

Promoting Sustainability through Internationalisation at Home (IaH) in Ireland

What is Internationalisation at Home (IaH)?

The concept of 'Internationalisation at Home (IaH)', which calls for 'the purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments' (Beelen & Jones, 2015), is endorsed by global organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union.

IaH seeks to provide international and intercultural learning to most students at their home institution who cannot take advantage of the mobility opportunities due to socio-economic, physical, or personal circumstances or a lack of interest or awareness about IaH.

How does IaH promote Sustainability?

IaH contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals- SDG 4 on Quality Education, SDG10 on Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17 on Partnership for Goals.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

(a) IaH supports SDG 17 by establishing partnerships with international institutions, governments, and non-governmental organisations.

(b) By working together, IaH can enable sharing of best practices, resources, and expertise to enhance the quality of education and promote sustainable development between the Global North and Global South.

(c) IaH encourages a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

(a) IaH can reduce inequalities by promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion in the higher education culture.

(b) IaH fosters mutual respect, understanding, and appreciation of different cultures, religions, and beliefs.

(c) IaH helps improve the curriculum that infuses SDGs addressing societal challenges.



SDG 4: Quality Education

(a) IaH can enhance the quality of education by providing opportunities for students to gain international experience and exposure without leaving the country.

(b) This can be achieved through initiatives such as international student exchange programs, Collaborative online international learning/ virtual exchange programs, internationalising the curriculum, offering language programs etc.

(c) By doing so, IaH helps students to acquire a global perspective, intercultural competence, and transversal skills, which are essential for their personal and professional development.



Did You Know?

246,299 students are enrolled in full-time third level education in Ireland (HEA, 2022)

Approximately **98%** of these students do not travel abroad as part of their studies

Strong Emphasis on IaH through the curriculum in the 'Irish Educated, Globally Connected, an International Education Strategy for Ireland' (2016-20)

Ireland's Climate Action Plan puts five-year carbon budgets at the core of the transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The ambitious targets set a **50% reduction in CO2 emissions** by 2030 which will impact all areas of society including an important role to be played by Irish Higher Education Institutions

The Solution: Ways to enhance Sustainability through IaH at Irish Higher Education Institutions

Less waste generation through mobility experiences

Reduce greenhouse gases emissions

Carbon-neutral forms of exchange

Integrating sustainability into the curricula

Celebrating international festivals, cultural holidays & traditions

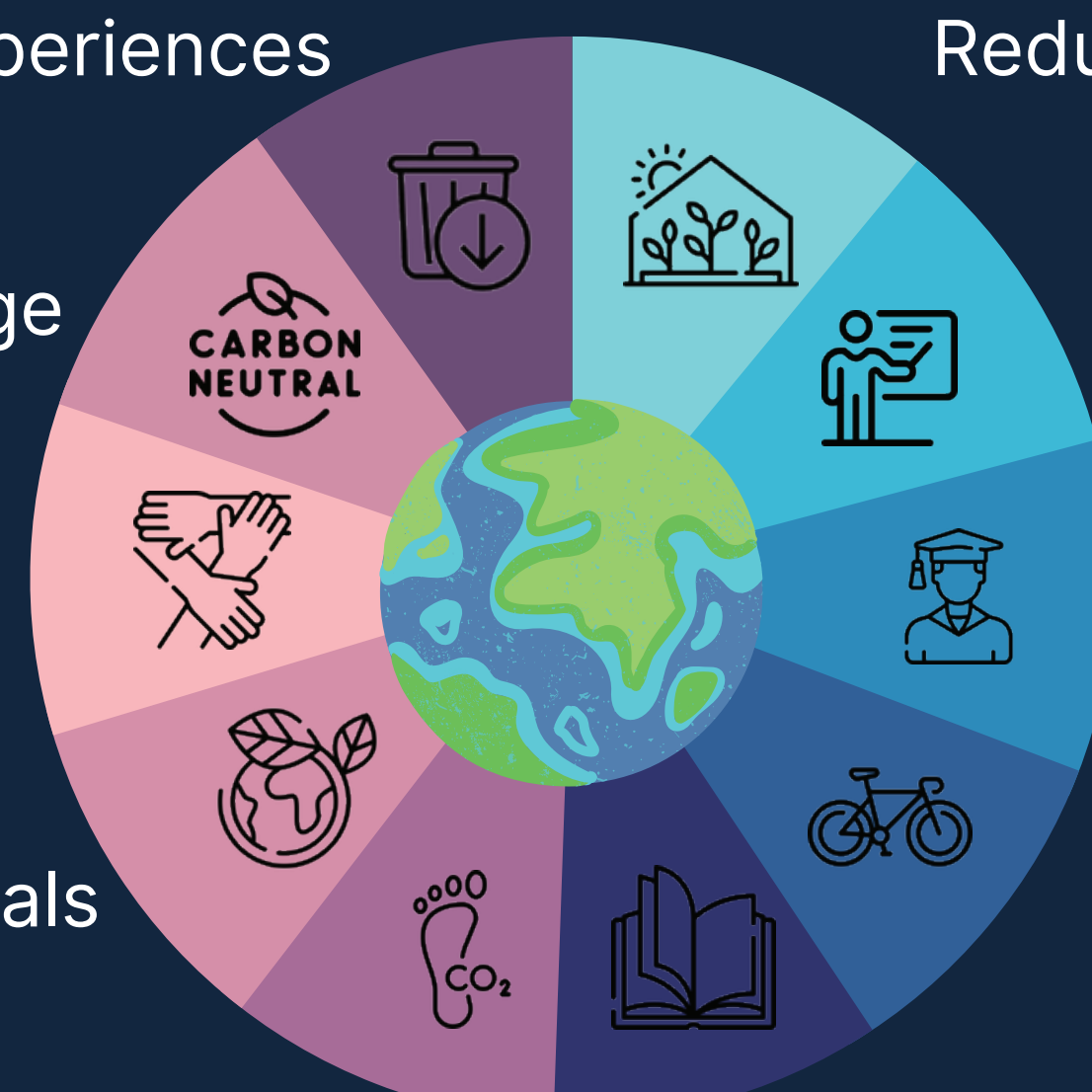
Student sustainability champions

Conferences that use sustainable materials

Renting a bicycle to travel locally

Carbon footprint calculator

Green guides or handbooks



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