

## Appendix 1: Definition of the Student Experience (approved UMT SEG 15/06/15 )

The UCD Student Experience acknowledges that students' academic gains and their social and personal development at university are strongly influenced by a complex combination of factors. While some are external to the university, it is within the remit of the university to design and adapt academic and social environments within the university to best assist all students to achieve their maximum potential.

The UCD Student Experience shall:

1. Be based on the creation of an effective and responsive university educational and social framework within which UCD students can build their individual and unique environments for learning, social and personal growth. Fundamental to the UCD Student Experience is the recognition of the broad and changing needs of each student in awareness of their different academic disciplines, educational capabilities, social, artistic and sporting interests and their personal and environmental needs.
2. Be developed as part of the mainstream programmatic activities of the university, based on inclusive set of proactive approaches to student engagement, retention, satisfaction and success. The UCD Students Experience will include all students and will aim to build a cohesive, vibrant and intellectually challenging university community. It will purposefully avoid being perceived as a deficit-model (i.e. seen as being relevant only for weaker students or those with additional support needs). However, the UCD Student Experience will also ensure that adequate support services are in place for those students who require them.
3. Appreciate the complexity of, and inter-dependence between, the academic, social and environmental aspects of working and living in UCD. The Student Experience will recognise that, when a student immerses themselves in the UCD learning, social and community environment, how well they progress will be dependent on their interactions within a complex interplay of opportunities and services, rather than with any individual policy, process or project
4. Be designed and promoted in such a way that students are aware of the spectrum of opportunities that are open to them across a range of fields: to develop students academically, intellectually, civically, culturally, and in terms of employability and technological sophistication. Students will also be offered advice on how best to access and combine the parts of the UCD Student Experience in order to best suit the achievement of their own stated goals. Students will also be encouraged to reflect and evaluate what they have gained, using approaches such as Personal Development Plans, online portfolios capstone modules etc., so that they can appreciate and articulate their overall development while at UCD.
5. Recognise that the community in which students learn, socialise and live and the overall quality of and interactions between the different complex and inter-dependent aspects of that community have a significant impact on their formation as a UCD graduate. The UCD Student Experience will be aware of the range of attributes that UCD considers important for its graduates to have achieved in their time at the university and to ensure that the overarching intellectual, social and personal experiences available to students in UCD positively assist the achievement of such attributes.
6. Under senior management leadership, promote the cooperation of all academics and staff in the creation of effective, co-ordinated and inclusive environments across the student life-cycle, in awareness that the UCD Student Experience goes beyond, but is not divorced from, the strictly academic. An example of such a cooperative approach to building the UCD Students Experience can be seen in the work of those staff who support academic student societies, organise industry and practice connections for students and arrange relevant voluntary opportunities.
7. Be monitored via a range of explicit indicators and measures of success gauging the impact of the wider intellectual, co-curricular and living environments on overall student achievement and development.

The UCD Student Experience encompasses the pedagogic, curricular and educational systems in

which students develop academically and socially. However, UCD is also mindful that a truly effective students experience is defined not only by the quality and effectiveness of these individual areas, but also by how well students are able to draw on the interdependence of the different areas and the important synergies that are fostered between them.