



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

Good Practice Symposium 2026

UNIC Partner Call Document



Introduction

The Good Practice Symposium 2026 is a biennial event hosted by University College Cork that showcases initiatives, projects, and approaches which make a meaningful difference across higher education institutions and their wider communities.

The Symposium provides a structured platform to share, recognise, and learn from examples of Good Practice - not as universally transferable “best practice”, but as context-rich experiences that can inspire reflection, adaptation, and collaboration across institutions.

Symposium Theme: Belonging

The 2026 Symposium is thematically focused on Belonging - how institutions cultivate inclusive environments where people feel welcomed, valued, respected, and able to fully participate and thrive.

This theme aligns closely with the shared values of the UNIC European University alliance and its commitment to inclusive, people-centred, and socially engaged universities.

UNIC Partner organisations are warmly invited to submit a Case Study of Good Practice.

Your submission will be showcased alongside Good Practice examples from across UCC, enabling cross-institutional learning and dialogue.

All submissions are compiled into a digital Good Practice resource, providing access to initiatives from UCC staff, students and partner organisations.

We hope you consider submitting a Case Study and look forward to sharing good practice across our UNIC peers.



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

Good Practice Symposium 2026

Call Document

Contents

Foreword	3
Beginnings	4
What is “Good Practice”?	5
Symposium Theme of Belonging	6
Making a Submission	7
Selection and Presentation	8
Contact	9



Foreword

Every day across UCC, individuals and teams are developing ideas, processes, and initiatives that make a meaningful difference. The Good Practice Symposium provides an opportunity to recognise this work, share insights and support a culture of enhancement across the institution.

Good Practice helps us understand not only what we do well, but how we achieve it. By capturing these examples through Case Studies, we build a shared knowledge base that strengthens quality, effectiveness and collaboration across UCC.

This next Symposium will be thematic, focussing on an important strategic enabler that underpins UCC's 2023-28 Strategic Plan, EDI Framework and Graduate Attributes: **Belonging.**

A sense of belonging ensures everyone across UCC's diverse community, "...can achieve their potential & succeed." It is at the heart of who we are and what we do.

The Symposium will provide a platform for colleagues to share ideas, innovations and outcomes that nurture and drive our sense of belonging at UCC, now and into the future.

We encourage all staff and students to consider submitting a Case Study that aligns with the event theme, and look forward to welcoming everyone at the Symposium on **19th May 2026 in the Dora Allman Room.**

Ms Elizabeth Noonan
Director, Quality Enhancement Unit

Beginnings

As part of the UCC Periodic Quality Review process, units engaging in review submit Case Studies of Good Practice which are published [online](#). These represent a sample of the many instances of Good Practice that exist across UCC.

UCC held its inaugural Good Practice Symposium in 2022 as part of wider preparation for Institutional Review. The event showcased Case Studies through [posters and presentations](#) and received highly positive engagement.

Building on this success, the Symposium now takes place biennially

Symposium of Good Practice 2026

The 2026 Symposium will be held on the 19th May in the Dora Allman Room.

In addition to the live event, all submitted Case Studies will be compiled into a digital resource, a lasting reference point that showcases the breadth of Good Practice across the University.



Case Study of Good Practice Symposium 2024



Good Practice Symposium 2024

What is “Good Practice”?

The term “good practice” is intentionally chosen over “best practice.” It acknowledges that higher education is a diverse community with different disciplinary norms, organisational contexts, and areas of expertise. What works exceptionally well in one setting may not transfer universally but it can still offer valuable inspiration and learning.

Good Practice can be understood through several perspectives:

- EU Website on Integrations: Approaches that have demonstrated effectiveness, sustainability, or transferability in achieving desired outcomes.
- **InterReg Europe**: Initiatives that have delivered measurable and positive results and hold potential value for other contexts.

Ultimately, Good Practice is defined by each area based on the measures and examples that matter most within their discipline or service.

Why it Matters

Identifying and sharing Good Practice is a cornerstone of UCC’s enhancement culture. It enables us to:

- celebrate the strengths and achievements of our community
- enhance awareness of effective approaches
- support continuous quality enhancement
- encourage collaboration and learning across units and disciplines



Belonging

The 2026 Symposium of Good Practice, with its thematic focus of *belonging*, aims to showcase case studies which are or intend to cultivate belonging in UCC.

At UCC, belonging can refer to the shared experience of feeling welcomed, valued, respected and the ability to fully participate in university life.

This sense of belonging, extends beyond staff and students to encompass a wider community of stakeholders, including alumni, local and regional partners, community organisations, industry, policymakers and international collaborators.

Grounded in UCC's strategic commitment to a people-centred, inclusive and engaged university, belonging is fostered through:

- Graduate Attributes Programme, which emphasises community, respect, global citizenship and ethical engagement,
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework, which actively works to remove structural barriers and address inequities,
- Global Engagement Strategy, which positions internationalisation as reciprocal, inclusive and values-led with an emphasis on meaningful partnership and ethical global citizenship,
- The efforts of all staff and students who enable belonging through what they do across teaching & learning, research and professional support services - either directly or indirectly.

Together, these approaches recognise that belonging is both cultural and systemic: it is created through inclusive learning, working and social environments where diversity is affirmed, voices are heard, and everyone can thrive and contribute authentically.



Making a Submission

How

If you have an example of Good Practice that may benefit others, we encourage you to submit using the submission link below where you will find a copy of the poster template to be used:

[Submission Link](#)

Who

The Good Practice Symposium is open to **all staff and students** across UCC, and our UNIC Partners.

The target audience of the Good Practice Symposium directly aligns with UCC's and UNICs commitment to inclusive, people-centred and socially engaged universities

This includes areas and activities that do not directly fall under these domains, but which enable belonging as a result of what they do and who they support across the UCC and higher education community.

Scope

Submissions should align with the theme of Belonging and may relate to teaching, learning, research, professional services, training, systems, processes, or any initiative that embeds belonging in, with or through higher education.

Submissions must also identify one or more of UNIC's Thematic Lines their case study aligns to in the submission form.

Selection and Presentation

All submissions must be submitted by the **19th April 2026**.

Submissions can choose if they wish to be considered for a Poster or Talk in the submission form.

Up to **3 posters** and **1-2 short presentations** will be showcased from UNIC Partners. They will be among a total of 50 posters and 4-5 presentations. If submissions exceed available slots, a review committee will select entries.

During the event, a judging panel will be in place to select the winning poster and presentation.

Format and Preparation

Posters for selected Case Studies will be printed by the Quality Enhancement Unit (QEU) and set-up on the morning of the event.

Poster presenters will receive an Abstract Book and their poster number in advance.

Those submitting slide presentations will be contacted with full event details and preparation instructions once selected.



Good Practice Symposium 2024



Contact & Further Information

If you have any queries, please email stephen.hammel@ucc.ie.

Further information on speakers and posters will be made available closer to the event on the [QEU website](#). Here you will also find further information on the previous symposiums and published case studies.



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland