

UCD Community Engaged Learning Impact Case Study

Consulting with NGOs



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
Ireland's Global University

BMGT20080



MODULE TYPE: Elective 5 credit module



LECTURERS: Kathy O'Reilly



DEPT/SCHOOL: College of Business

Module Purpose

Consulting with NGOs is a hands-on module where students work in teams to help local charities solve a business problem that they are facing. Classes are run like workshops, where teams can work on their projects plus receive advice and guidance on how to help their charity. Assessment is 100% project based, broken down into a number of components. Students help a local charity and learn useful professional skills, all while earning academic credit.



Community partners/ collaborators

Numerous community partners are engaged from year to year, a selection of some of them:

- Ronald McDonald House,
- Dogs Trust,
- Community Connect,
- ARC Cancer Support,
- Make A Wish,
- Anam Cara,
- First Light,
- Enable Ireland,
- Open Door Day Centre,
- Vision Sports Ireland,
- CanTeen,
- Sensational Kids,
- CARI,
- HHT Ireland,
- Epilepsy Ireland,
- Conscious Cup Campaign,
- ECO-UNESCO,
- The Anne Sullivan Centre

Methods of assessment

Students work hand-in-hand with local charities, visiting them on-site for meetings, participating in activities and providing them with a written consulting report and final presentation of their recommendations.

IMPACT of Community Engaged Learning on students

- To provide students with the opportunity to contribute to the local community while learning real business consulting skills, both inside and outside the classroom
- To enable and empower students to become effective workers in project teams;
- To allow students to contribute productively to the needs of the local community;
- To make students aware of the opportunities for employment in the voluntary sector;
- To enable students to develop life skills and to better relate to and work with people in a professional environment;
- To allow students to apply the theories they have learned to real life situations; to allow students to demonstrate to potential employers that they have gained valuable experience in the voluntary sector



IMPACT of Community Engaged Learning on the community

- To benefit the partner organisation by providing additional resources for specific business projects
- To facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills between students and partner organisations
- To work with the partner organisations to develop sustainable projects
- To foster long term relationships between Quinn School of Business and partner organisations working in the voluntary sector
- To create a greater understanding among students of the work and activities of partner organisations

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Why do I do Community Engaged Learning?

Learning by doing creates such enthusiasm and commitment in the classroom! And our partners gain valuable insights and create lifelong supporters.

COMMUNITY PARTNER QUOTE

"I firmly believe the UCD Module, Consulting with NGOs, is a mutually beneficial endeavour as it enriches students' lives while positively impacting society. The module allows students to bridge theory and practice and enables them to foster meaningful partnerships with organisations like Ronald McDonald House Charities, Ireland. This excellent collaboration certainly enhances students' understanding of real-world challenges.

By volunteering in the not-for-profit sector students develop essential skills that can be beneficial for future career prospects. They also get the opportunity to play a crucial role in their local community as, with us, they significantly contribute to the well-being of the families we care for everyday at The Ronald McDonald House."

- MARIAN CARROLL, CHAIRPERSON, RMHC IRELAND

STUDENT QUOTE



"I think this course adds diversity to the curriculum as you learn a set of skills that you wouldn't get in a traditional college module. The experience is also meaningful because it's a group project and it's not just your responsibility. There are a lot of different stakeholders in the work you complete and that adds a layer of pressure, but it also layers of meaning. Overall, I'm better off taking this module and would recommend it to any student. It's tough, it's not a module you can cruise by and get a good grade in. However, it's a better reflection of the real world than any module that I've taken before."

Tips for other lecturers interested in introducing CEL into their teaching



- Know your target audience - Which organisations? Which students?
- Work your network to 'meet' companies and consider connecting with umbrella organisations, e.g. The Charities Institute of Ireland, NOVA UCD, SFA
- Think about assessment options: my module has continuous assessment throughout the semester (graded), and it is a UCD Horizons programme so it has a diverse collection of students
- Aim to keep class size between 20 and 50 students



CONTACT DETAILS



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