

# Event Programme

## Student Services as a Profession: Expertise, Impact and Leadership in Irish Higher Education Summer Seminar 2026



18 JUNE 2026



DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

### Registration & Welcome

09:30 – 10:00

Please check in and collect your name badge. Refreshments on arrival.

### Seminar Opening

10:00 – 10:15

Linda Barry, SAI President

### Keynote Address

10:15 – 11:00

Dr Andy Ryder, University of North Carolina Wilmington

### Launch of the SAI Competency Framework

11:00 – 11:15

The Professional Competencies SIG with Dr Ross Woods, HEA,  
Senior Manager, Teaching and Learning, Student Success, Health  
and Wellbeing

### Poster Display & Networking

11:15 – 11:45

For more information, please visit:  
[www.saireland.ie](http://www.saireland.ie)



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## Concurrent Session 1

11:45 – 12:45

Type of Presentation	Title	Presenters
Experiential Activity (60 minutes)	UCD CampUs Collective: Co-creation in Action	Emma Somers & Niamh Nestor (UCD)
Experiential Activity (60 minutes)	Beyond Motivation: The Hidden Curriculum of Time and Space	Colum Cronin (MIE)
Oral Presentations (3 x 15-minute presentations followed by 15-minute Q&A)	Building Engagement for First Year Students – An SAI, Collaboratively Created Resource	Ananda Geluk (UG), Anne Naughton (TUS), John O’Carroll (TU Dublin), Pam Wall (UL)
	Pre-entry Engagement in Practice: Informing, Advising and Preparing Students for Higher Education	Karen Carter & Grainne Ward (TU Dublin), Beti Marinescu (Dublin College of Further Education Training-Blanchardstown)
	The Power of Presence: ATU's Approach to Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care	Kelley Hester, Rosalynn Bovaird Kim Matthews, Daniel Caldwell (ATU)
Oral Presentations (3 x 15-minute presentations followed by 15-minute Q&A)	Supporting Students, Sustaining Ourselves: A Self-care Approach for Third-space Practitioner	Anna Galvin & Ellen Fitzmaurice (UL)
	From Documents to Digital: Implementing the Disability Support Needs App at TUS	Broze O'Donovan & Lisa Hanlon (TUS)
	Growing belonging: Community, Sustainability and the University of Galway / Terryland Forest Park Connection	Louise Kelly (UG) & Brendan Smith (Terryland Forest Park)

## Lunch

Networking & Poster Display

12:45 – 13:30

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## 2026 SAI Annual General Meeting

13:30 – 14:00

## Concurrent Session 2

14:00 – 15:00

Presentation Type	Title	Presenters
Experiential Activity (60 minutes)	Applying the SAI Professional Competencies Framework to Practice	Colleen Doyle (UCD), Andy Ryder (University of North Carolina Wilmington), Daniel Caldwell (ATU), Lisa Fortune (Carlow College, St Patrick's), Niamh Nestor (UCD), Maria Keane (UCC)
Experiential Activity (60 minutes)	Sharing our Student Engagement and Progression SIG: Brainstorming Ideas for Activities and Connection	Nikita O'Connell (UCC) & Eddie Corr (MU)
Oral Presentations (3 x 15-minute presentations followed by 15-minute Q&A)	Designing and Building an In-house Student App for ATU	Judith Frazer-Klug & Donal McGinty (ATU)
	Evolution of Trinity College Dublin Student Learning Development Services Over the Last 20 Years	Maeve O'Regan (TCD)
	Making Student Engagement Count: Formal Recognition of Skills Through the Societies Engagement Award and the USP – University Skills Passport	Bridin Quinn & Riona Hughes (UG)

## Break

Refreshments

15:00 – 15:15

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### Concurrent Session 3

15:15 – 16:00

Presentation Type	Title	Presenters
Experiential Activity (45 minutes)	Self-care as Professional Rebellion	Caitriona McGrattan (SETU)
Oral Presentations (2 x 15-minute presentations followed by 15-minute Q&A)	Early Alert to Empowerment: A Proactive, Student-centred Approach to Student Support	Kelly Moore, AnnMarie Gilchrist & Mary Cairns (UG)
	Building Belonging and Retention in First-year Computing: The Role of Targeted Support and Transition Interventions	Wesley Kelly & Karen Nolan (TU Dublin)
Oral Presentations (2 x 15-minute presentations followed by 15-minute Q&A)	Exploring Belonging with Student Society Committee Volunteers	Riona Hughes (UG), Lorraine Tansey (Student Volunteer Ireland) & Conor Henry (UG)
	The Mary Poppins Principle: Practising Magic, Designing Calm - Reframing Leadership for Sustainable Student Support	Niamh Nestor & John Wyatt (UCD)

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## Posters

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Enhancing Student Journeys Through AI: Digitally Connecting Students to Services, Supports and Campus Life.

*(Anne Naughton, TUS)*

Financial Roadshows – Benefits and Evolvement.

*(Marcella Reilly & Anita Mahony, ATU)*

The Learner Success Toolkit: A Universal Design for Learning Approach to Student Support in Irish Higher Education.

*(Elaine Kelly & Róisín Kelly, TUS)*

Your Essay Builder: Designing Essay Support With Neurodiversity in Mind, for the Benefit of All Students.

*(Róisín Kelly, TUS)*

How SMS Appointment Reminders Support Service Delivery and Communication in Student Health.

*(Shannon O'Donovan, MTU)*

Digital Badges for Staff and Students With Open Learning: Community Engagement Leadership Through Meitheal Skills.

*(Lorraine Tansey, Student Volunteer Ireland, Laura Woods, MTU and Riona Hughes UG)*

The Impact of Advanced Nurse Practitioners in the Student Health Service Within Irish Higher Education.

*(Sarah Hickey, MTU, Theresa Lowry Lenhen, SETU & Eilish Corley, ATU)*

Building Engagement From Day One: Fostering Belonging for Every First-year Student.

*(Ananda Geluk UG, and colleagues)*

Foundations 4 Success Programme.

*(Jenny Burke, TUS)*

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