



## Student Transitions

**Title:** All Campus Sustainability Programme

**Transition(s) the practice supports:** The programme assists in the transition of students of all learning disciplines to employment, both paid and voluntary.

**Abstract:** The All Campus Sustainability Programme is an extra-curricular, projects-based programme open to students of all disciplines and at all levels of study at SRUC's six campuses. The premise is simple: work with others or on your own to develop a project that improves sustainability in the campus buildings or grounds. Students are free to determine their own topic, and the path the project will take, whilst receiving support from the Environment Officer. Funding is available for projects that complete a successful funding application process, with practical assistance offered to put the projects into practice. The programme won the Highly Commended award in the Sustainability category of the College Development Network Awards in 2015.

**Description:** The All Campus Sustainability Programme was developed to allow students to learn about environmental sustainability whilst improving their campuses. Students were challenged to observe their surroundings and come up with ideas for small, practical alterations that could either limit negative environmental impacts, or create positive ones. Starting in academic year 2013-2014, the programme saw 36 projects submitted in the first two years, involving over 160 students. The programme is now in its third year, currently with 16 projects underway in academic year 2015-2016.

The programme aims to prepare students for their role as leaders of tomorrow by providing an opportunity for them to hone their project development and management skills. Where projects require funding, the student is tasked with filling in a real world example of a funding application, preparing them for the structure and questions which accompany these processes. The combination of skills students need to develop to complete a project are key to success in the paid and voluntary sectors. The experience also allows students to refer to a practical example when applying for paid work or other projects of interest both during and after completion of their studies.

The project is deliberately as simple as possible, being respectful to the complicated lives that students lead. Paper work is realistic although kept to a minimum, with students guided to miss out the optional sections where it makes sense to do so. Students requiring more guidance are offered a worksheet pack that assists them in developing their ideas and making observations. Students are also encouraged to contact the Environment Officer for direct feedback. Students with learning difficulties associated with reading and writing are invited to submit their applications verbally, or with assistance from another student or member of staff.

Applications come from individual students, groups that have formed for this purpose, established clubs and societies, and students working together on topics in tandem with taught courses.

Within this very successful sustainability programme, the projects have covered areas such as waste reduction and reuse, promotion of biodiversity, conservation, awareness campaigns, green technology, natural habitat management, sustainable travel and ethical procurement of food.

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**All examples provided will be posted to the Enhancement Themes website with the intention of including them in the National Transitions map.**