Background: This project is one of many within the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (DRHEA) and is funded by the Irish Higher Education Authority (HEA) under the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). It involves eight member institutions collaborating under four strands of activity. Research Enabled Learning (REL) is part of the ‘Teaching for Engagement and Retention’ project within the Enhancement of Learning (EOL) strand.

‘Research Enabled Learning’ is used in this project as an umbrella term for both research based learning and research enabled teaching. It encompass pedagogic research and scholarship, integration of research into teaching and students conducting research and problem based / enquiry based learning.

Current activities are focused on developing opportunities for undergraduate students to develop key skills in research:

- Seminar Series
- Resources: Writing an Abstract, Designing a Poster and Delivering a Presentation
- Undergraduate Research Conference

Seminar Series

A seminar series for undergraduate students was launched in 2010. Seminars were delivered by leading Irish Researchers within the DRHEA. Over 350 undergraduates attended.

Resources

The first elements of a suite of resources to support undergraduates in writing abstracts, giving presentations and preparing posters is available on the project page: http://www.drhea.ie/undergradresearch/resources.php?page=16

Conference

DRHEA successfully hosted an inaugural undergraduate research conference in DCU in October 2010. Students across all disciplines and representing all institutions delivered papers and posters. Keynotes addressed issues of generating ideas and ethics.

National collaborations - Linking with other national initiatives supporting Undergraduate Research such as the Undergraduate Awards of Ireland and Northern Ireland (UAINI) and Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research (SPUR).

Future Developments - Interested in collaborating with international project teams and researchers on undergraduate research to further support undergraduate students and academics and support teams within Higher Education Institutions.