**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

# Explaining the shamrock

## Ireland's International Talent and Innovation Strategy

October 2025

# Explaining the Shamrock

Three key groups underpin policy development in tertiary education in Ireland:

(1) Government (*across Departments*)

(2) Higher Education Community (*including private providers as appropriate*)

(3) Civil Society Actors (*employers, agencies, NGOs*)

# Global Citizens 2030 – Ireland's International Education Strategy

## VISION

*Global Citizens 2030 places talent and innovation at the heart of Ireland's global footprint and develops the competencies of Irish-educated learners, researchers and innovators to work as global citizens, in multi-national, multi-cultural and diverse workforces, at home and abroad.*

The Strategy is composed of the following pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Talent and Innovation at the heart of Ireland's global footprint
- **Pillar 2:** A first choice destination for international learners, researchers and innovators
- **Pillar 3:** Global citizens in multi-national, multi-cultural and diverse workforces
- **Pillar 4:** Enhanced European influence in education and research
- **Pillar 5:** A new level of North South and East West collaboration
- **Pillar 6:** Thought leadership in talent, innovation and science policy

# Pillar 1: Talent and Innovation at the heart of Ireland's global footprint

- Embedding Talent and Innovation at the heart of our Global footprint.
- Building on the success of Global Ireland strategy and the expanding Global Ireland network of Ireland Houses, embassies and consulates, to embed a strong global brand for Irish talent and innovation in priority regions.

# Pillar 2: A first choice destination for international learners, researchers and innovators

- Making Ireland a first choice destination for international learners, researchers and innovators.
- Ireland offers a native English-speaking society, with an advanced economy and a high quality multi-cultural, diverse, inclusive and culturally rich learning and research experience.

# Pillar 3: Global citizens in multi-national, multi-cultural and diverse workforces

- Develop the competencies of Irish-educated learners, researchers and innovators to thrive at home and abroad in tackling the grand challenges of our time.

# Pillar 4: Enhanced European influence in education and research

- Ireland’s contribution to EU education, training, skills, research and innovation policy.
- Horizon Europe participation
- Promoting awareness of the opportunities in European Institutions with learners, staff, researchers and innovators in Irish HEIs, supported by College of Europe & European University Institute Scholarships.

# Pillar 5: A new level of North-South and East-West collaboration

- Maximising the impact of the Shared Island Fund and PEACEPLUS to ensure learners, research and innovators gain experience in institutions across Ireland and the UK
- Build sustainable cross-border delivery structures including apprenticeships, common skills forecasting models and joint programmes.
- Foster purposeful collaborations for all-island talent and innovation to underpin a new era of North-South and East-West collaboration

# Pillar 6: Thought leadership in talent, innovation and science policy

- Position Ireland as a leading knowledge economy, with a talent and innovation focus, and as a thought leader on international education, research, innovation and science policy.
- Supported by engagements with priority international organisations and leveraging the international networks of our universities and public sectors.

# Global Citizens 2030 – Ireland's International Education Strategy

Concluding thoughts…..

- Buy-in is enhanced through participative development;
- Number of International students must balance with national trends;
- Manage expectations – cost of living, pressure on accommodation, regionalisation etc;
- Joined up thinking – Government Departments, stakeholders etc;
- Geo-politics etc;
- Global responsibilities