



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Advancing our region *together.*

University
of Galway.ie



University of Galway is at the heart of a distinctive and vibrant region.

Through our involvement in the West Regional Enterprise Plan – leading two actions and partnering on 17 others – we are committed to advancing regional development, enterprise and entrepreneurship across the West of Ireland.

We play a unique role in and for our region because of the scale of our research investment and activity, the number of spin-outs and industry collaborations, and our distinguished legacy of developing generations of skilled graduates in the West.



Strategic Objective 1:
Advance the development of the regional entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem

Atlantic Futures

University of Galway and Ulster University are leading a flagship €4 million project to foster sustainable innovation under the Government's North-South Research Programme and part of the Government's Shared Island Initiative. The Atlantic Innovation Corridor is a cross-border collaboration focusing on themes such as rural entrepreneurial ecosystems, business scaling, digitalisation and regional connectivity. It will deliver a range of benefits for our region, including a mentoring scheme for female entrepreneurs, business masterclasses for growth, digital skills development programmes, and research into improving north-south freight connectivity. Atlantic Technological University and University of Limerick are collaborating on the programme to maximise the impact.



Designing Futures

Funded through the Government's Human Capital Initiative, the University's 'Designing Futures' programme is investing €7.57m in future-proofing skills development and entrepreneurship in higher education. It is enhancing the employability of our graduates through promoting greater engagement with civic society, community and enterprise during their studies, while augmenting their overall education and preparedness for life in the challenging, post-pandemic, future.

A key aspect of the programme is working with major enterprises across the West, including Aerogen, Boston Scientific, Medtronic and SAP – as well as civic and cultural organisations, like the Galway International Arts Festival.

Centre for Entrepreneurial Growth & Scaling

Based in our College of Business, Public Policy and Law, the Centre for Entrepreneurial Growth & Scaling tackles the challenge of supporting the growth and scaling of indigenous and foreign-owned businesses. Our staff support business scaling by identifying the key challenges in attaining successful scaling and providing novel insights in how these can be managed. J.E Cairnes School of Business & Economics has a unique capacity, being the largest school in the region. Our colleagues engage in scaling research and translating these insights into practice through outreach programmes and masterclasses with businesses in the West of Ireland.

The Centre received seed-funding from University of Galway's Strategic Fund, the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics, and the Western Development Commission.

Our Regional Reach



-  Regional Campuses
-  Research Sites
-  Medical Academies
-  Gaeltacht Centres

Strategic Objective 2:
Strengthen and harness the cultural and creative sector to attract new investment, commercialisation, and collaboration opportunities

Centre for Creative Technologies

Our College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies is investing €1 million from the University's Strategic Fund to establish a new Centre for Creative Technologies.

Drawing on the College's existing strengths in the creative arts, the new Centre will engage in research that will critically reflect upon the intersections between creative practice and technologies, including in such areas as augmented creativity, immersive technologies and artificial intelligence.

A new graduate programme will be developed in Creative Technologies, and the Centre will also seek to interact with existing and new university partners, creative partners and industry.

It will enhance the unique contribution the College can make towards building Galway's reputation as an internationally recognised centre for excellence in culture and creativity.

AIM Day initiative

AIM Day stands for Academic Industry Meeting Day and is a model developed by Uppsala University in Sweden to encourage academics and organisations to make contacts and exchange knowledge for mutual benefit.

University of Galway's Innovation Office adapted the model and launched our series of AIM Days in November 2022 with a focus on the creative sector in the western region.

The format is simple: bring leaders from the sector (in this case Druid Theatre, Music for Galway, Irish language media and the local gaming and film industries) together with academics

from across the University to explore how our research can help solve current business challenges.

Through ongoing engagement with the sector, we aim to support creative industry partners to innovate, plan and grow for the future. Future AIM Days will focus

on supporting and partnering with other key sectors in the region, including medtech, marine and data.



Strategic Objective 3:
Realise the Atlantic West Region's potential for enterprise and job creation in the Renewable Energy sector

Global Challenges Fund: Investing in Marine Energy and Coastal Communities

As part of our Research and Innovation Strategy, the University is investing €5 million in a new Global Challenges fund that will support research that has genuine transformative potential in six targeted areas where we can make a real difference: antimicrobial resistance, decarbonisation, democracy, food security, human-centred data, and ocean and coastal health. The first award of €600,000 was made to the TIDAL-GES marine energy project, led by Professor Jamie Goggins. It is focuses on solutions to secure transition to affordable and clean energy that also enhances the health and resilience of communities, wildlife and environment.

