from Serviced LEARNING
to Engaged LEARNING

AIEA THEMATIC FORUM

FINAL REPORT
26th – 27th April 2018
University of Limerick
www.ul.ie/engage/node/3831
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Address</td>
<td>Main Lecture Theatre, GEMS</td>
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<td>9.00am: UL Engage</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9.10am: Kate Morris, Director of Campus Engage</td>
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<td>9.20am: Professor Des Fitzgerald, President, University of Limerick</td>
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<td>9.45am</td>
<td>Tea/coffees served</td>
<td>Lobby, GEMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>UL Engage International Practicum Poster Presentation</td>
<td>Lobby, GEMS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Study Abroad students, Communities and Staff]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The UL Practicum enables students to gain curriculum based</td>
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<td></td>
<td>accredited learning in community projects. UL Practicum</td>
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<td></td>
<td>projects are established in response to community identified needs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and are designed and implemented by collaborative teams comprising</td>
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<td>UL staff, Community Partners and Students.</td>
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<td>11.15am</td>
<td>Opportunities and benefits of engaged learning for Study Abroad</td>
<td>Main Lecture Theatre, GEMS</td>
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<td>students – perspectives from all stakeholders</td>
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<td>The format for this session will be a facilitated participant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>discussion</td>
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<td>PANEL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Shane Kilcommins, Head of School of Law</td>
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<td>- Katherine Martin, Study Abroad Manager</td>
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<td>- Eric Leinen, University of Minnesota</td>
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<td>- Community and Student Representatives</td>
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<td>- Mauro Aishhood, Engaged Scholarship Advocate - Facilitator</td>
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<td>- Mairead Moriarty, Assistant Dean for International Affairs</td>
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<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Pavilion Bar and Restaurant, side room</td>
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<td>1.45pm</td>
<td>Coach departing for site visit to community involved in</td>
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<td>Engaged Learning</td>
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<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>ADARE is a tourist destinations and the local heritage centre in</td>
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<td>County Limerick, Ireland. Renowned as one of Ireland’s prettiest</td>
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<td>villages which hosts a number of craft shops, Adare is also</td>
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<td></td>
<td>designated as a heritage town by the Irish government. Since January</td>
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<td>2017, Practicum students have worked with the local community on the</td>
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<td>Adare Tourist Ambassador Programme, Adare Heritage and Signage and</td>
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<td>Historical Project on Adare cottages.</td>
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<td>During your visit, you will meet with the Community Co-ordinator and</td>
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<td>local community representatives working with the students on their</td>
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<td>community engaged learning project and take a tour of the site of</td>
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<td>their project.</td>
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<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dunraven Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick</td>
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<td>Hosted by the University of Limerick</td>
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| 8.30am | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Irish Innovations in Engaged Learning  
Kate Morris, Director of Campus Engage | Main Lecture Theatre, GEMS |
| 10.00am | Unpacking the UL Practicum  
- Overview of structure of the UL Practicum presenting the range of possibilities provided by engaged and immersive learning for Study Abroad students  
- Maura Ahdad  
- The practicalities of module mapping  
  How the UL Engage module is understood in terms of credit transfer and equivalences on UL campuses  
- Josephine Page, Director, IED  
- Eric Leinen, University of Minnesota | |
| 10.45am | Tea/coffees served | Lobby, GEMS |
| 11am | Coffee and Conversation with Community Partners and International Practicum Students  
An opportunity for participants to follow up on morning’s presentations and previous sessions with staff, communities and students from the UL Practicum International  
This session is designed to enable participants to explore in more depth the value, challenges and opportunities of engaged learning for study abroad from a variety of perspectives. | Main Lecture Theatre, GEMS |
| | COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES  
- Marian Hurley, Deputy Mayor of Limerick  
  (Kilmurry Arts and Cultural project)  
- Majella Casey (St Marys community - Community, Wellness, Empowerment, Leadership and Lifeskills - CWELL)  
- Mark Nagle (Bruff, Oran, Meanus Community Council CLG – BGM Community Health Project);  
- David Sheehan, (National Council of the Blind, Ireland - NCBI)  
STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS  
- Kathrin Mobius, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany  
- Amanda O’Toole, University of Hartford (UHart), Connecticut, USA  
- Gabrielle Meheux, Kendall College, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
- Barnie Quillinan, Civic Engagement Champion - Facilitator | |
| 12pm | Creative curriculum design and the benefits of Community Engaged Learning  
- Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, UL  
  Chair of the National Forum for Teaching and Learning | |
| 12.30pm | Closing remarks / Q&A | |
| 1pm | Lunch | River Restaurant |
Maura Adshead

Maura Adshead is Associate Professor of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Limerick. She was instrumental in the design and establishment of the Campus Engage initiative and was appointed as the University of Limerick Academic Advocate for Engaged Scholarship in September 2015.

