



STUDENT-STAFF PARTNERSHIP

Student-Staff Partnership uses collaboration between students and staff in the design of teaching & learning. Responsibility for change is shared with students, bringing fresh ideas and deepening engagement. There are many types of student partnerships, but here you will find advice for founding new SSP using a garden as an analogy for the learning environment.

01 Before You Start Designing Your Garden

Before you buy any plants, ask yourself what it is that you want to achieve. Mercer-Mapstone et al. (2019) recommend starting out with three questions to get buy-in and increase chances of success:

02 Take a look at what is already growing there

Are there existing advocates within your field, the university or regionally that you can gain support from and ideas? Is any funding available regionally that you can gain support and ideas from?

03 Attract Wildlife & Pollinators

For amazing things to happen, can you increase opportunities for engagement and dialogue with students? You might like to consider polling technologies in large-cohort lectures to initiate and increase two-way communication. You could work through questions such as the Irish Survey of student Engagement to initiate discussion.

05 Get your hands dirty!

Consider testing your plans on a small scale before going large. Be happy to experiment; not everything will work but even those that fail are a learning opportunity.

06 Enjoy your garden

Make sure to take time to enjoy your garden. Give students (and staff) the recognition they deserve: organise a 'mini-conference' or celebration event where students can feed back their findings to the school or university.

