



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Student Sustainability Leadership Awards Programme 2026



INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is a core value at the University of Galway, enshrined in our Strategic Plan 2025-2030. Sustainability and the SDGs are at the heart of everything we do. We are implementing our third Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030, embedding sustainability in our culture, operational policies, and governance structures, and empowering our communities to be champions of sustainability and the SDGs.

The University of Galway Sustainability Office continues to lead and champion sustainability in all aspects of university learning and research, culture, operations, and governance structures, and to empower its diverse communities of staff, students, and partners to co-create tomorrow's sustainable campus and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). See Project Background for further information.

Recognising the leading role that our students play in the transition to a sustainable future on our campus, the Sustainability Office is offering two internships for students enthusiastic about promoting and embedding sustainability on campus. The internships form part of the Student Sustainability Leadership Awards Programme, which supports delivery of the University of Galway Sustainability Strategy objective *“to encourage student sustainability leadership through the Student Sustainability Leadership Awards”*.

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY INTERNSHIPS 2026

Student Sustainability Leadership Awards are available for up to 2 University of Galway students to support the implementation of our sustainability strategy targets and objectives. The central aim of the Awards is to develop student leaders that are resolute and enthusiastic about developing a more sustainable campus and community. It is envisaged that the positions will deliver a positive experience for the successful candidates by providing an opportunity to gain invaluable experience in sustainability knowledge and application, research, networking, teamwork, and communication.

The internships will run from **September 2026 to April 2027**, covering twelve teaching weeks in both Semester 1 and Semester 2 (ending on 2 April 2027). The internship will be for **10 hours per week**, and the successful candidate will receive a **€3,700 scholarship**. **Successful candidates must be registered students in 26/27**. Current final-year students, funded research students, and previous recipients of a Student Sustainability Leadership Award are **not eligible** to apply for this awards programme.

The role is designed as a student learning opportunity and is not a contract of employment.

Awardees will report to the Director of Sustainability, Dr Richard Manton, and the two interns will work together on sustainability engagement and content creation.

About the Role

We are looking for two enthusiastic and motivated students to help promote sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the University of Galway campus. This role is an exciting opportunity to engage with students, raise awareness about sustainable living, and encourage positive environmental action.

As the Student Sustainability Intern, you will be responsible for managing and growing our social media presence, including Instagram, by creating engaging content that highlights sustainability initiatives, events, and practical tips for students. You will support the planning and delivery of sustainability-focused workshops, talks, and campaigns, helping to make sustainability more accessible and relevant to students. A key part of your internship will involve representing sustainability at university events, such as orientation and student fairs, by running information stands and engaging directly with students. You will collaborate with student societies and groups to support sustainable behaviors and initiatives on campus.

This role is ideal for someone who is enthusiastic about sustainability, enjoys creative content creation, and has persuasive communication and teamwork skills. If you are enthusiastic

about making a difference and want to help shape a more sustainable campus, we would love to hear from you!

REQUIREMENTS

Essential requirements for both roles:

- Be a registered student in Academic Year 26/27
- Proven commitment to and interest in sustainability
- Demonstrated ability to work independently on a sustainability related project
- Demonstrable social media knowledge and skills
- Knowledge of website design and lay-out
- Demonstrable event planning skills
- Demonstrated interest in the UN SDGs
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent computer literacy and information technology skills
- Determination, enthusiasm and drive to maintain projects
- Resolute, organised, and innovative

Please Note:

Current final-year students, funded research students, and previous recipients of a Student Sustainability Leadership Award are not eligible to apply for this awards program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application to include a 1-page CV and one-page covering letter stating why you should be the selected candidate, to michelle.odowd@universityofgalway.ie.

Please put '**Student Sustainability Leadership Awards Programme 2026**' in the subject line.

Closing Date: **March 13 @ 12noon**

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed (in-person only) on **March 24**.

Please contact Michelle O' Dowd Lohan (michelle.odowd@universityofgalway.ie) if you require any further clarification on the Awards and the application process.

TIMELINE

Application opens:	March 2
Application closes:	March 13 @ 12 noon
Date for interviews:	March 24 (in-person interviews only)
*Project Commencement Date:	September 7, 2026
*Project End Date:	April 2, 2027

*NOTE: The scholarship is for a 12-week period in both Semester 1 and Semester 2.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

At the University of Galway, we are critically aware of the leading role that universities can play in the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are committed to the SDGs at an institutional level on multiple levels:

- As a signatory to the SDG Accord, we have committed '*to align all major efforts with the SDG targets and indicators, including through our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities*' and to '*share our learning*'.
- Our Climate Action and Sustainability Policy formalises our commitment '*to lead the transition to a sustainable future by embedding the SDGs into all our major efforts*'.
- Our Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030 is mapped to the SDGs, sets out our vision across the campus and beyond.
- As an active member of UN Academic Impact, sharing our learnings is at the core of our sustainability approach

Our University of Galway Sustainability Strategy 2026 - 2030 sets out our vision across the campus and beyond. The University's approach to embedding the SDGs centres on a learn-live-lead model. The focus of *learn* is to continue to embed SDG literacy into all aspects of University teaching and research. The focus of *live* is to implement the principles of the SDGs throughout campus operations and engagement activities. From a *lead* perspective, our aim is to play a central and transformative role in attaining the SDGs by 2030.

We recognise that our students are the current and future sustainability implementers, leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and citizens. Our Strategy firmly places students at the heart of our sustainability journey and aims to develop our graduates as future sustainability leaders in Ireland and globally, developing the next generation of students, researchers, and innovators for tackling the world's evolving sustainable development challenges.

University of Galway is recognised by the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings 2025 as Top University in Ireland, top 3 in the European Union and 64th in the world for our efforts in progressing the SDGs. To learn more about our efforts in progressing the SDGs, a copy of our latest Annual Sustainability Report can be downloaded [here](#).