She is currently convener of the national Campus Engage Engaged Research Working Group, responsible for the 2017 national policy review. Her research interests focus on Irish and European politics and public policy, and she has been involved in a number of community-oriented research projects at local, regional and international levels. Books include: Developing European Regions? Ashgate, 2002; (with Jonathan Tonge) Government and Politics in Ireland, Palgrave, 2008; (with Michelle Miller) Public Administration and Public Policy in Ireland: Theory and Practice, Routledge 2003; (with Peadar Aiblí and Michelle Miller) Contesting the State: Lessons from the Irish case, MEP 2003; and (with Tom Felle) Fooling Ireland’s Freedom of Information, MEP, 2016. She has published on Irish politics and public policy, engaged pedagogy and community-engaged research in a variety of articles and carried out commissioned research for Combat Poverty, the VHI and the MIAR.

Kate Morris

Kate Morris drives the Campus Engage national initiative, on behalf of the 7 Irish universities, Dublin Institute of Technology, and associated Working Groups. Campus Engage has been set up to promote and advance civic and community engagement as a core function of Higher Education on the island of Ireland, by better enabling Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), their staff and students across all disciplines, to systematically engage with the needs of the communities they serve.

The Working Groups achieve this through developing national ‘what works’ resources and capacity building training, enhanced research practice for greater impact, accredited community-engaged teaching and learning; and building your evidence base for the positive societal impact of higher education. In 2014, Campus Engage Working Group members launched a new ‘tech for good’ system to support student-community volunteering partnerships and awards. This is called studiointernatela.

Kate has over 15 year experience in knowledge translation, engaged research for societal impact, delivering a range of capacity building tools and services to support and promote evidence-informed public services, practice and policy. Kate has worked in advisory roles in Ireland, Northern Ireland and France for universities, government departments and civic society organisations, including the Centre for Effective Services Ireland, UNESCO Northern Ireland, and the French National Institute for Demographic Studies, Paris.

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald

Sarah Moore Fitzgerald is an academic and teaching and learning expert based in the University of Limerick for over two decades. An award-winning teacher, she was appointed in 2012 by the Minister for Education and Skills to chair Ireland’s National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Recently, she has integrated her work as an academic with her lifelong involvement as creative writer by joining the teaching team on UCC Masters in Creative Writing, and is one of the key facilitators of the University of Limerick’s creative writing summer school held in New York in 2016 and 2017. She is the author of four novels for children and young adults: Back to Blackbird: The Apple Tart of Hope, A Very Good Chance and The List of Real Things. Sarah has been shortlisted for several literary prizes including the CBI children’s book of the year and the Waterstones Prize. Her first novel was adapted for the stage and performed at the Edinburgh Festival and in London’s West End. In 2014, she received the Jack Harte literary award from The Irish Writers’ Centre. She promotes reading and literacy at all levels of education and is currently serving as one of the UISPatrons of Reading at Larkinh High School in Scotland. She is committed to supporting, facilitating and informing the writing process across a range of different contexts.

Bernie Quilliman

Bernie Quilliman is a senior lecturer in the Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Limerick (UL). She is also module leader for the U L Practicum module for International students and is currently UL’s representative on the Irish National Campus Engage Steering Group.

Bernie sits on the Irish National Engaged Learning Work Group, and was on the core development team and lead facilitator for the National Science Foundation Ireland / Campus Engage STEM Participate Programme (2015–2017) on Community Engaged Learning. Professionally, Bernie is registered as a mental health and general nurse and has worked as a nurse lecturer for over 30 years. She has extensive experience in clinical nurse practice, nursing management and education in the Health Service Executive in Ireland and the UK. Her academic management experience includes Course Director for undergraduate nursing programmes and Head of the Nursing and Midwifery Department in the University of Limerick from 2004-2010. Over the last 30 years Bernie has played a key role in the development and advancement of cross partnership working in nursing and health related education in Ireland and has had Ministerial appointments to sit on the National Council for Nursing and Midwifery and Healthy Ireland National Steering Group. She is the founding Course Director for the University community partnership National award winning programme, Diploma in Community Wellness, Leadership and Life skills (CWELL) programme.
The AIEA Thematic Forum, *From Service Learning to Engaged Learning—European Innovations in Study Abroad*, was dedicated to exploring ways that the international study abroad programmes can provide credit bearing engaged learning experiences to students which also have reciprocal benefits for communities involved.

