Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway



Appointment of two external members to Údarás na hOllscoile

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Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for the following positions:

Two External Members, Governing Authority

About University of Galway

University of Galway has been inspiring minds since 1845. Ours is one of the oldest and largest universities in Ireland. Beginning with just 68 students, our campus community now numbers over 20,000 students and more than 2,700 staff, and our 135,000 alumni are located in over 180 countries across the world. From humble beginnings, today we are counted among the Top 300 universities in the world according to the most prestigious rankings, positioning us in the top 2% globally.

University of Galway is an international university with global ambition, but with deep roots in our region and nationally. Our location on the very edge of Europe gives us a unique perspective. Our university is at the heart of a distinct and vibrant region, renowned for its unique culture, creative industries, medical technologies, marine ecology and economy, and our innovation. We work in partnership with business, industry and government to provide the graduates, skills, knowledge and innovation that drive entrepreneurialism, employment and growth in our region.

We are now seeking to appoint two External members to join the University's Governing Authority for the next four years. This is an opportunity for a dynamic, experienced board member to shape the future of University of Galway and, working at a national level, to make an impact on the strategic direction of the Higher Education sector in a new era of enhanced governance and accountability.

Údarás na hOllscoile, University of Galway's Governing Authority

Údarás na hOllscoile is the Governing Authority of University of Galway. The role of the Governing Authority is to provide strategic direction and leadership to the University to enable it to succeed in its mission of education and research within the realities of the complex external environment in which leading Universities operate. These include compliance and regulatory obligations, access to competitive research funding, innovation in academic provision, global strategic partnerships and maintaining financial resilience.

Period of Appointment

The term of office of the two External members will be for four years from 01 February 2027 to 31 January 2031. The appointee will be eligible for reappointment for a second term, subject to the approval of Údarás na hOllscoile and the Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

Time commitment

The overall time commitment required for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of an external member is expected to vary between three to four days per month. This will include preparation for, and

attendance at, Governing Authority meetings, meetings with sub-Committee Chairs, meetings with the President and Secretary to the Governing Authority, and other members of the University Management Team, as well as a small number of engagements including ceremonial events and external events.

Remuneration & Expenses

This is a non-remunerated role, but reasonable expenses incurred in connection with attending relevant meetings will be reimbursed in line with civil service rates.

Requirements of the Role:

Essential Requirements:

Successful nominees will require corporate governance experience, including previous board experience. Additionally, it is envisaged that one of the successful appointees will Chair the Audit and Risk Committee of the Governing Authority so would require audit and financial experience, while the other will ideally have expertise in digital technologies.
The following essential requirements are sought in nominees for each of the two vacancies:

Vacancy 1: Ordinary Member of the Governing Authority and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

Governance and Leadership:

- Current or previous experience as a member of a governing board, Non-Executive Director, Executive Director, board committee, or equivalent senior governance body.
- Strong understanding of corporate governance principles and board responsibilities.
- Demonstrated ability to chair meetings effectively, facilitate constructive challenge, and build consensus.
- Experience operating within a complex organisational environment with multiple stakeholders.

Audit and Financial Expertise

- Significant experience in audit, finance, accounting, financial management, or risk oversight.
- Professional qualification in accountancy, audit, finance, or a related discipline (e.g., ACA, ACCA, CPA, CIMA, CIPFA) or equivalent senior-level experience.
- Ability to interpret and critically assess financial statements, management accounts, audit reports, and financial controls.
- Experience overseeing external and/or internal audit functions.

Risk Management

- Proven experience in enterprise risk management and internal control frameworks.
- Ability to assess strategic, operational, financial, legal, regulatory, cybersecurity, and reputational risks.
- Experience in reviewing risk registers and monitoring risk mitigation actions.

Higher Education and Regulatory Awareness

- Understanding of the governance, funding, regulatory, and accountability environment of higher education institutions.
- Appreciation of public sector accountability requirements and stewardship of public funds.

Independence and Ethics

- Ability to exercise independent judgement and provide objective scrutiny.
- High standards of integrity, ethical conduct, and commitment to good governance.
- No conflicts of interest that could compromise independent oversight.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

- Strong analytical and questioning skills, with the confidence to challenge appropriately.
- Ability to communicate complex financial and risk matters clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Capacity to build effective relationships with board members, executive management, internal audit, external auditors, and regulators.