GEOFIT: Investing in safe geothermal energy on campus

University of Galway has embarked on a geothermal heat pump project on campus to heat the swimming pool in the Sports Centre. The University campus is already part of Galway's decarbonisation zone, which is aggressively targeting a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and to decarbonise the campus by 2050. The ground source heat pump system is being developed and operated as a pilot in the EU's Horizon 2020 project GEOFIT, which is devoted to the adoption of innovative technologies to support and enhance ground source heat pump technologies in Europe. By engaging community partners and other public sector organisations in the project, we aim to lead by example in the transition to a more sustainable future.

**Strategic Objective 4:
Drive the global
competitiveness of the Life-
Sciences sector underpinned
by an expanded regional
footprint and coordination**

**Meeting future needs of
our growing Life Sciences
sector**

University of Galway's Innovation Office in partnership with the Western Development Commission received €100,000 from the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme to advance a Life Sciences Hub for the West of Ireland.

The initiative aims to develop state-of-the-art facilities that support the expansion and growth of life sciences research and enterprise in our region. The scoping project will run throughout 2023 and engage with partners across the research and innovation sector.

**New Research Institutes at
University of Galway**

We are committed to invigorating our research institutes to ensure our continued impact, in particular in the context of key areas of distinctive research strength, local industry hubs and regional needs.

In 2022, we formally committed to the establishment of two new research institutes in:

- Medical Technologies and Advanced Therapeutics Discovery (primarily affiliated with the College of Science and Engineering) that will focus on accelerating understanding of disease and providing disruptive solutions for health.
- A New Clinical Trials Institute the first of its kind in Ireland (primarily affiliated with the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences) that will amplify the real-world impact arising from our research activities
- Both will enhance ongoing research in Cúram, the internationally renowned SFI medical devices research centre based in the University.
- They will attract research talent and funding in the Life Sciences to the region and will further enhance Galway's reputation as a global centre for medtech.





Strategic Objective 5:
Grow the AgTech and Food sector in the West, underpinned by an integrated innovation network, facilitating the transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy

AgInnovation on the curriculum
2022 saw the launch of a partnership between University of Galway and Teagasc to enhance the University's Agricultural Science programme.
Last year, we launched a brand new BSc in Agricultural Science with a strong focus on Sustainable Agriculture, attracting over 500 applicants in the first year.

Building on close research and education links with Teagasc's Mellows Campus, the organisations have partnered together to deliver on the huge demand for Ag Science, whereby Teagasc will deliver a substantial teaching component, bringing their expertise in Animal Science, Farm systems and Farm Management.
It builds on four years' experience in delivering our MSc AgInnovation: Agricultural Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 6:
Expand prospects for sustainable entrepreneurship, employment and upskilling in tourism

Shannon College of Hotel Management: Supporting sustainable and rewarding careers in tourism and hospitality
From our regional campus on the grounds of Shannon Airport, Co. Clare, our colleagues continue to build on 70 years of experience in tourism and hospitality, and in 2022 launched two new MSc programmes in Global Hospitality Management and Intercultural Communication, and in Hospitality, Performance, Revenue and Asset Management.
This adds to other recent innovations in Shannon College, including their new continual professional development programmes and micro-credential modules in hospitality leadership, as well as new research in work practices and experiences in the hospitality sector.



Strategic Objective 7:
Facilitate an equitable digital and green transformation in the West

Promoting a more circular economy in the West

In a new research initiative supported by the University's Strategic Fund, Dr Sinéad Mitchell is exploring the potential to develop a more circular economy in key industries in the West of Ireland. Working in partnership with the Western Development Commission, the project will map current circular economy work in the region, benchmark internationally with advanced regions of a similar size, and identify effective interventions and co-benefits for key industries. Outputs will include toolkits for policy-makers and funders to promote the more sustainable development of our region.

Facts & Figures

People

- Over 19,000 students from 122 countries.
- 2,500 + staff, 20% from overseas.
- 9 Athena SWAN School Awards.
- 96% of graduates in employment or further education.

Impact

- Record €71m annual research spend in 2022.
- 9 new spin-outs since 2020.
- Top 2% of universities in the QS World University Rankings.
- Research collaborations with 4,218 institutions in 136 countries