Many students appreciate being involved in community-engaged projects that give them real-world experiences and allow them to integrate theory with practice. Using the University of Limerick’s Practicum programme, unique in Ireland, as a case study and template, the forum aimed to present the innovative pedagogies and strategies used, including lessons learned from a university-community partnership model to enable a critical approach to service learning in international settings.

**INTRODUCTION**

**WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS**

Maura Adshead, UL introduced Professor Des Fitzgerald, President, University of Limerick who officially opened the Forum and welcomed delegates to Limerick with Kate Morris, Director, Campus Engage.
In this session over 40 students presented 21 projects they worked on in collaboration with local rural and urban community groups from Limerick, Ireland. (Link to projects on website) International students, community members and lecturers had the opportunity to discuss the reciprocal benefits of their project work with forum participants. They also had informal discussions about the tools, resources and processes that support all stakeholders involved in engaged learning at University of Limerick.

https://goo.gl/eZ3pD3
www.ul.ie/engage/node/4651
From Service Learning to Engaged Learning – European Innovations in Study Abroad

OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS OF ENGAGED LEARNING FOR STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS—PERSPECTIVES FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Facilitator:
Maura Adshead, Engaged Scholarship Advocate

Panel:
Shane Kilcommins, Head of School of Law
Katherine Martin, Study Abroad Manager
Eric Leinen, University of Minnesota
Community and Student Representatives
Mairead Moriarty, Assistant Dean for International Affairs

This panel began with an examination of the claims made for engaged learning, looking first at the additional value of Community Engaged Learning for development of transferable skills, sometimes known as the ‘real life’ skills. Student recruiters from both sides of the Atlantic agreed that the UL Practicum offers additional opportunities for skills acquisition when compared to more traditional classroom based learning. This view was supported by academics in Law and Linguistics, who shared their experiences of developing community engaged learning and spoke to the development of a more engaged and immersive learning experience, that offered students a chance to develop socially and professionally as well as academically.

Amongst the benefits, Mairead Moriarty spoke to the importance of learning inter-cultural competence during a UL Practicum placement. Eric Leinen referred to the different layering of inter-cultural exchange that is provided by the UL Practicum because, in addition to working in a new host culture, students on the UL Practicum typically work in inter-cultural teams adding an extra dimension to the scope for cultural exchange.

The opportunity for personal growth and development that this can afford students was highlighted by John Real, who noted how students – when confronted with international queries about their own culture and values – were obliged to re-examine their own assumptions and beliefs in a way that they do not do with their own peers locally. The panel agreed that this reflective approach is helping to build community leaders of the future, giving additional public value to the teaching mission of the university and helping to shape an ethos of reciprocity and responsibility.

https://goo.gl/zCEGWt
www.ul.ie/engage/node/4681
SITE VISIT – A COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN ENGAGED LEARNING

UL FACILITATORS:
Bernie Quillinan, Civic Engagement Champion & Tracey Gleeson, Senior Administrator, UL Engage

COMMUNITY FACILITATORS:
Eleanor Purcell, Secretary, Adare Tidy Towns Committee, Co-ordinator of student learning in the community;
George Stacpoole, Chairman, Adare Tidy Towns Committee; Maeve Kelly, General Manager and
Sandra O’Loughlin, Adare Heritage Centre; Lady Geraldine Dunraven and Adare Tourist Ambassadors

Forum participants travelled to Adare, County Limerick to see and learn about three community engaged projects international students undertook as part of the UL Practicum (international) module
www.ul.ie/engage/node/2111

Both formal and informal sessions were scheduled, providing participants with opportunities to discuss student engaged learning and community capacity building to support this initiative in more detail. Participant feedback highlighted the social and professional benefits of this field trip.

