How to Complete Informal Hours Remotely During COVID-19 Campus Closure

During the campus closure, we will be adapting the requirements of the DCU Engage Award to facilitate students in completing their informal engagement hours remotely.

Here are some ways that you will be able to complete your informal hours while off campus:

- **Participate in Online Club & Society Activities** – Many of the DCU Clubs & Societies are getting creative and finding ways to connect their members online. For example, Drama Soc are currently holding a Virtual Open Mike Series (see their Facebook page for more details), Media Production Soc are showcasing student’s remote creative projects on their channels (see @dcumps on Instagram) & societies such as LGBT Soc & Sober Soc are bringing their meetups online. To keep up to date with what’s happening follow the DCU SU Instagram account (dcu_su), the DCU Instagram account (@dublinsityuniversity) & the individual club & society social media channels. Participation in many of these events will count as informal engagement. If you have a query re informal engagement hours please contact engageaward@dcu.ie.

- **Upskill Online** – Under the current circumstances where people have been advised to self-isolate, we are extending the criteria for informal engagement to include online study. Given that we all have more time on our hands at present, we feel that this would be a really positive & productive way for students to use their time while also gaining informal engagement credit. Learning a new skill will enhance your personal development & may provide you with another valuable achievement for your CV, in addition to the DCU Engage Award.

  There are lots of great free online courses to choose from on [Linkedin Learning](https://www.linkedin.com/learning/), [Futurelearn.com](https://www.futurelearn.com/) & [Edex.org](https://www.edx.org/) among others. If you need to make up your informal hours & you find a course online that’s of interest to you, then just email the course link to Siofra on engageaward@dcu.ie to check if this course would be eligible.

  Those who claim engagement credit for online upskilling will need to complete a **reflection form** to verify their engagement. The template for this will be emailed to you on request.

  All participation forms relating to online upskilling should be sent, along with the completed reflection form, to Siofra at engageaward@dcu.ie to be digitally signed & stamped. Online study participation forms cannot be signed & stamped without an attached reflection.

- **Safe Volunteering** – DCU is urging all students to self-isolate as much as possible right now to keep themselves and other vulnerable community members safe. However, if you are currently participating in safe volunteering (for example working with a charity supporting the elderly by dropping off groceries or connecting with elderly community members online) then we will recognise this as informal engagement, provided that you can get your participation verified. Also if you have IT skills that you feel could be of benefit to University staff right now then please contact us at engageaward@dcu.ie and if your services are required then this will be recognised as informal volunteer engagement for the Engage Award.

  If you have a query about completing your informal engagement hours remotely, or on any other aspect of the Engage Award process, please email Siofra on engageward@dcu.ie.