



Academic Advising Project

Finding your way in Food Science

Project Lead: Dr Niamh Harbourne

Email: niamh.harbourne@ucd.ie

AIM

Last year an academic advisory system for Stage 1 Food Science students was setup, where faculty acted as academic mentors for small groups of first year students throughout the year. Student feedback suggested that while some students found it useful to have a mentor, many did not engage in the process. Therefore, the aim of this project is to address the barriers to student engagement and expand our current academic mentoring system to ensure that it meets the needs of Stage 1 Food Science students.

OBJECTIVES

- Leverage technology to develop an interactive guide to the Food Science programme, which will support a flexible approach to academic advising.
- Develop a number of events throughout the first year to help the students identify as Food Scientists at an early stage and develop a strong sense of community of learning.

STRATEGY

Leverage technology to develop an interactive guide to the Food Science programme, which will support a flexible approach to academic advising: Based on the existing print-based programme booklet a professional platform developer will produce an interactive food science programme guide. This will take the form of a website including videos and written materials on modules, the main outcomes at each programme stage, facilities, staff.

Develop a number of events throughout the first year to help the students identify as Food Scientists at an early stage and develop a strong sense of community of learning: This approach is informed by feedback from recent graduates as well as undergraduates. In the first trimester it will include a welcome session and a Food Science facilities tours. A video of the tour will be produced and made available through the VLE. In the second trimester we will have a “Finding your way in Food Science” event, which will be a career focused event designed to inspire reflection and discussion among students about the opportunities open to graduates of the programme. The event will involve talks from a number of invited speakers who are recent graduates in the early stages of their careers in the food industry. This will be followed by an introduction to the food science interactive programme guide and a catered networking session.