement. In February 2020 the UNESCO sponsored Knowledge for Change Hub, the first in Ireland and only the second in Europe, was launched at UL. The K4C initiative aims to ensure that engagement between higher education institutions and local communities is of the highest standard and that resulting outcomes are mutually beneficial. As part of the K4C initiative 9 UL Mentors for Community Engage have been trained by the UNESCO initiative.

CWELL: Community Wellbeing, Empowerment Leadership and Lifeskills

CWELL is an example of a community-based education programme facilitated by UL. It is designed by communities, for communities, looks at the issues of wellness, empowerment, leadership and life skills. Students are drawn from the community and generally are in leadership roles within their communities. The practical skills gained on the programme enhanced by students own lived experience increases their capacity to be a catalyst for change.

Seomra na Gaeilge

Seomra na Gaeilge is a meeting place for the Irish language community at UL. It is central to initiatives at UL to promote the use of Irish, as per national and institutional policy on campus.

It is an informal social space where staff and students:

1. Can be certain of an opportunity to speak Irish on campus.
2. Meet other members of the UL Irish language community.
3. Improve their Irish language skills.
4. Find out about Aonad na Gaeilge Irish language learning resources, supports and activities.
5. Work on collaborative projects and initiatives through the medium of Irish.
6. Relax & take coffee or lunch breaks in an Irish-medium setting.
7. Use whatever Irish they have without being worried about language accuracy or fluency.

UL researcher to play key role in project to improve cultural inclusion in EU awarded over €1m

Dr Aileen Dillane, a researcher at University of Limerick, is playing a key role in a project that has been awarded more than €1m in funding to improve cultural inclusion across Europe. Dr Dillane, a lecturer at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL, is the principal investigator in a transnational research project aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of public spaces in Europe. The project has been awarded €1,030,219 from a joint research programme coordinated by Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA). Dr Dillane, an ethnomusicologist, and Irish traditional musician who is course director of the MA in Irish Music Studies at UL, will work on the 'FestiVersities' project, which focuses on how the 'festivalisation' of a public space can make it more welcoming and encourage different behaviours.



UL Students celebrate their President's Volunteer Award

UL partners in the smart city project +CityxChange (positive city exchange)

Under the lead of Limerick City and County Council, UL is one of the international partners in a EU Horizon 2020 project for the development of a series of demonstration projects on how to become smart positive energy cities through citizen engagement. Together with all of their citizens, the European consortium will develop solutions that will help generate more energy than they consume, and exchange experiences with cities across Europe to learn faster, together.

President's Volunteer Awards

One of the visions at University of Limerick is to provide an outstanding student experience, to actively serve our communities and to contribute to the civil, social, and cultural life of the Shannon Region and beyond. The President's Volunteer Award (PVA) at the University of Limerick draws on a long-established student volunteering culture. The primary goals of the PVA is to harness, acknowledge, support, and

grow the contribution that our students make to their communities both on and off-campus through their volunteering. The PVA is a unique higher education student volunteer award. In addition to academic achievements, the PVA is included on the UL student transcript. As such, the PVA's robust criteria ensures that UL student volunteers commit to their chosen club, society, organisation, and communities for a period of time as well as reflecting on this commitment and volunteer practice. The Community Liaison Office (CLO) at the University of Limerick manages the President's Volunteer Award and the Annual PVA Ceremony. The CLO supports and promotes strong and meaningful links with internal and external clubs, societies, organisations, and communities on and off-campus.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



7,000,000

plastic bottles a year to be removed from circulation on campus under UL Plan



When waste is not waste: UL backed EU project to recycle lost nutrients for food production

