

N-TUTORR launches Student Digital Backpack (SDB)

Ireland's technological sector, combining five new technological universities and two institutes of technology, have formed a partnership to develop and deliver on the National Technological University Transformation for Recovery and Resilience (N-TUTORR) programme in 2023 and 2024. This national programme, which is EU funded (38 million euro) and overseen by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Ireland, utilises the national scale and scope of the technological university sector to deliver a best-practice suite of initiatives and opportunities for the learner, for staff development and supported by necessary enabling technologies.



Under N-TUTORR's Stream 1 Work Package Academy for education for sustainability, leadership and employability, ATU have led out on the development of the Student Digital Backpack (SDB) for the TU sector. The Student Digital Backpack has been developed to provide students across the Technological University (TU) sector with additional skills to complement their existing programmes of study, embedding the N-TUTORR transforming learning themes (e.g., Digital Transformation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Academic Integrity, Education for Sustainability, Universal Design for Learning, Employability). The SDB is an online platform in the form of a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for students across the TU sector to sign up to complete a variety of short, non-accredited courses.

“ I found the content interesting and thought-provoking. It is an interesting platform for students to learn about valuable information and about the world around them. ”

- ATU N-TUTORR Student Champion

- The platform is a user-friendly, self-directed learning interface.
- It includes a badge award on completion of each short course.
- Courses can be embedded into core modules, complement module content, used to prompt class discussion (e.g., a flipped learning approach), incorporated into assessment, or used as a stand-alone activity.
- Extensive evaluation has taken place to date with 100 champions across the TU sector evaluating 5 short courses and gaining digital badges on the proof-of-concept SDB interface.
- Overall feedback has been positive, and great ideas shared to enhance the user experience of SDB.
- Further short courses will be added by N-TUTORR partners to the platform in 2024.

N-TUTORR Stream 1 Sector Leads:

Dr Carina Ginty (ATU)
Dr Moira Maguire (DKIT)

Learn more about the Student Digital Backpack from local Student Empowerment Co-ordinators:

Jessica Duffy (ATU)
Angela Magennis (DKIT)
Sinead McEntee (IADT)
Aoife Kelliher (MTU)
Caitriona McGrattan (SETU)
Roisin Murray (TUD)
Raquel Cox (TUS)



N-TUTORR Student Champions



N-TUTORR Stream 1 Sector Leads



Student Digital Backpack course designers and contributors to date include:

ATU: David Chernick, Dr John Scahill, Jessica Duffy, Orla Skehill, Dr Sean Daffy, Dr Carina Ginty, Dr Katie O'Dwyer, Dr Mark Kelly, Bridie Killoran, Louise Kearins, Aoife Murray, Sinead Kelly, Deobrah Seddon, Dr Ellen MC Cabe, Lorraine McGinty, Peter Smith, Patrick Calvey, Olya Antropova and Dr Sarah Carroll.

DkIT: Dr Moira Maguire and Dr Ronan Bree.

MTU: Darragh Coakley and Dr Louise Nagle.

Students can access the Student Digital Backpack directly at www.mydigitalbackpack.ie or through your local Student Hub/Portal or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

The N-TUTORR project is funded by the European Union and NextGenerationEU, supported by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and THEA in collaboration with seven Higher Education Institutes across Ireland: Atlantic Technological University (ATU), South East Technological University (SETU), Munster Technological University (MTU), Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin), Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) and Institute of Art, Design + Technology (IADT).

The Student Digital Backpack
can be accessed at:
www.mydigitalbackpack.ie

Learn more about N-TUTORR
Transforming Learning national
TU sector project at:

www.transforminglearning.ie

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The courses provided relevant and thought-provoking material, so I was satisfied with the badges' content. I loved the layout of the courses and the variety of ways they presented information. **It was clear and easy to follow along.**

~ DkIT N-TUTORR Student Champion

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