



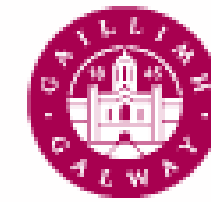
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# University of Galway Employability Award

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# What is the Employability Award?



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**The University of Galway Employability Award is designed to help students:**

-  Understand what Employability means
-  Recognise and develop their employability skills
-  Showcase what they have to offer to employers
-  Be empowered to make successful transitions towards fulfilling careers
-  Prepare for lifelong career management



# Completing the Employability Award





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## The Award Programme in Numbers

📈 From 56 students in its first year (2017-18), to this year's (2024-25 AY) numbers:

- ✅ **1,100 students** participating in activities associated with the Award Programme
- ✅ **700+ students** learning directly from employers through Employer-led Employability Skills Sessions
- ✅ **26,000 hours** of experience recorded by participants
- ✅ **650 students** receiving the Award



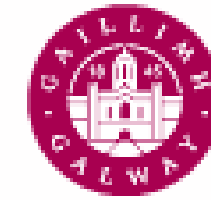


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“The Employability Award  
definitely played a central role in  
helping me secure a job when I  
graduated”

University of Galway Graduate and  
Employability Award Recipient

# Recent Awards We have Won



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**2024 - Winner – Founders  
Award for Innovation**

**University of Galway  
Employability Award**



**Winner - Career Impact Strategy Award**



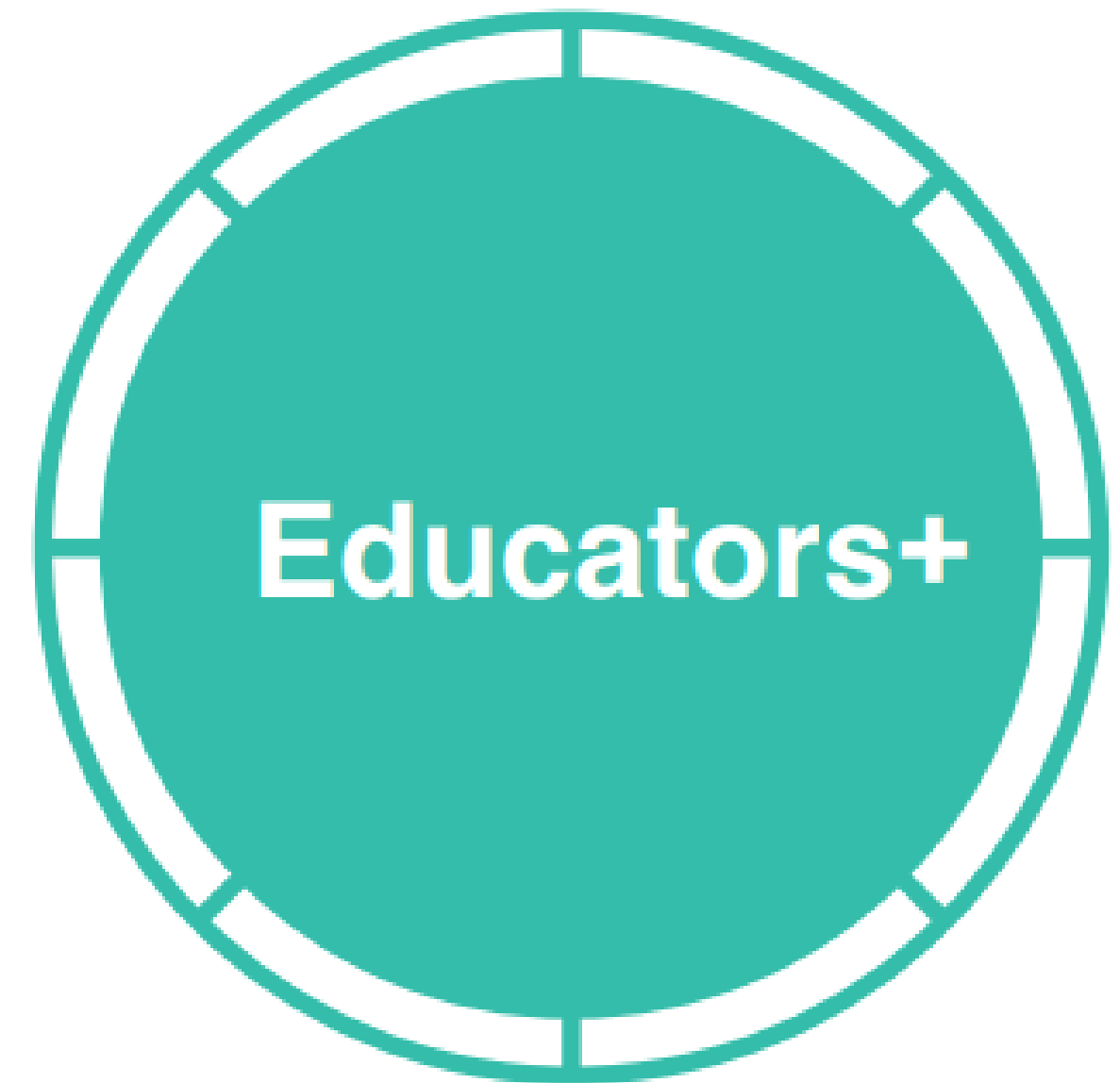
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# Some Framework Synergies

