



Realising the South East Technological University: Transformation and Impact

The HEA Technological University Transformation Fund (TUTF) has supported the development and progression of SETU through TU application, designation, integration and strategic planning phases in line with the Technological Universities Act 2018. The third annual report on TUTF progress was submitted to HEA in September 2023 and this fund will wrap up next year.

To support the next phase of our development, two major funding applications were prepared and submitted by SETU this semester. The first was a Research and Innovation Supporting Enterprise (RISE) proposal seeking support for the building of research and innovation capacity and capability in strategically important research areas via a range of mechanisms including sabbaticals, postdoctoral fellowships and PhD fellowships and novel training offerings. If successful, TU-RISE will also see the research and innovation support team grow and will enhance SETU's collaboration with, and services to, regional and rural industry.

The second proposal was the Technological Sector Advancement Fund (TSAF) which is a €50 million fund providing targeted support for activities that are central to SETU delivering on its mission and strategy. The SETU application was linked closely to our 'Connecting for Impact' strategic plan and focuses on organisational design and change management, the SETU student experience, sustainability, our academic portfolio, capacity building and collaboration across all campuses, supporting our people, completing the digital transformation journey and strengthening regional and international engagement.

SETU Change Network

President Veronica Campbell addressed the SETU Change Network at a hybrid event in September with colleagues from across all our campuses joining the meeting either in person or online. This was a special event marking the beginning of the new academic year, at which Professor Campbell discussed plans for the new organisational design and introduced the recently appointed SETU Senior Change Management Professional, Lynne Whelan.





PMO UPDATES

October 2023

PMO supported cross-campus collaboration

PMO supported cross-campus engagement events continue to take place supporting communities of practice getting together to progress new ideas and initiatives in SETU and some recent examples include:

- Library staff in-person cross-campus sessions held in Carlow and Waterford in August and September.
- Apprenticeship staff from Carlow visited Waterford to meet equivalent staff and took a tour of the Applied Technology and Cork Road campuses. There was great discussion on apprenticeships, the integration of academic, technical and administrative expertise as the team viewed the facilities for Motor, Electrical, Bricklaying, Plumbing and Electronic Security Systems

If you are interested in seeking support for an SETU collaboration initiative, please email pmo@setu.ie.

Programmes updates

- Preparation for the upcoming SETU Academic Council elections is currently underway.
- A single-point university CAO allocations process for the 2023 entry is being implemented, along with a singular unitary approach to manage CAO deferrals, available places, and first-year transfer schemes.
- The international student recruitment cycle for 2024/2025 has commenced with the launch of SETU Global, the integrated international office. This milestone introduces innovative processes, policies, new marketing content, and offerings tailored to enhance the experience for international students, partners, and recruitment agents.
- All SETU sports, clubs, and societies registration, administration, and communications are now centralised via [SETU Sports Clubs and Societies](#) portal.
- Sustained efforts are in progress to meet the branding needs of various functions and departments.
- The content creation process for the new SETU website is actively advancing.
- Media relations strategy has been formulated and is currently undergoing review.





CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Change Management Workshops Commence

A series of change management workshops are currently in progress across various departments, with the active involvement of SETU Senior Change Management Professional, Lynne Whelan. One such instance involves the collaborative efforts of the research and innovation centres, ArcLabs and ERIC, who are jointly devising a unified strategy and operational framework for SETU's Innovation Centre. Both integration leads and managers from these centres took part in a sequence of workshops, skillfully guided by Lynne Whelan, where they navigated a four-stage design process.

This process involved mapping their existing ecosystem and cultivating a shared and harmonised vision in alignment with SETU's strategic objectives. Through these workshops, participants successfully identified opportunities, deliberated over barriers and challenges, and generated and assessed novel concepts to steer them toward their envisioned model. Notably, the development of a unified brand forms an integral component of this emerging strategy, with the invaluable support of SETU Brand Manager, John Power.

Gemma Purcell, ERIC Manager, shared her insights on the change management workshop process, stating, "I have found the change management workshop process to be very effective in helping to define a cohesive strategy and vision for the SETU innovation centre." Aisling O'Neill, ArcLabs Centre Manager, also expressed her satisfaction, saying, "I've really enjoyed going through the SETU toolkit process with SETU's Senior Change Management Professional for the integration of the SETU Innovation centres. It's been such a dynamic, practical process that has drawn out a powerful, ambitious strategy for supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in the South East region, fully aligned with the strategic objectives of SETU and designing a brand with SETU's Brand Manager that really encompasses that."