May 2019, a multi-million-euro EU led project with three Irish partners including University of Limerick is aiming to increase the recycling rates for plant nutrients in the food production chain by harvesting lost nutrients from waste. ReNu2Farm, is a University of Limerick supported Interreg Europe consortium working together to offer farmers a better solution to non-EU mined phosphorus fertilizers by harvesting nutrients from wastewater and poultry litter. Working with fellow Irish partners at Cork Institute of Technology and Institute of Technology Carlow, Dr Achim Schmalenberger of UL is aiming to increase recycling rates for plant nutrients nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), by extracting them from waste sources to produce phosphorus rich ashes and struvites. The recycled ashes can be then spread on grassland areas in place of artificial fertilizers sourced from outside the EU. At present, the EU is heavily dependent on the importation of artificial fertilizers in the primary food production chain, especially in the Interreg zone of Northwest Europe (NWE). "We are researching the ability of the soil microbiota to cycle phosphorus and make it plant available. Only 20% of the phosphorus in conventional fertilizer applications are directly taken up by the plant as microbes are largely responsible for the mobilization of the remaining 80% of phosphorus from the fertilizer as well as other sources of phosphorus present in the soil," the University of Limerick researcher explained.

UL's Glucksman Library is going Green:

UL Says No to Single Use in the Library
In Ireland it is estimated that 22,000 single-use cups are disposed of every hour and more than 8 million tons of plastic are dumped into our oceans every year (mywaste.ie, 2019). The library will strongly discourage use of single use containers. 'Reusable' cups, bottles and containers that have a lid are permitted in the library.

Reusable Cups

- A. All first year UL students can claim a free reusable cup from the UL campus shop, using the voucher in their orientation welcome pack.
- B. Many cafés on campus offer a discount on beverages with reusable cups.

Fill up at the Fountain / Reusable Bottles

- C. There are four water fountains in the library.
- D. Reuse a water bottle, to reduce the plastic associated with single use bottles.
- E. Reusable water bottles are available to buy from the library information desk.

We Need You

- F. Over 1.06 million people came into the library last year.
- G. Making a small change, can make a big difference.



*Glucksman Library
is going Green*



UL Green Award – Philip Gurnett, EPS Director and Head of Sourcing Education, Ann Murray EPS Category Specialist, Chris Fogarty Energy Manager/Quality Team Leader, Buildings & Estates, David Mangan, EPS Portfolio Manager at the water fountain in the Kemmy Building with the award

Bernal Professor J.J. Leahy shares great tips on reducing your Carbon Footprint on the RTE Show What Planet Are You On?

To coincide with Science Week in November 2019, *What Planet Are You On?* a factual reality series funded by Science Foundation Ireland, follows three households tackling real challenges in the areas of water, waste, energy, and food in their homes. Three households welcomed cameras into their homes. Each house was retro fitted with water flow meters to measure every drop of H₂O used, smart plugs and a new electricity monitoring device called a Smappee recorded every Watt consumed by the households and their bins were taken away each week to be assessed. A team of Data Collectors monitored the three households, day, and night. Crunching the numbers, four experts in their fields; Professor JJ Leahy for energy use inside and outside the home, each show features a week of household monitoring, followed by a meeting with the Experts.

UL promotes 'Green Living' on Campus

University of Limerick is located on a beautiful parkland site bordering the River Shannon. With nearly 2,600 residents living on campus, Campus Life Services are committed to tackling environmental

issues within the Villages and providing information and methods to assist everyone in reducing their impact on the environment. UL Campus Life is committed to working with contractors to reduce the overall impact of its operations on the environment through the delivery of key objectives and actions to continuously improve performance in this area.

UL Farmers' Market

Every Tuesday, University of Limerick hosts its very own Farmers Market. This initiative is part of a broader movement to encourage ethical consumption and sustainable development within the university. We believe, there are many reasons to buy and consume local food:

1. It supports local farmers and food producers.
2. It makes a positive impact on the environment and helps reduce "food miles."

The UL Farmers Market is an important initiative and one that needs your support. The range of local produce available includes conservation beef and lamb from the Burren, organic meat and fish, breads, and pastries from Nenagh and homemade chocolate. This market allows the campus community to buy local produce and to meet with regional food producers.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



46.5% of UL campus land consists of trees, vegetation, flood plain and EU SAC.



Entrance to University of Limerick Campus

Tackling Climate Change Effectively

The Faculty of Science and Engineering and the Kemmy Business School hosted a seminar by Professor John FitzGerald, Trinity College Dublin on “Tackling Climate Change Effectively”. The government’s climate action plan represents a significant step forward, setting targets for 2030 and implementing a new governance system. This represents a major challenge for policy in Ireland. It is now urgent to take action to ensure we reach our objectives. It will require major changes for all those living in Ireland. Inevitably, there will be significant costs for us all. Achieving our targets in a cost-effective manner will firstly require getting the price of carbon right. It will also require multiple other supporting measures if we are to achieve our climate goals.

UL Green Campus

This year the campus community was asked to support Earth Hour with the symbolic gesture of switching off unnecessary lights and equipment between 8.30pm and 9.30pm to heighten awareness and spark never-before-had conversations on the loss of nature and the urgent need to protect it.

UL Waste Segregation Scheme

University of Limerick pilots new waste segregation scheme. The scheme which is spearheaded by Séan M. Collins, Facilities and Mobility Manager for the Buildings and Estates Department, aims to reduce the amount of waste generated throughout the university and limit the amount of waste ending up in landfills every year. Maintaining its initial goal to reuse existing bins on campus, the committee revamped the bins with new colour-coded stickers ranging from green (recycling), red (general waste), brown (compost) and grey (cans).

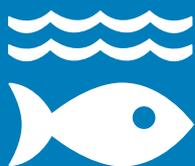
UL Research Impact Programme

University of Limerick prides itself on a reputation for delivering translational research that makes an impact on industry, society, and the wider community. It fosters collaborative problem solving to deliver real change for our wider network of stakeholders. The UL Research Impact programme at University of Limerick highlights best practice across a series of activities including case study development, training and skills development, PhD scholarships and events.

For more information and detailed case studies please visit <https://www.ul.ie/research/research-impact>

Conserve and
sustainably use
the oceans, seas and
marine resources for
sustainable development.

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



University of Limerick
'goes Atlantic blue'
to mark World Oceans Day



University Concert Hall goes blue

University of Limerick 'goes Atlantic blue' to mark World Oceans Day

June 2019, a number of buildings and fountains at University of Limerick have 'gone blue' to mark World Oceans Day. Famous landmarks, buildings, businesses, schools, and homes across Ireland are lighting up for the 'Go Atlantic Blue' campaign to celebrate our connection to the Atlantic Ocean, as part of World Oceans Day. "Sustainability and the protection of the environment are key considerations for University of Limerick, which continuously strives to adapt to a rapidly changing Ireland and face global challenges head on, particularly climate change," said UL President Emeritus Des Fitzgerald. "The University, while obviously not situated on the Atlantic, is very connected to the ocean given that the River Shannon winds its way through the heart of our beautiful campus and flows to the sea. Our researchers are tackling global climate and energy issues and our students use the Atlantic for both research and for play. It is also part of our drive to convince students to reduce the use of plastics on campus. Therefore, we were delighted to sign up to the Go Atlantic Blue

campaign," added Dr Fitzgerald. The following UL buildings / fountains had their colours altered for the campaign:

1. - Plassey House
2. - Foundation fountain
3. - Schuman fountain
4. - Plassey Close fountain

Dr Peter Heffernan, CEO of the Marine Institute, said: "Our ocean is our greatest natural resource, and we see that most directly in Ireland with the vital importance that the Atlantic Ocean plays in our daily lives – from influencing the weather to facilitating our trade industry and from seafood to surfing off the coast. The Marine Institute is proud to support the 'Go Atlantic Blue' initiative particularly at SeaFest and Our Ocean Wealth Summit, and we encourage and welcome everyone to come onboard." Director of Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Co-ordination and Support Action, Dr Margaret Rae, said that the initiative gives people all around the country a chance to show their appreciation for the Atlantic Ocean. "Going Atlantic Blue is a way to draw attention to how