Sectoral Experience:

Experience in any of the following sectors is relevant:

- Public sector
- Education sector
- Industry and commercial sector
- Charity, not-for-profit sector
- Regional Development experience

Personal Attributes

- Strong analytical and strategic thinking skills.
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to explain complex technical matters to non-specialist audiences.
- High standards of integrity, independence, and ethical judgement.
- Commitment to the university's mission, values, and public responsibilities.

Diversity:

Recognising the increasing diversity of the University community and the diversity of our region, greater diversity of experience and background is desirable in the membership of the Governing Authority. Diversity of gender (a gender quota of 40% will apply), age profile, ethnicity and experience will be actively sought in the membership, including through the addition of external members to sub-Committees.

Vacancy 2: Ordinary Member of the Governing Authority and a member of one

sub-Committee

Governance and Leadership:

- Current or previous experience as a member of a governing board, Non-Executive Director, Executive Director, board committee, or equivalent senior governance body.
- Strong understanding of corporate governance principles and board responsibilities.
- Understanding of governance, accountability, compliance, and risk management principles.
- Experience operating within a complex organisational environment with multiple stakeholders.

Executive/Management and Organisational Experience:

- Executive leadership/senior management experience
- Experience of Performance Management at Executive/Board level

Strategic Digital Leadership:

- Senior-level leadership experience in digital transformation, technology strategy, information systems or innovation.
- Demonstrated experience of leveraging digital technologies to support organisational performance, service delivery, operational efficiency, or strategic change.
- Ability to provide strategic oversight of major technology investments and digital transformation programmes.
- Knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas: artificial intelligence, data analytics, emerging technologies, cyber security, information security, data governance, digital resilience, or technology risk management.
- Ability to contribute independent judgement and constructive challenge on technology-related strategic decisions and risks.

Higher Education and Public Interest Context

- Understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by digital transformation in higher education, research, teaching, learning, and administration.
- Awareness of the public accountability responsibilities of universities and the importance of safeguarding institutional reputation and stakeholder trust.

Financial experience:

- Some experience of financial management, including budget preparation and review
- Understanding of financial reports and proposals

Personal Attributes

- Strong analytical and strategic thinking skills.
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to explain complex technical matters to non-specialist audiences.
- High standards of integrity, independence, and ethical judgement.
- Commitment to the university's mission, values, and public responsibilities.

Sectoral Experience:

Experience in any of the following sectors is relevant:

- Public sector
- Education sector
- Industry and commercial sector
- Charity, not-for-profit sector
- Regional Development experience

Desirable Requirements:

Some experience in the following domains is desirable but not essential:

- Experience of leading complex cross-functional projects to completion
- Legal, compliance, regulatory experience
- Experience of leading complex negotiations to a successful conclusion
- Knowledge of broad public policy direction

Diversity

Recognising the increasing diversity of the University community and the diversity of our region, greater diversity of experience and background is desirable in the membership of the Governing Authority. Diversity of gender (a gender quota of 40% will apply), age profile, ethnicity and experience will be actively sought in the membership, including through the addition of external members to sub-Committees.

How to apply:

Údarás na hOllscoile has appointed a Nominations Committee to identify suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the position of External members, in line with the Role Specification and the Competency Framework set out for the role.