Furthermore, Jennifer Morrissey, Research and Innovation Integration Lead, shared her thoughts on the merger of the research and innovation centres and the introduction of a new brand name. She remarked, "The integration of ArcLabs and EIRC has been in progress this year, one critical part of the process is the combined strategy and re-brand of the two centres into one SETU brand. As a part of the change network when Lynne started as the Senior Change Management Professional, I really saw a great opportunity to use Lynne's skills and the SETU Toolkit to bring impactful change and create a roadmap for the two centres."





CROSS-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENTS

Library staff engagement days

SETU library staff participated in cross-campus engagement days recently. The visits marked the first time that many of the library staff had the opportunity to meet in person. Carlow and Wexford staff visited the Waterford on 29 August and Waterford staff visited Carlow on 6 September.



Both days included tours of the respective libraries and campuses and there was also plenty of time for library staff to take part in informal discussions and get to know their colleagues better. Having received very positive feedback from the initiative, a further engagement day is planned for early 2024 with a visit to Wexford.



Cross-campus collaboration top of the agenda at first SETU Choir Group gathering

In September, the SETU Staff Choir held their first gathering of the semester, welcoming staff from all campuses across various backgrounds.

For their initial meeting, staff members traded lunch for a singing session to practice 'Hallelujah' by Leonard Cohen. The choir plans to meet every other week, Tuesdays in Waterford and Wednesdays in Carlow, leading up to a joint rehearsal in November. They have charity concerts scheduled for spring 2024 in Waterford and Carlow, making it an ideal time to participate. This initiative promotes collaboration and cooperation across campuses.

Interested in singing with them? Contact Sinéad Crowley (Sinead.Crowley@setu.ie) in Waterford and Gina Hanley (Regina.Hanley@setu.ie) and Maria O Toole (Maria.OTOole@setu.ie) in Carlow.

Do you require support in establishing cross-campus initiatives? Please contact the SETU Programme Management Office at pmo@setu.ie





SETU NEWS

October 2023

SETU Research Excellence Awards celebrates outstanding contributions of academic and research staff

The SETU Research Excellence Awards were held on 29 September at the Cork Road campus in Waterford. This annual event recognised the exceptional contributions of SETU academic and research staff to high-quality, innovative research.

There were 26 nominees from various disciplines, and the winners were as follows:

1. Early Career Researcher: Dr Zeta Dooly, School of Education and Lifelong Learning.
2. Established Researcher: Dr Laurence Fitzhenry, Researcher in Pharmaceutical Science, Department of Science.
3. Research Impact Award (Industry and Commercialisation): Dr Niall O' Reilly, PMBRC.
4. Research Impact Award (Policy and Practice): Dr Imelda Casey, Department of Land Sciences.
5. SETU Research Supervisor: Dr Larry Stapleton, senior academic and international consultant.
6. President's Award for Advancement of Research and Supervision: Dr Thomae Kakouli-Duarte.

Prof Veronica Campbell congratulated all the recipients of the Research Excellence Awards and highlighted the significance of their contributions to SETU's reputation and success. Amy Brennan, Sanofi Site lead, praised the high calibre of researchers at SETU, emphasising their impact on the region, industry, and the economy.

Dr Geraldine Canny and Dr Thomas O'Toole expressed their congratulations to all nominees and winners, looking forward to another year of research excellence.

The event left the university community inspired and eager to continue contributing to the world of knowledge.



SETU NEWS

October 2023

SETU Global in India

In October a cross-campus team representing SETU Global attended a series of Enterprise Ireland supported events in India. The 'Education in Ireland Roadshow' involved all major Irish HEI providers meeting thousands of potential students from India during sessions in New Delhi, Pune, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Kochi. There was huge interest in SETU undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and we look forward to welcoming many more Indian students to our campuses in 2024.



SETU to become first TU to bestow honorary doctorate awards

SETU will grant its first honorary doctorate awards to five exceptional individuals. These honourees were selected through a rigorous nomination process by staff and students, followed by final approval from the SETU Governing Body.

The honorary doctorate recognises outstanding achievements in various fields, including arts, sciences, culture, advocacy, social activities, sports, business, and more.

The recipients of the SETU Honorary Doctorates are:

1. Renowned actress Carrie Crowley.
2. Pioneering biomedical engineer Anraoi de Paor.
3. Internationally acclaimed writer Claire Keegan.
4. Irish academic and former politician Maurice Manning.
5. Career diplomat and former Irish ambassador to the USA, Daniel Mulhall.

SETU Chancellor and Chairperson of the SETU Governing Body, Prof Patrick Prendergast said, "As the only university in the south east, it is SETU's wish to acclaim excellence and to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding achievement. "

The honorary degrees will be conferred during upcoming awards ceremonies. SETU President, Prof Veronica Campbell, views this accolade as the most prestigious honour a university can bestow, reflecting the institution's commitment to education, creativity, and regional development.