each and every one of us experiences the Atlantic, what we love about our Ocean and how we can be that generation that makes a difference,” she said. UL is home to Professor Daniel J. Toal, Ireland’s foremost expert in marine and mobile robotics, a field that is of importance to several sectors including marine energy, airborne wind energy, industrial robotics, and autonomous vehicles. These are rapidly growing sectors, with potential for significant impact for Ireland. Over the last 10 years Professor Toal has built a significant research track record in robotics, sensor platforms, instrumentation, controls, marine vehicles, and offshore operation areas. Professor Paul Weaver is studying the development of lightweight composite materials for use in wind turbine blades. Professor Noel O’Dowd from the School of Engineering also undertakes research on the mechanical strength of wind turbine structures and oil rigs. Dr Anthony Comer is leading an EU Horizon2020 project called FIBRESHIP which looks at building more lightweight materials for use in the ship-building industry. Professor Dick Fitzgerald in the Biological Sciences Dept is developing foodstuffs and supplements from seaweed proteins, mostly for use in the animal feed industry.

CRIS’s ROV *Étáin* Investigates Historical WWI Shipwrecks

Engineers from Centre for Robotics and Intelligent Systems (CRIS) at University of Limerick (UL) and MaREI (Marine and Renewable Energy Ireland) have investigated a series of unknown shipwrecks off the west coast of Ireland. A team of researchers led by chief scientist Dr Gerard Dooly, (UL), aboard the Research Vessel Celtic Explorer used a new automated underwater vehicle, ROV *Étáin* to carry out the surveys in highly challenging environments. The recently unveiled Irish National Monuments Service Wreck Viewer lists the locations of more than 4,000 shipwrecks from a total of 18,000 records of potential wrecks in Irish waters giving some indication of the available infrastructure on the seafloor. The discovery and high detailed survey of these shipwreck sites was

possible for the first time through the technological innovations that the CRIS team have been trialling. The underwater vehicle control system, developed at UL, and funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) uses artificial intelligence (AI) and high-powered computers for autonomous controls, enabling perception and the ability for the robot to evaluate situations independent of human help. Every wreck has its own story, so it is always interesting to locate long forgotten shipwrecks and then try to determine the identity of the wreck and understand something of the circumstances of the tragedy. “Profiting from benign weather conditions at this time of year, the survey successfully located and dove on two large – greater than 100 metres in length – wrecks thought to be that of a Liner and a large cargo vessel and one smaller wreck which was found to be an operational WWI era U-boat. A high definition camera survey of one of the wrecks revealed that intact parts of the ship were colonised by various colourful epifauna: anemones, solitary corals, oysters, and brachiopods. Subsequent multibeam mapping of one wreck, thought to be that of the Ocean Liner S.S. Canadian, applying a newly published protocol on high-definition imaging of shipwrecks developed by the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (UUC) showed a large debris field that was not visible on the original map of the wreck, suggesting a violent impact with the seabed.

UL Environmental Committee

On the 30th March 2019, approximately 100 people on foot and 22 people in Kayaks showed up to complete UL’s annual clean up along the riverbank. This event takes place every year to raise awareness of the challenges our rivers and waterways are facing. Each year bags of rubbish of all kinds are removed and people come together collective to make an active contribution.