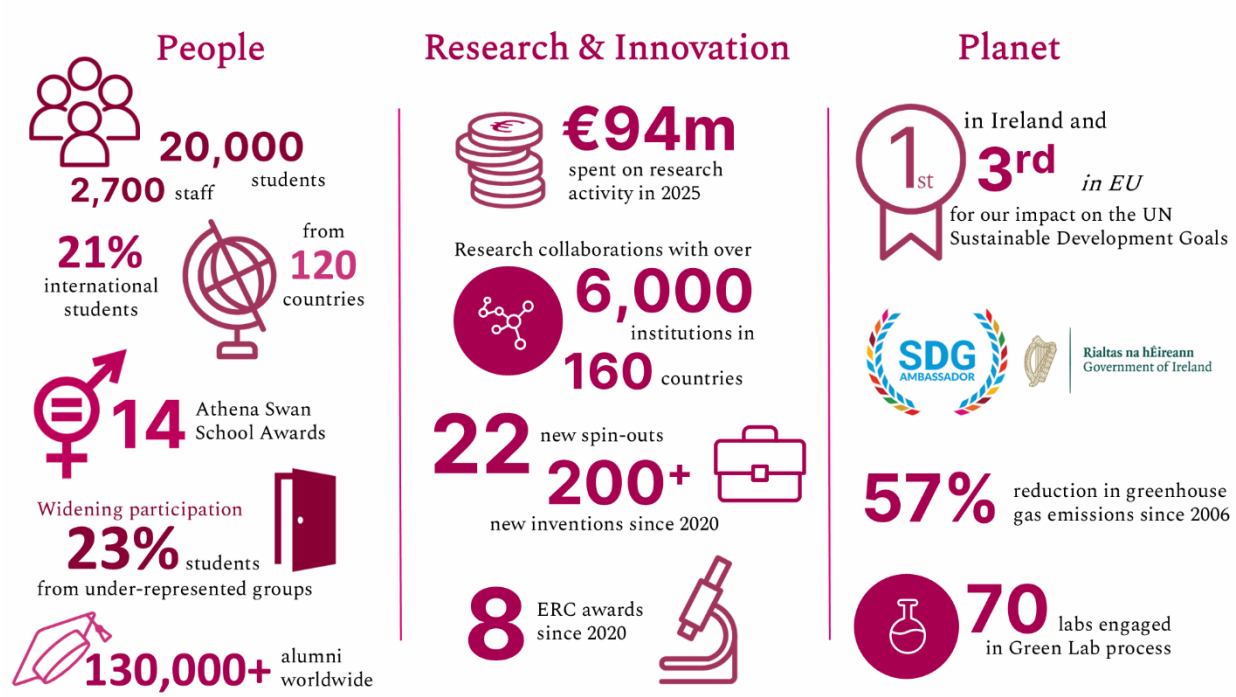
Nominees should submit an up-to-date curriculum vitae which outlines how their skills and experience meet the requirements of the position (noting which of the two vacancies you wish to be considered for) to the Office of the Secretary for Governance & Academic Affairs by email at: govandacademicaffairs@universityofgalway.ie by 5pm on Tuesday 8th of December 2026.

Enquiries may be made directly to Caroline Loughnane, Secretary for Governance & Academic Affairs (govandacademicaffairs@universityofgalway.ie)

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University at a Glance:



Údarás na hOllscoile

Údarás na hOllscoile, the University's governing authority, is responsible for managing and controlling all of the affairs of the University. As the University's Governing Authority, Údarás na hOllscoile provides overall strategic direction for the University. It is not involved in the day-to-day management of the University, but it oversees the overall governance of the University and the work of the University Management Team, led by the President. It comprises an external chairperson and a total of 19 members with a diverse range of expertise and experience, in line with the provisions of the Universities Act 1997 as amended by the Higher Education Authority Act 2022.

The University Management Team

The University Management Team (UMT) is responsible for the executive day-to-day management of the University. UMT is led by the President who is the Head and Chief Officer of the University. Our current University President, Professor David Burn, was appointed in 2025. You can read more about him at: www.universityofgalway.ie/president

Acting under the President, the members of the University Management Team (UMT) each have specific leadership responsibilities for delivery of the University's objectives in education, research and management of the organisation.

Find out more about the University's Governance and Management structures at: www.universityofgalway.ie/governance/the-kube-the-governance-hub

Colleges and Schools

The University has four Colleges:

- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies
- College of Business, Public Policy and Law
- College of Medicine and Health
- College of Science and Engineering

Each of the Colleges is led by an Executive Dean. Within each College, decisions are taken by College Boards, chaired by the Executive Dean, and including the Heads of each School in the College.

For more information on Colleges, Schools and Disciplines, visit:
www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools

College	Schools
College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies	School of Political Science & Sociology School of Psychology School of Education School of Geography, Archaeology & Irish Studies School of English and Creative Arts School of History and Philosophy School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
College of Business, Public Policy and Law	J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics School of Law Shannon College of Hotel Management
College of Medicine and Health	School of Allied and Community Health School of Medicine School of Nursing, Midwifery and Evidence Science School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences
College of Science and Engineering	School of Biological and Chemical Sciences School of Computer Science School of Engineering School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences School of Natural Sciences

