



Access and Civic Engagement Office TU Dublin City Campus

The Programme for Students Learning With Communities supports TU Dublin City Campus lecturers, students and community partners to collaborate on community-engaged learning and research (also known as service-learning). Students Learning With Communities involves lecturers and students working with community partners (charities, not-for-profit organisations, etc) to develop real-life projects. Projects are designed to benefit all participants.

Students enhance their learning as they work on these projects with community partners, developing and applying their specialist subject skills, and receiving course credits for their work. Students also develop a range of essential professional skills, such as communication, negotiation, teamwork, presentation, and problem-solving skills. The community becomes part of the teaching process, as students work towards community goals. Students, lecturers and communities collaborate on knowledge exchange and co-creation, as well as engaging in critical thinking and developing their social awareness and networks. The Programme for Students Learning With Communities ultimately aims to energise participants to work for social change.

Vision:

To be a vibrant, professional hub connecting TU Dublin City Campus students and staff to local, national and international communities, by linking learning with real life application, for mutual benefit.

Mission:

- To encourage, support and develop the practice of community-based learning and community-based research within programmes across TU Dublin.
- To produce socially conscious graduates with applied and transferable professional skills.
- To build sustainable relationships with community and voluntary organisations.
- To create appropriate links with industry in support of community-based learning and community-based research.
- To collaborate with national and international educational institutions to advance best practice in the area.

Resources and support:

Students Learning With Communities in TU Dublin City Campus can be contacted on (01) 402 7616 or slwc@tudublin.ie.

More information about the supports we offer, community engaged projects in TU Dublin City Campus, as well as resources and information for staff, students, and communities, can be found on our website: [Students Learning With Communities | TU Dublin](#)



**Access and Civic Engagement Office
TU Dublin City Campus**

**Principles for Students Learning With Communities projects
across TU Dublin City Campus**

Projects should be based on partnerships between staff, communities and students, to benefit TU Dublin and the community equally (unlike volunteering or work placements, which are primarily designed to benefit the community or the students, respectively). Projects should provide a high quality learning experience for all partners, through rich interaction between staff, students and communities. We respect the prior learning and expertise of all those we work with.

Projects should focus on not-for-profit organisations and communities who would not otherwise have the resources to carry out these projects. Projects, or project elements, should be designed so that they can be completed within the allocated time, and have a positive outcome for the community partners. Community partners can benefit from the students reflecting on the projects and feeding their reflections back to them. Projects should promote the possibility of social change.

Projects should have clear personal and academic learning outcomes for students as part of programmes. Projects should require students to reflect regularly and critically on their learning experiences, for the following reasons: to allow students to make sense of their experiences and to learn about themselves as learners; to ensure students link their community learning to their classroom knowledge; and to ensure that students reflect on, question, and challenge, the causes and effects of inequality and disadvantage in society.

Projects should be evaluated by all partners – students, TU Dublin staff, and community representatives to ensure that follow-on projects and activities, and the Programme for Students Learning With Communities, continue to improve and develop to meet the changing needs of all participants.