For further details on the site visit go to www.ul.ie/engage/node/4471

https://goo.gl/PyiqAm

www.ul.ie/engage/node/4651

Lady Geraldine Dunraven addressing Forum delegates as part of their community field trip to Adare, Co. Limerick
Kate Morris gave an insightful presentation on addressing real world problems through teaching, learning and research. In her address she spoke to the following themes:

- Implementing Higher Education Engagement Policy for Societal Impact including key initiatives such as the launch of the Campus Engage Charter & Indicative Actions for an Engaged HEIs in 2014 and the establishment of the Campus Engage Participate Programme in 2015
- Context & Drivers for Change
- Campus Engage Governance Model
- Irish University Engagement Infrastructure
- Building 21st century global graduate attributes and transferable ‘work ready skills’
Maura Adshead, Engaged Scholarship Advocate, UL; 
Josephine Page, Director, International Education Division (IED), UL; 
Eric Leinen, University of Minnesota

Maura Adshead gave an overview of structure of the UL Practicum presenting the range of possibilities provided by engaged and immersive learning for Study Abroad students.

Josephine Page and Eric Leinen outlined the practicalities of module mapping and how the UL Engage module is understood in terms of credit transfer and equivalences on UL campuses.
This session gave an opportunity for Forum participants to follow up on the morning’s presentations and previous sessions with staff, communities and students from the UL Practicum International. This session was designed to enable participants to explore in more depth the value, challenges and opportunities of engaged learning for study abroad from a variety of perspectives.

Key points that were raised included how and what students learned on the UL Practicum International module; the potential for Study Abroad students to experience unique culturally immersed and fully accredited learning opportunities in Ireland and the supports and resources available to address academic, student and community needs within collaborative partnerships. Forum participants were provided with an opportunity to engage in a panel discussion. Key discussion points from this session included the benefits and challenges around reflection and assessment and graduate attribute or work ready skills such as proactivity, creativity, being responsible etc.
Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald presented a highly thought-provoking presentation on how the UL Graduate Attributes can foster creativity and innovation within a community engaged learning model resulting in significant benefits for students, community representatives and staff.

While disciplinary competence and excellence is at the heart of the University of Limerick curriculum, it also shares a value system across disciplines that is summarised in the graduate attributes that the University aims to engender in all its students. We aim to ensure that UL graduates are knowledgeable, proactive, creative, responsible, collaborative, articulate. These are the six key graduate attributes that will continue to guide our institutional policies, our learning environment and our commitment to broadening the curriculum.

Together, they summarise the kinds of people that we encourage UL students to become during their programme of learning. By prioritising these attributes, we send our graduates out into the world having created an environment that we know will stand to them when facing the opportunities and challenges in life and work in both national and international contexts.
Participants left with a more comprehensive understanding of how community engaged learning can be facilitated for international students within an Irish University.

The Forum examined the benefits and challenges for international students undertaking an accredited community engaged learning module in an Irish campus.

In terms of community needs, the case studies presented shared their perspectives on hosting US students into community partnerships and illustrated the two-way learning that was achieved. The practicum students gained insights into Irish communities and culture, but were also enabled to recognise their own expertise in terms of sharing the knowledge that they brought from their own culture and experience to help respond to the societal needs identified in their practicum projects.

In terms of student needs, testimonials and evaluations illustrated how US students were facilitated through Practicum projects to develop their academic, career and personal interests in real-life contexts in collaboration with Irish community partners.

A website was set up to communicate the proceedings of the Forum and to share tools and resources created by UL Engage to support community engaged learning: [www.ul.ie/engage/node/3831](http://www.ul.ie/engage/node/3831)
LESSONS LEARNED

Suggestions
To further explore opportunities whereby faculty and administrators could work to create models of quality community engaged learning experiences within the curriculum for study abroad students.

Lessons learned
♦ Exploration of the ways that the international study abroad programme can provide academic and credit bearing, engaged learning experiences underpinned by relevant supports to students and communities in order to deliver maximum impact for participating communities and learning outcomes for students.

♦ It is necessary to examine and learn from the experiences of other countries regarding the provision of community engaged learning opportunities for international students.

♦ Students should be encouraged to undertake accredited community engaged learning opportunities abroad to develop their intercultural knowledge and critical attributes in areas such as creativity, innovation, collaboration and leadership.

♦ To facilitate fora which explore the ways that the interests and needs of education abroad administrators and academic faculty can be combined to create mutually advantageous structures and supports for innovative intercultural accredited learning experiences for US students in Europe.