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The Limerick Framework for Action: Advancing the Global Health Promoting Campuses Agenda: Plain Language Summary

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The Limerick Framework for Action: Plain Language Summary

Advancing the Global Health Promoting Campuses Agenda

An outcome of the **2025 International Health Promoting
Campuses Conference**, hosted by the University of Limerick





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Thinking **Global**. Acting **Local**.

Acknowledgement


This framework was developed by Healthy UL, University of Limerick on behalf of the International Health Promoting Campuses Network (IHPCN), under the guidance of the international working group. It reflects the collective input of global experts, practitioners, higher education institutions, and their employees and students.



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Driving transformative,
measurable changes for **the
planet, places, and people.**

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Introduction to the Plain Language Summary

Why we need this Framework

The Limerick Framework for Action outlines how everyone can work together to put health, well-being and sustainability at the heart of higher education institutions across the world.

This Framework aims to support Health Promoting Campuses (HPCs) to take practical steps to put strategies in place for:

- A healthy planet
- Healthy places
- Healthy people

The Framework was developed with input and research from over 500 contributors. It builds on decades of influential work such as the [Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges](#).

With this 2025 Framework for health promotion in higher education, we look to:

- Support a healthy planet and climate action
- Meet modern health and well-being needs
- Think globally and act locally
- Align with global movements in areas such as accessibility-for-all and anti-discrimination
- Include and empower students, employees, and surrounding communities in decision making and leadership



The structure of this Summary

This document acts as a plain language summary for the full Framework for Action.

We want it to:

- Outline the Framework's vision, purpose, pillars and principles
- Introduce the 10 actions from the main Framework, with practical examples
- Summarise how the Framework was developed

You can read the **full document** when you want more detail.

We hope the Framework inspires, motivates and empowers us all to work together in creating healthy campuses.



What is the Limerick Framework for Action?

The Limerick Framework for Action is an action plan that encourages all higher education institutions to become Health Promoting Campuses (HPCs) to meet the challenges of a changing world. It invites students, employees, everyone who is part of higher education as well as surrounding communities to take part.

This Framework responds to key forces shaping modern life such as:

- Rapid advances in technology
- The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate change
- Global inequality
- Social movements
- The growing influence of private industry on health
- The public's reduced trust in science
- How people and populations are changing

As a central space for learning, higher education institutions have a vital role to help tackle the challenges we face and to create spaces where people can connect and act together.

What are the benefits of the Framework?

By placing health, well-being, and sustainability in all areas of higher education, we can:

- Promote a healthy planet, healthy places, and healthy people
- Help students and employees reach their full potential
- Strengthen local and global communities
- Support the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals

What are the Framework's pillars and principles?



Figure 1.
Limerick Framework for Action: pillars and principles

The Framework is built on the pillars of:

- Healthy Planet** Taking practical action to protect the environment
- Healthy Places** Creating safe and inclusive campuses for everyone
- Healthy People** Ensuring everyone can learn, work, and thrive with systems that promote well-being

For healthy people, we need a healthy planet and well-cared-for places

What do we mean by systems?

In our full technical document, we talk about having a ‘whole-systems approach’.

This can mean combining the big picture policy actions from governments with the approaches taken by local organisations to change people’s behaviors and support healthy lives.

Also, the Framework is based on the three principles of:

Partnership	Working together on local, regional, national and global levels
Participation	Involving everyone especially in decisions that affect them
Progress	Taking action that can be measured and celebrated

To achieve meaningful progress, we must collaborate and include everyone. The Framework aims to put Indigenous knowledge and experience at the centre.

You can use these pillars and principles to guide you to:

- Assess how ready you are to advance the goals of being a Health Promoting Campus
- Build partnerships across departments, surrounding communities, and public and private sectors
- Enable health-promoting environments
- Track progress and celebrate achievements

The pillars and principles ensure the Framework is a flexible guide for change that can transform higher education institutions into healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable communities.



What actions does the Framework want to achieve?

The Framework has 10 key actions that build on the work of the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges.

It offers practical guidance on how we can help to achieve the Okanagan's Charter's two main aims to:

- Embed health into all aspects of campus life
- Lead health promotion action globally and locally






To achieve these aims, we encourage Health Promoting Campuses to commit to these 10 actions. On page 12, you can read the actions along with an example.

The Framework is flexible. It encourages you to decide on the most effective ways to put the actions in place in a way that works for your campus and communities.

You can see more detail about the 10 actions in the full Limerick Framework for Action.

Actions

Themes of actions	Action	Practical example
Ethos 	Advance a shared ethos of stewardship (caring) for planet, places, people.	Make the Framework's three pillars part of learning curriculums.
Action 	Adopt an action-oriented approach to health and well-being.	Embed the pro-active approach in all areas of education and society.
Localise 	Localise the framework with agility and responsiveness.	Encourage national education and health systems to adopt the Framework.
Leadership 	Strive for collaborative leadership and shared responsibility.	Find and develop champions at all levels and areas, from student body to senior management.
Policies 	Integrate health, well-being, and sustainability considerations in all policies.	Create working groups to develop and implement policies.

Themes of actions	Action	Practical example
Culture 	Engage and collaborate with campus communities to foster a culture of health and well-being physically and virtually.	Develop networks and communities of practice with students and employees taking part.
Partnership 	Develop and strengthen partnerships for health, well-being, and sustainability.	Work with partners beyond the campus who can help to advance health, well-being, and sustainability in your campus.
Students 	Mobilise and empower students to be active local and global citizens, future decision-makers, and change-agents.	Develop student councils to promote and advocate for health
Research 	Strengthen and embed research, evidence, and innovation for health promotion.	Carry out community-based research on relevant issues.
Celebrate 	Celebrate progress and recognise contribution.	Share impact stories to show real achievements and progress in terms of health, well-being and sustainability.



How was the Framework developed?

This Framework was developed by:

- International Health Promoting Campuses Network (IHPCN)
- International Working Group
- Healthy UL, University of Limerick (UL), Ireland

It is part of the 2025 International Health Promoting Campuses Conference. Over 500 contributors from around the world provided ideas and suggestions about the Framework. The Framework also builds on decades of work in health promotion, most notably the Okanagan Charter.



It was developed through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and many rounds of drafting and revising.

This Framework builds on the work and recommendations of the:

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

This work was supported by funding from:

- Department of Health, Ireland
- Higher Education Authority (HEA)
- University of Limerick

We thank everyone who played a part in bringing this Framework for Action together.



Timeline leading to this Framework

The road to this Framework has been long with many milestones and contributions from many people.

Key documents

- 1986:** Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion
- 2005:** Edmonton Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Institutions of Higher Education
- 2015:** Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges
- 2021:** Geneva Charter for Well-being

Key events

- 1995:** First Health Promoting Campuses Network established in Lower Saxony in Germany
- 2000s:** Many regional and national networks established across Europe and South America
- 2016:** The International Health Promoting Universities and Colleges Network established. This network has about 40 countries in it today
- 2025:** International Health Promoting Campuses Conference took place producing this Framework for Action



Thanks for reading and join in!

We invite you to be part of the Health Promoting Campuses movement and to read the full Framework for Action.

In it, you can learn how you can take part and advance a **healthy planet, healthy places, and healthy people.**