- 2 strategic external employer partners who:
  - Sit on the Steering committee and provide industry perspective
  - Provide support for the Award
  - Ringfence a number of summer internships for Award recipients
- **Liaison with local and regional stakeholders:**
  - Facilitate Employer-led skills sessions to groups of students
  - Provide networking opportunities for employers and students
- **Recognisable indicator of Employability preparation**
  - Students add Award to their CV and employers are starting to recognise it's worth

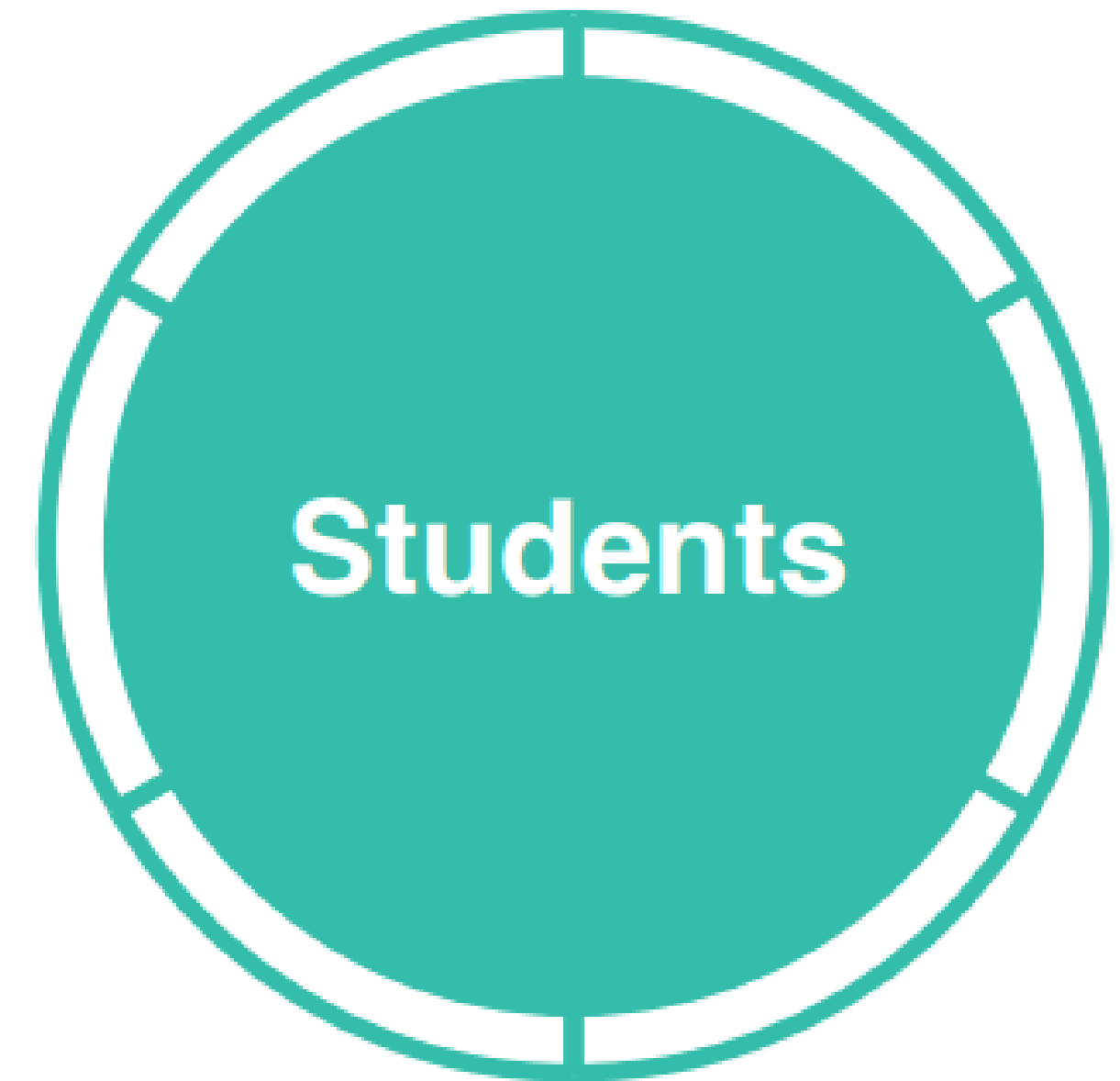


- Partnerships with academics & other university groups
  - Active learning for students through workshops
  - Engagement with co-curricular and extracurricular activities
- Skills identification and development
  - Employability skills workshops
  - Surfacing skills developed in curriculum as well as outside the classroom
  - Career development sessions



- Student-centred programme, where students work at their own pace
  - Situational Learning
  - Skills self-assessment and planning
  - Reflection on learning

Builds students' confidence, self-agency, self-awareness, emotional intelligence among others





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## Challenges

- Academic Collaboration
  - Engage with college leads and have representatives from each college on Steering Committee
  - Partner with interested academics who can act as ambassadors with colleagues
- Building student participation rates
  - “Meet them where they are”
  - Partner with university groups like societies/clubs/volunteer groups

## Other Recommendations

- Start small and build up
- Partner with local and regional employers
- Keep programme flexible and update regularly, keeping up with industry changes and trends



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*Thank You*