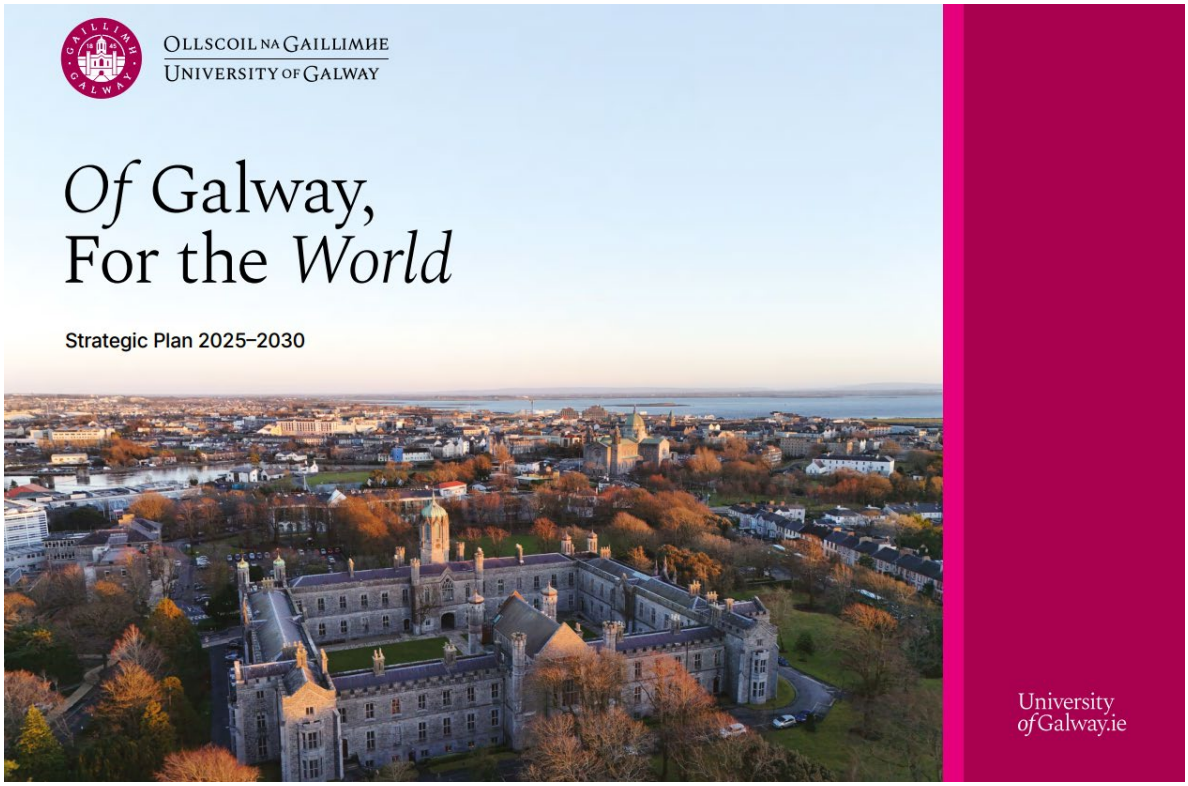
Strategic Plan 2025-2030

In May 2025, following widespread consultation, the University published *Of Galway, For the World,* our strategic plan for the period 2025-2030. It reaffirms our mission to be a research-intensive university where we nurture talent and generate knowledge for the world. The strategy outlines a vision to empower our people to create global impact through our distinctive research, exceptional education and transformative student experiences. This is further articulated in our three Strategic Priorities:

- Distinctive Research Impact
- Education for the Future
- Effective and Sustainable Organisation that Empowers our People

A further section entitled Key Enablers expresses our ambition to create a Supportive Environment for our people, enhance the Effectiveness of Communications, ensure we continue to build upon our Sustainability Leadership, and the importance of Global Engagement to our ongoing success. 'Building for the Future' outlines the University's plans for campus development in the years ahead.

- **Strategic Plan:** You can read the strategic plan in full at: www.universityofgalway.ie/strategy2030



Academic Programmes

The University provides teaching through four Colleges and 19 Schools up to PhD level, for primary and postgraduate Degrees and for a wide variety of Diplomas, Certificates and, more recently, Micro-credentials. 67 separate programmes of study are offered for undergraduate students, with over 160 taught programmes at postgraduate level and opportunities for research postgraduate degrees in over 140 programmes. The University also provides a programme of Adult Learning and Professional Development and conducts several Summer Schools.

