

Youth As Researchers Training Programme:

The Youth as Researchers Training Programme created by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUIG seeks to deliver research skills and workshops to groups of young people nationally and internationally to enable and empower them to conduct their own research on social issues affecting young people. The programme was developed by a team of researchers and youth researchers at UNESCO CFRC, and is an accredited programme by NUIG under the guidance and academic directorship of Prof Pat Dolan.

The Youth As Researchers Programme supports Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - *respect for views of the child*. Ensuring that the voice of young people is present in matters directly affecting them is what the Youth As Researchers Programme is all about.



Unesco CFRC Youth Researchers with Prof Pat Dolan, Dr. Danielle Kennan and Unesco Child and Family Research Centre Patron, Cillian Murphy

Previous Youth As Researchers projects have included:

How Young People are heard and helped – Mayo Tusla Advisory Committee

Angels in Wellies : changing community perceptions of young people by helping out in times of trouble – Carrick – on – Suir Foroige Group

Youth perception on Homelessness – Comhairle na Nog, Leitrim

LGBT Youth and their Mental Health – Tallaght Foroige Group

How Mental Health affects young people – Ballina Foroige Group

The Centre has worked with some of the youth groups trained to produce short video clips of their research findings, to support the dissemination of their research. Please see full list of Youth As Researchers videos [here](#)

Who can Apply?

We accept applications from youth groups and school groups who want to conduct research on social issues that affect youth, picking a topic that is of interest to them. The research should be applicable to young people all across Ireland. We therefore encourage individuals interested in taking part in the Youth as Researchers programme to bring their idea to either a local youth group or school group and to work alongside other young people in undertaking the training and conducting the research project. It is necessary that any group applying should be led by a facilitator, who will either be a youth worker or school teacher. The facilitator will be present on the training day, and will oversee the group's research process thereafter.

What does it involve?

Proposal

Groups should submit a short initial description of the research project. The research should focus on social issues affecting youth. Previous research undertaken by Youth as Researchers groups can be viewed in the series of videos below. Since the Youth as Researchers programme aims to create a knowledge bank of youth research, groups should aim to develop new research projects.

Training

Participants in the programme will take part in a training workshop led by a member of the UNESCO CFRC Youth as Researchers team. This training workshop is based around *The Youth as Researchers Training Manual*, produced by the Centre, which provides a step-by-step guide to carrying out a research project. Participants will receive a copy of both the *Training Manual* and the accompanying *Youth as Researchers Workbook* upon completion of the training workshop. By the end of this workshop the group should have a clear idea of what their research question is and a roadmap to follow.

Ethics Approval

Under the guidance of the UNESCO CFRC Youth as Researchers team groups will apply for ethical approval. This is to ensure that any research is safe and protects participants and that research meets the highest academic standards. Gaining ethical approval means that groups can be confident that they are producing safe, quality research.

The research

The group will decide together on a day each week where they will come together to work on the project – this varies from group to group, and can depend on how long they have to complete the project. The facilitator will be present at each of these meet ups. He or she will oversee the project and ensure that the group are keeping to the guide mapped out during the workshop and consulting the *Training Manual* as needed. Groups will produce a short report on their research findings.

Support

UNESCO CFRC staff will be available to provide advice and support throughout the research project where needed.

Outcome

All participants will receive a certificate of completion from the UNESCO CFRC.

The Centre offers some of the groups the opportunity to produce short video clips of their research findings, to support the dissemination of their research.

Getting Started

1. Send email to the UNESCO CFRC with a short outline of your research idea or the area you would like to research. This email can be from the group itself, a member of the group or the group facilitator. Include the following details: name / affiliation of the group e.g. youth group or school; the number of people in the group and their ages; your location in the country; a contact number and name of the group facilitator.
2. If the research idea is deemed suitable we will go about setting up a date with the facilitator to come and meet the group and conduct the training workshop.
3. The workshop can take place in the evening time after school hours, or on a Saturday. The training usually takes 4/5 hours, depending on size of group.
4. The *Youth As Researcher Training Manual* and *Workbook* will be used throughout the workshop, and each member of the group will be given a copy at the end of the workshop.
5. The group will have the opportunity to ask questions to the Unesco CFRC staff member throughout the workshop, and together they will create a rough guide and timeline that the group will be encouraged to follow as they set about beginning their research project.
6. The group will submit a short description of their research project and an ethics form for approval.
7. You can then start your research! The group will meet at least once a week over the course of a few weeks (up to the group) to complete the research project
8. The group facilitator will oversee these meet ups
9. The UNESCO CFRC can be contacted if any issues arise, or for further advice or guidance if needed.
10. Once the project has been completed it should be sent on to the UNESCO CFRC.

11. Certificates will be issued from the UNESCO CFRC to recognize your work and achievement.
12. At this point the group may be offered the chance to work with a director in producing a short video detailing their research findings.