Innovative Futures
Engaging learners

Innovative Futures

The topic of this year's symposium, "innovative futures", _engaging learners_, inspired the creation of this video series.

We wanted to capture the student voice on what it means to study in university at a time of great changes:

AI is especially raising new challenges in teaching and learning, making it essential for universities to re-evaluate current teaching methods and assessment styles.

Student selection and question definition

To capture students' perspective on how education is changing, we selected students from different educational backgrounds.

We interviewed **undergraduate and graduate students** from different scientific and humanities backgrounds.

We asked questions that would spark broad reflections on education and **university** experience in today's day and age.

We also asked focused questions on topics such as **assessment and AI** to understand students' perspective on the **role of university education for their future.**

Video
themes:
- Video 1: "intro"
  - Q1: What word comes to mind with the word "education"
  - Q2: how do you see education changing in the near future?
- Video 2: "AI"
  - Q1: do you feel prepared to use AI in your studies?
  - Q2: should students be allowed to use AI?
  - Q3: how could UCD help student use AI?
    should
- Video 3: "assessment"
  - Q1: what style of assessment helps you learn in a way that feels relevant to your future?
  - Q2: if you could change one thing about how classes are delivered, what would it be?

Themes & questions

AI in higher education

While most students have said they feel **prepared to use AI,** most of them have also said that they are **self-taught**, and that they have not received support from UCD in how to use AI.

All students said that they would like to be **supported by the university, with clearly set policies and guidelines.**

Most students said that they believe UCD should **allow** to use AI in their learning. "It's becoming increasingly more prevalent and university should set you up for life after".

"**AI** is becoming increasingly more prevalent, and university should **set you up for life after**"

Assessment styles

Students said they preferred small-class tutorial and lab reports, saying that these allowed them to go beyond the course material and develop a practical understanding of the topics. Students mentioned that very large lectures created **a disconnect** between students and lecturers.

When asked about what they change they would want to see at UCD, they mentioned more small-class teaching, a larger focus on sustainability, and more direction on AI use.

Overall, the largest focus was on the level of **engagement** in lectures, almost all students explicitly preferred **practical lab reports and 'dynamic' lectures**, which combine traditional teaching with other learning activities.

Videos storyboard

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