Technological University of the Shannon

TUS HEA An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas The Higher Education Authority

TUS Learner Success Toolkit

Overview of Initiative

The **Learner Success Toolkit** inclusive digital resource was developed as part of the PATH 4 funding initiative under Work Package 2 – Universal Design Environment Project. Altitude Charter-driven, it serves as a one-stop-learning-shop, consolidating TUS-developed resources and supports and supplemented by best-in-class international academic resources. It is accessible to all TUS students through TUS.ie, Instagram Linktrees, TUS social media channels and The TUS Starter Pack.

TUS adopts a dual-level engagement approach to student retention. With this approach, central and professional services deliver institution-wide actions, interventions, and supports designed to benefit the wider student body, while individual departments and faculties provide targeted initiatives and supports tailored to the needs of students enrolled on specific programmes of study. The toolkit supports retention, progression, and successful student outcomes, and is available to the entire student body. The toolkit was informed by consultation with faculty and student support services to address key skill gaps and competency development, and to provide holistic support across key themes including:

Academic Skills Development: Planning & Academic Writing; Research & Academic Integrity; Study & Exams; Advanced Projects and Thesis Support

Core Competencies: IT & Digital Skills; Organisation & Time Management

Holistic Support: Mental Health Resources

Key Features

- Academic & Curriculum focus
- Early intervention initiative
- All students

Aims & Objectives

Aim: To provide inclusive, flexible, equitable and effective academic support, empowering students to develop strong learning strategies and connecting them with existing institutional resources.

Objective 1: To provide equitable access, across our seven regionally dispersed campuses, to resources on essential academic skills, to support independent learning and academic success.

Objective 2: To encourage faculty and professional services staff to integrate the toolkit into their student interactions, course manuals, and all learning and retention activities, leading to greater engagement and improved student success rates.

Institutional/National Context

- TUS Strategic Plan
- TU Act Section 9(1)
- HEA System Performance Framework 2023–2028, Pillar 3; TUS Performance Agreement 2024–2028
- National Access Plan 2022–2028
- National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework

Monitoring & Oversight

The programme is coordinated through Student Support Services within the office of the VP for Student Education and Experience. Monitoring involves yearly review and continuous ongoing development using a combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis, student and staff feedback, and analysis of engagement metrics.

Outputs are shared internally through various channels, including Academic Council and Academic Council Sub-Committee for Student Experience and Access, VP and Deans Council, TUS Annual Quality Review, and externally in relevant HEA reports.

Data & Evidence of Impact

In addition to extensive promotion throughout the Connect & Engage programme, the toolkit is included in new staff and new student induction programmes and actively promoted to all staff at regular junctures to enable them to signpost students. Targeted student-centred social media campaigns and in-class promotion and usage ensures optimum uptake and impact to students.

Impact is monitored and reviewed against objectives, with usage data informing the annual review process. Since its launch in September 2024 to end October 2025, the toolkit has recorded 7,918 views.

Development: TUS takes a strategic approach to the ongoing development and expansion of the toolkit, ensuring it is continuously updated utilising a full range of curated digital innovations including video, apps, downloads, and links to internal, national and international resources. It will continue to be included in Course Manuals and extensively promoted to our students on social media (Instagram, TikTok).

Additional Information

- TUS Learner Success Toolkit (& video)
- TUS Starter Pack ; Connect & Engage video
- Instagram Linktree (TUS Midlands ; TUS Midwest)
- Disability Service Linktree