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

15 LIFE ON LAND



427

different wildlife species choose to habitat within UL's spacious grounds

Ecologically engineered solutions to rehabilitate mining waste and mine sites

More than 30 million jobs in the EU and many key economic sectors are dependent on a sustainable supply of Raw Materials, such as aluminium and zinc. However, the extractive operations to process and refine such raw materials generate approximately 300 million tonnes of waste per annum, representing one of the largest waste streams in the EU. This waste can be hazardous to the environment if it is not managed effectively. Research from University of Limerick is helping industry leaders to fulfil their environmental obligations while continuing to operate in a sustainable manner. The research findings are also contributing to international and national regulatory standards for the extractive industry. Dr Ronan Courtney of the Department of Biological Sciences and the Bernal Institute explains: "This research is developing ecologically engineered solutions for the effective management of extractive waste. These solutions fall into two main camps – rehabilitation strategies where sustainable vegetation covers are established over mine waste, and constructed wetlands systems where mine water residue is managed and treated. Uniquely, these solutions are being developed on-site rather than in a lab, and the results are there for all to see." The ecologically engineered solutions devised by Dr Courtney are driven by industry and environmental needs. They are applicable to companies working with different raw materials and in different countries. Furthermore, the research is being used by regulatory bodies to manage 'legacy waste,' that is extractive waste left over from mines or quarries which have long since ceased operating. In many cases this waste is stored in tailing ponds which may be prone to a host of environmental issues such as acid mine drainage, soil contamination and flooding. *The research findings have led to ecologically engineered solutions for managing extractive waste.* These solutions are having a positive impact on problems arising from the past, fulfilling present-day industry needs, and protecting the environment into the future. Dr Courtney adds:

"The solutions have been adopted as preferred best practice closure techniques by RUSAL Aughinish for their site in County Limerick. Disseminating the findings at international industry forums and continual engagement has led to new collaborations with other industry leaders including Vedanta, Boliden, and Rio Tinto. The research is cited in the

current review of the European Commission's Best Available Techniques Reference Document for the Management of Waste from Extractive Industries."

UL Green Campus Woodland Management Programme

UL Green Campus operate an ongoing best practice woodland management programme. As part of its woodland management it manages coppice willow and other aggressive fast-growing species that can dominate and take over a woodland environment. UL offers the opportunity for trees such as oak to develop and mature. These works are essential to reduce dense vegetation, break up vegetation mats and open ground layer vegetation. This benefits tree regeneration and increases the variety of vegetation types and associated invertebrates and birds.

Tree planting ceremony marks 30th anniversary of University of Limerick enactment

Former education minister Mary O'Rourke and founding UL president Ed Walsh have been hailed for their roles in the University of Limerick's establishment. A commemorative tree planting ceremony has taken place to mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the University of Limerick Act 1989. The ceremony was attended by UL President Emeritus Des Fitzgerald and Chancellor Mary Harney along with special guests Ed Walsh and Mary O'Rourke. It took place in the courtyard of the main building after a meeting of the governing authority, with President Emeritus Des Fitzgerald outlining that it was intended to "mark this milestone in the history of UL and celebrate those who played a part in the passage of this legislation and the development of the University". "We are here to mark a very special milestone in the history of the University of Limerick, because it is 30 years almost to the day since the University of Limerick act was enacted – and some of the key players in securing that remarkable achievement are here with us," he said. Chancellor Mary Harney said it was "a great pleasure to be here. This is a fantastic University and I am very honoured to be its chancellor – 15,000 students, 100,000 graduates, 1,500 staff, the highest percentage of women professors of any university in Ireland at 32% and earlier today we acknowledged that eight schools in UL have received the Athena Swan award for their



Dr Des Fitzgerald, President Emeritus UL, Mary Harney, Chancellor UL and Dr Ed Walsh, UL Founding President, at the tree planting ceremony

role in diversity and promoting women. These are all achievements that we can be very proud of. “What gives me great pleasure is the fact that in this place, we cultivate and development the minds of our young people, we stretch the boundaries of knowledge in both what we teach and the research we do. And we have been the Sunday Times University of the Year on more than one occasion, including the most recent year”.

