



Academic Advising Project

Enhancing academic advice here at UCD: Is it simply a matter of time?

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AIM

The long-term aim of the project is to significantly enhance the academic advice available to students across all SBES programmes. However, in this pilot scheme, the team will target selected cohorts of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, who will be at a crucial phase of their career during the 2021-22 academic year. The three SBES programmes included are MSc. in Biological and Biomolecular Sciences by negotiated learning (BBNL), BSc. in Cell & Molecular Biology (CMB) and BSc. in Plant Biology (PB).

The pilot scheme will not include all SBES programmes to compare the effects of increased academic advice to other programmes that will not be included and due to academic staff teaching times.

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to increase academic advice on a wide variety of topics, such as programme choice, careers and educational development. For this initial pilot scheme the objectives are:

- Hold postgraduate-led workshops with different cohorts of students to determine their precise advisory needs, vital given the previous 18 months of disruption due to COVID-19.
- Hold one-to-one career advice meetings with all students on chosen programmes.
- Run an academic advisory group session for each of the programmes.
- Perform surveys across all SBES programmes to establish student feedback regarding academic advice.

STRATEGY

A formal approach to providing academic advice will be piloted with the following :

- Two student-led workshops
- One-to-one advisory meetings.
- A laboratory researcher will be employed to help supervise undergraduate project laboratory work.
- Run advisory group sessions for each chosen programme.
- Host second two student-led workshops; hold BSc. and Msc student surveys.