The University has displayed considerable dynamism in the development of programmes to meet the evolving needs of society. Initiated through funding from the Human Capital Initiative, our *Designing Futures* programme is transforming how our students learn and develop skills, through success coaching, transdisciplinary modules and entrepreneurship programmes. The University is also playing a key role in the delivery of the HCI Multicampus *Micro-credentials* project, which supports the development of micro-credentials across the IUA Universities, and which provides upskilling and reskilling opportunities to those in employment and those seeking to enhance their employability. Meanwhile, through our membership of the *ENLIGHT network* of European universities, we are developing greater opportunities for student mobility and cross-border collaboration on academic programmes and research.

Find out more: www.universityofgalway.ie/courses

Research & Innovation

The University is counted among the Top 300 in the world, according to QS World University Rankings, due in most part to the reputation and impact of our research community. Together, we achieved over €110m in EU research funding during the Horizon 2020 programme period 2014-2020. We are now firmly focused on achieving over €150m of EU research funding in the 2021-2027 programme cycle, including through Horizon Europe. In 2025, the University had a record €94m annual spend in research, across a breadth of research areas.

The global impact of our research and innovation is evident in the scale of our international research collaborations with over 6,000 institutions in over 180 countries since 2020. We also work closely with a wide range of academic and research funding partners in Ireland, including but not limited to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland (formerly Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Research Council), the Royal Irish Academy, the Health Research Board and Enterprise Ireland, as well as internationally, for example, EU funding agencies including the European Research Council, as well as the UN, Wellcome and the (US) National Institutes of Health. The University is host to *CÚRAM*, the national (Research Ireland-funded) research centre in medical devices, co-host of the *Insight* national (Research Ireland-funded) research centre for data analytics, and a partner institution in a number of other national research centres across the areas of IT, life and physical sciences, renewable energy and natural resources.

A key strategic priority of our Strategic Plan 2025-2030 is to be a global leader in our distinctive areas of research excellence, engaging partners nationally and internationally and harnessing regional strengths, while driving emerging areas of ambition. Our research leverages the unique character of our place, coalescing around four research pillars, through which we deliver University of Galway's distinctive research impact:

- Innovation for Health
- Creativity, Culture & Society
- Sustainable & Resilient Environments Earth and Ocean
- Transformative Data & AI

Our research pillars are supported by six research institutes that enable the highest quality interdisciplinary research and facilitate extensive collaboration nationally and internationally:

- Data Science Institute
- Institute for Clinical Trials
- Institute for Creativity
- Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation
- Institute for Lifecourse and Society
- Ryan Institute – Environmental Research & Sustainable Futures

These research institutes are the engines for multi-disciplinary research discovery and impact across our research pillars. Over the next five years, they will transform the scale of international research leadership and innovation undertaken by the University, building critical mass, excellence and global engagement. Externally facing, our research institutes provide a clear point of access for research partners and stakeholders who want to join our mission.

Find out more: www.universityofgalway.ie/our-research

The University and the Irish language

The University's commitment to the Irish language was first set out in the University College Galway Act 1929 and this was reiterated in the University College Galway (Amendment) Act 2006, which states that one of the principle aims of the University is "the provision of education ... through the medium of the Irish language".

Irish language programmes are delivered primarily through the Discipline of Irish and through Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, our Irish language academy, which has three centres located in the Gaeltacht in An Cheathrú Rua, Carna and Gaoth Dobhair. In 2021, the University published its first Irish Language Strategy and appointed its first Irish Language Officer. We are currently in the process of developing the next Irish Language Strategy for the years ahead.