Professor JJ Leahy EU Project Award for REFLOW

Associate Professor JJ Leahy, at UL received award for REFLOW. REFLOW is an interdisciplinary cross-sectoral European Training Network combining world-leading scientists and key stakeholders in dairy processing, fertilizer production and phosphorous recycling with early stage researchers to address important technical and socio-economic challenges associated with the recovery of phosphorous from dairy processing wastewater and its recycling into fertilizer products enabling sustainable expansion of the dairy industry in Europe. REFLOW research will (i) mitigate the environmental impact of dairy processing waste on soil and water, (ii) provide safe environmentally sustainable, cost effective closed loop solutions for crop nutrient management (iii) meet the demand for skilled professionals to support the technical, regulatory, and commercial development of the market for recycled phosphorous fertilizer products in accordance with the deliverables of the Circular Economy Package. REFLOW will achieve these goals by creating an innovative and

entrepreneurial training environment for the next generation of scientists. 13 ESRs will be recruited in a network of 10 beneficiaries and 14 partner organisations who bring complementary expertise and experience of delivering technical solutions, socio-economic modelling, environmental analysis, policy frameworks, high level training and commercial entrepreneurship. Graduating fellows will be equipped with a unique range of relevant interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral skills for careers as independent industrial or academic researchers, entrepreneurs, regulators, or agri-environmental specialists. REFLOW will train the Fellows through an integrated and cohesive curriculum of network-wide partner training activities including industrial secondments and embedded commercially driven research projects. The outputs from REFLOW will influence land management practice, the rural bio-economy framework and EU policy goals while significantly progressing the state-of-the-art in Phosphorous recycling.

UL boasts a wide variety of natural habitats

including riparian meadows and woodland, protected heronry, an arboretum, an orchard, and an apiary

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



26 Graduates

from the Bachelor of Arts
in Applied Policy in 2019

Ground-breaking UL research focuses on tackling anti-social behaviour in Dublin South Central

In December 2019, a new research report and connected strategy called 'Building Community Resilience', carried out by Dr Jonny Connolly of the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies, School of Law, UL identifies the nature and reach of key criminal networks within Dublin South Central. The report documents the intimidation, stress, and fear that pockets of communities living in the areas most connected to the networks are experiencing. While the report finds that only a small number of people (estimated at under 2% between the ages of 12 and 40) are involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour, their actions are having a continuing corrosive and damaging impact on a far greater number. The ground-breaking research forms the evidential basis for a new strategy, of the same name, which completely re-thinks and upends more conventional responses to criminal and anti-social behaviour. The new research and strategy was commissioned by the four local policing forums (4Forums) across Dublin South Central.

Report by UL researchers shows State 'failing to meet obligations' on hate crime

A report by researchers based at University of Limerick presented to a United Nations Committee has said that the Irish State is failing to meet its obligations in relation to hate crime. The Hate and Hostility Research Group (HHRG) at University of Limerick (UL) was asked by the Coalition Against Hate Crime to write an alternative report for the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on the issue of hate crime and related matters. Presenting to the committee on its findings at the United Nations in Geneva, the HHRG, led by Dr Jennifer Schweppe and Dr Amanda Haynes of UL, along with Dr Sindy Joyce, said that most previous recommendations by the committee have not been implemented by the Irish State. Dr Sindy Joyce stated:

"Ireland, and its police, are wilfully ignoring racial profiling, which is highlighted in the fact that children as young as four years of age were entered onto the Garda Pulse system and given criminal tag numbers."

New UL research to design better ways of dealing with 'Wicked Problems'

A new executive leadership programme jointly devised by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and University of Limerick seeks to devise new ways of addressing wicked problems. Wicked problems are those problems which are resistant to change, morph over time, turn would-be ideal solutions into worse problems and are the ones that persist; no-go zones in urban areas, serious drug related activity and lack of pro-social leadership in communities devastated by routine criminal activity are examples. Large scale evidence-based programmes tip away at the edges of wicked problems. Wicked problems severely expose the silos of the state, refusing to be bound by the administrative remit of one state agency or the other. Most significant of all wicked problems tend to be context specific. The executive programme designed by Professor Sean Redmond and Dr John Bamber selects a group of key leaders fulfilling a wide range of roles in each locality, exposes the group to the latest thinking on addressing complex harms and facilitates the group through a rigorous process of problem-centred programme design.

Election website by UL lecturer helps voters make 'informed decision'

Whichcandidate.ie aims to help voters decide on polling day in the general election. It is the brainchild of Dr Rory Costello, a lecturer in the Politics and Public Administration department at UL, who specialises in electoral and legislative politics. The web-based, not-for-profit Voting Advice Application (VAA) aims to inform voters about the policy positions of candidates. Dr Costello explained that it is "a tool that's designed to try and help voters make an informed decision." The website was piloted for the 2014 local elections locally in Limerick and then nationally for the 2016 general election, when it was used by over 100,000 voters. It ran for the European elections across all constituencies in Ireland. "Today people are paying more attention to party policies than they used to, and this is particularly true for younger voters. They want to know what the party's position is on issues that they care about, it might be climate change, or it might be housing. "Issues have always been important, but they play an ever more important role in how people vote. It is not only issues, also image, personality, all of that also plays an increasingly important role in shaping how people vote" he added.

By the people, for the people”, bringing public participation back to politics

How do we ensure our government, and its policies are informed by the needs of our citizens? How do we encourage our citizens to become active participants in forming the policies which affect their future? These are questions which researchers at the University of Limerick are working to answer. Dr Maura Adshead together with Dr Chris McNerney of the Department of Politics and Public Administration, UL have led the development of innovative practice in the area of policy research and civic engagement. Our research finds ways to enable ordinary people to express their opinions and influence policy formulation and implementation. Dr Adshead explains: “Best practice suggests that all policy should be evidence based but policy-makers rarely have access to those whom policy most affects. With the exception of a few focus groups or opinion polls, it is often hard for policy makers and politicians to know what really works ‘on the ground’”. Our research finds ways to enable ordinary people to express their opinions and influence policy formulation and implementation more effectively”. Their research has made an impact on public policy and planning projects such as the Clare Immigrant Strategy and the Ennis 2020 Community Visioning and Participatory Planning Initiative. In the Ennis 2020 initiative the UL research team developed a process that would enable deeper engagement between residents of the town and its council to imaging a vision of the community's future. Dr McNerney added; “Our research has shown us that a policy of ensuring the voice of the people is heard leads to greater citizen engagement, and ultimately strong civic pride and better communities. The Ennis 2020 project is an excellent example of research policy and practice being applied and leading to greater citizen to Council engagement and ultimately building towards a better future.” This work has informed the training of public administration officials at a national and local level and has been applied in a number of communities including migrants and asylum seekers. Dr Maura Adshead and Dr Chris McNerney are Lecturers in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at University of Limerick. This research is supported by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Irish Aid.



Iconic University of Limerick Flag Poles

Strengthen the means
of implementation
and revitalize the global
partnership for sustainable
development.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



30,000
voluntary hours
contributed by UL students
to more than 80 charities
and organisations



Local Children interact with UL medical students in safe and fun environment, while learning more about medicine

UL students contribute 30,000 voluntary hours to more than 80 charities and organisations

University of Limerick students, who contributed more than 30,000 volunteer hours to more than 80 organisations, charities, and clubs both at home and abroad, have been praised and recognised through the President's Volunteer Awards (PVA) at UL. Speaking at the awards ceremony, University of Limerick President Emeritus Des Fitzgerald, said: "Over the last nine years of the PVA programme, student volunteers from University of Limerick have contributed more than 137,000 hours to the various host organisations, groups and charities. At the 2019 ceremony held at UL, which also heard a special address from Dr Vicky Phelan, 448 students received gold, silver or bronze awards based on the hours contributed to the host organisations during the 2018/19 academic year. Dr Fitzgerald explained:

"The value of giving something back to society is strong in UL and we are most certainly leading in our encouragement and recognition of student volunteers and their efforts."