Find out more: www.universityofgalway.ie/gaeilgebheo

Sustainability

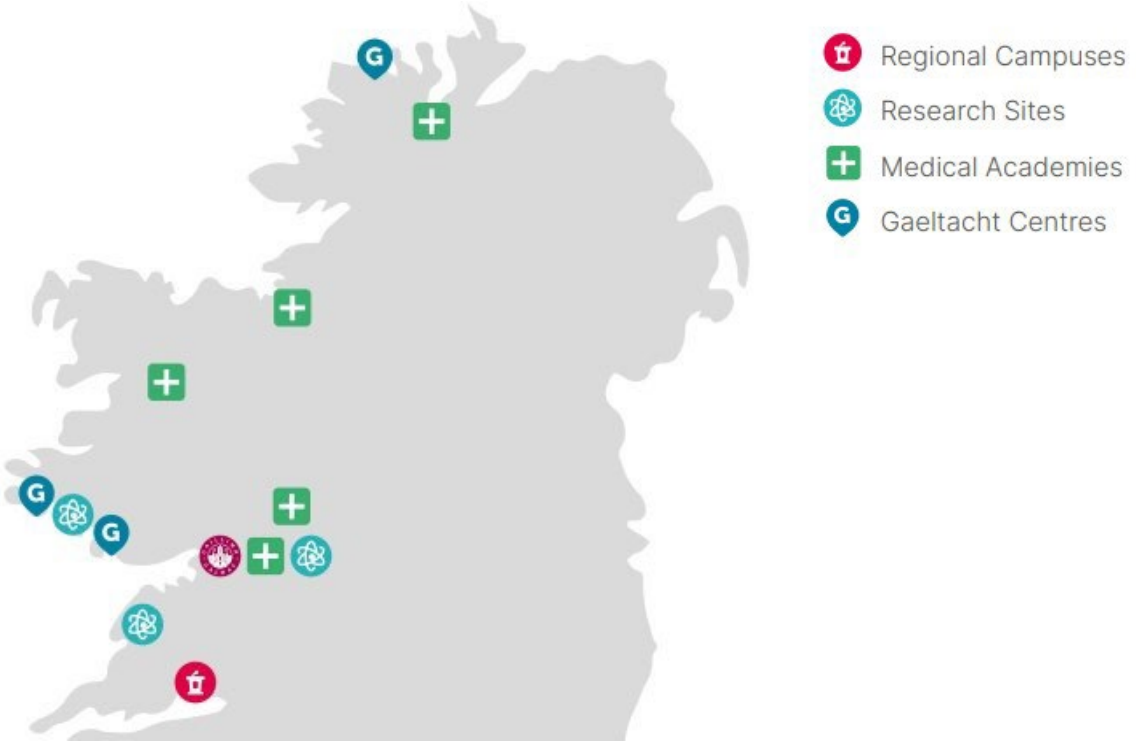
Sustainability is one of the University's core values and we are recognised as a leader in the transition to a sustainable future. We are committed to the SDGs at an institutional level on multiple levels:

- 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, which is mapped to the SDGs, sets out our vision across the campus and beyond.

For the past four years we have been ranked First in Ireland in the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings for our progress on the SDGs, and we are currently ranked among the Top 5 in the European Union. In 2023, we established a new Sustainability Office to lead the implementation of our Sustainability Strategy and to embed sustainability across our curriculum and operations.

Through the work of the University's Sustainability Office, the Community and University Sustainability Partnership, colleagues in Buildings and Estates and other university operations, and our Student Societies, we have advanced understanding and action on the urgent need for sustainability, using a Learn-Live-Lead model. Since 2006, we have achieved over 50% reduction in energy usage, exceeding our targets. In 2021, we established our carbon footprint, and we are actively working towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Find out more: www.universityofgalway.ie/sustainability



Our Region

Our regional footprint includes five Medical Academies, three Gaeltacht centres, off-campus research sites in Connemara and the Burren, and a satellite campus in Shannon College, Co. Clare.

Our Campus

The main University Campus, with an area of some 105 hectares in the heart of the city of Galway, is attractively situated on the west bank of the River Corrib, and stretches from Nuns' Island in the south to the Sports Grounds in Dangan to the north. Other teaching and research facilities are located outside the city in An Cheathrú Rua, Carna and Mace Head in Connemara, in Carron and Finnevara in Co. Clare, and in Gaoth Dobhair in Co. Donegal. The University's medical students and researchers benefit from on-the-ground Medical Academies located in hospitals throughout the region from Portiuncula University Hospital in Co. Galway to Letterkenny University Hospital in Co. Donegal.
Building for the Future: The University is in the process of finalising its masterplan for the years ahead, which will include the Nuns' Island creative and innovation district in Galway city centre. Recent years have seen some significant additions to campus, including:

- Clinical Simulation Facility: completed in 2022

- Dunlin Village on-campus student accommodation (674 beds): completed in 2022

The following construction projects have been commenced or approved in recent years:

- The Dr Karen Guinee Library: construction is nearing completion for a 2027 opening
- Water Sports Centre: planning permission approved in 2023
- New Medical School: about to start construction phase
- New Law School: at funding request phase