Roundtable on UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Humanities

As part of the 2019 UL Research Week, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences presented a roundtable on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Humanities – A New Horizon. Speakers for this event included: Conor Little, Lecturer in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Limerick, with research interests including political parties, political careers, public policy, and the comparative politics of climate change. Professor Katja Bruisch Ussher Assistant Professor in Environmental History at Trinity College Dublin since September 2016. Her research focuses on the environmental, social, and economic aspects of rural transformation in modern Russia. Amanullah De Sondy Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Islam at University College Cork, Republic of Ireland since 2015. Professor Ross Macmillan Chair in Sociology at the University of Limerick, Ireland. A sociologist and demographer, his research has focused on crime and victimization, child development and the life course, family relationships, and social epidemiology. Hala Jaber is a Palestinian community musician and is a PhD candidate in

community music in the Irish world Academy of Music and Dance. She was awarded research funding by Doras Luimni to run social musical spaces for migrant women in Limerick.

Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

The Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival has expanded and grown over the years. It now reaches beyond the core of the city and established education and training organisations into local communities across the city and county. This is a mark of commitment to promoting learning in all its forms and the interest in lifelong learning across all groups in society. The theme for 2019 was 'Bridging the Gap' in learning (between young and old, rural, and urban, returning to learning and welcoming new communities). This theme builds on the tagline for the week-long festival 'Communities, Connecting, Learning.'

Health Sciences Academy

The Health Sciences Academy, launched in December 2019 is a partnership between the University of Limerick, the UL Hospitals Group and the Midwest Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO3). These three partners share the primary aim, through the Health Sciences Academy, of improving health and wellbeing for people in the Midwest. The Health Sciences Academy will achieve this by delivering transformative education and training and driving innovation in healthcare delivery and technologies through research which addresses the needs of the health services and the people in the Midwest. Based at the Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC) at the University Hospital Limerick, the Health Sciences Academy's philosophy is based on the importance of equality and inclusion through the pursuit of excellence in healthcare service, education and research. The Academy also runs a Junior Health Sciences Academy who focus on children and health.

The Algerian Frontier – A New International PhD at UL

A specially designed International PhD at University of Limerick will help transform the way teaching and administration at Algerian universities is carried out. University of Limerick has agreed to facilitate the conversion to English as a teaching medium with the Ministry of National Education (Algeria) as the country moves to increase the visibility of research in higher education institutions. Dr Mairead Moriarty, Assistant Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics at University of Limerick, explained how the new partnership originated. "The Algerian government are moving from teaching everything through the medium of French to the medium of English, so they are upskilling all their Universities staff, their trainee teachers and all current students so they have allocated a significant amount of funding to do this," she says. Professor Soulimane says he was "delighted to see this major engagement between my country of origin and University of Limerick adding that he was looking forward to the positive impact for students. "They will be undertaking world class research while developing their language skills and cultural knowledge in the outstanding and welcoming campus that we have here in Limerick," he explains. "From a diversity point of view, a large portion of the cohort are females, and that is a good thing" said Dr Moriarty.

Impact Rankings

University Impact Rankings 2019

University of Limerick overall ranking 35th.

GOALS	DESCRIPTION	UL
Goal 3	Good Health and Wellbeing	85
Goal 4	Quality Education	201-300
Goal 5	Gender Equality	81
Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	4
Goal 9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	101-200
Goal 10	Reduced Inequalities	101-200
Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	23
Goal 13	Climate Action	101-200
Goal 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	36
Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals	32

International Networks



United Nations
Global Compact



Timeline





Closing Comments

The stories featured in this report are merely a window into the diversity of work, that goes on across our campus.

This report is not a complete picture. To those whose work we did not feature this year, we'd love if you would get in touch and share your story with us for next year's UL Annual Sustainability Report.

It is also important to mention, that we have simplified the complex interconnected nature of many of our projects by attaching them to only one goal. This is not ideal as many of the stories connect with multiple goals. The UN SDGs framework is indeed highly interconnected and designed to bring to the surface the complexity of many of the wicked problems we now face locally and globally.

Further information and additional examples are available on our dedicated UN SDG Webpage.

www.ul.ie/sustainability

developing and implementing a holistic approach to **sustainable development**



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