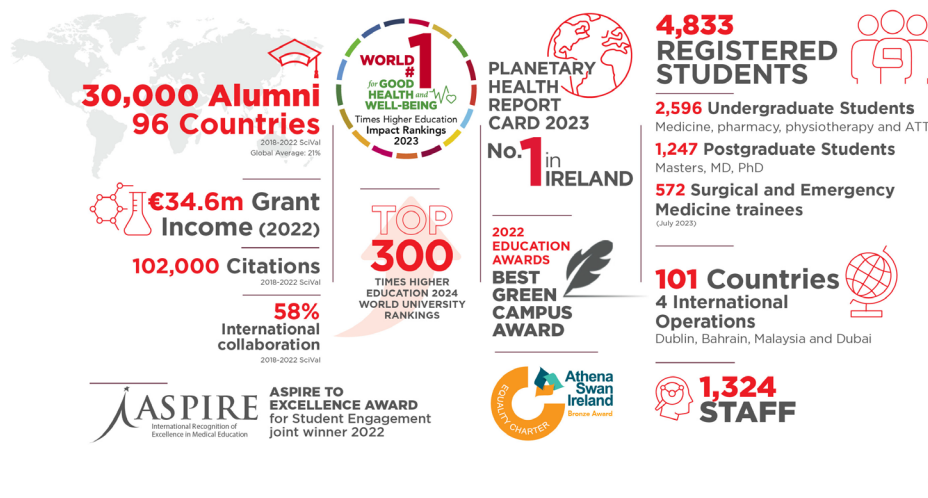


**RCSI SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY**

April 2024

RCSI has been at the forefront of healthcare education since its establishment in 1784. Today, we are an innovative, world-leading, research intensive international health sciences university. Our purpose is to enhance human health. Sustainability is one of four guiding principles in our strategic plan 2023-2027 “[Innovating for a Healthier Future](#)”.

This policy sets out RCSI’s position in relation to its commitment to embed sustainable procurement for all spend with external suppliers, including in compliance with relevant legislative requirements in the area of sustainability, planetary health and climate action. The scope of this policy applies to all activities including education, professional training, research and service.



Source: RCSI in Numbers 2023

RCSI manages 16 buildings with a further 2 currently under construction, covering over 67,000m<sup>2</sup> in Dublin and surrounding counties.

Our portfolio includes a listed Heritage Building, a world class library, numerous food and beverage outlets, student accommodation and a 16-acre sports ground.

Sustainable procurement is defined as “a process by which public authorities or private corporations seek to achieve the appropriate balance between financial, environmental and social considerations when procuring goods, services or works”<sup>1</sup>

**Sustainable Procurement at RCSI**

RCSI recognises and embraces its responsibility to do its part in achieving a more sustainable future for all. This is achieved in part by incorporating sustainability into our procurement practices.

Sustainable procurement is set of processes and behaviours enabling RCSI to meet its needs for goods, services and works in a way that also considers the protection of the environment, social progress, and sustainable economic development.

In order to embed sustainable procurement throughout the organisation RCSI will:

- 1) Seek to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development; economic, social and environmental, when procuring goods, services or works;
- 2) Strive to meet our needs for goods, services, works and utilities by choosing solutions that have a reduced impact on the environment throughout their life-cycle;

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), [Sustainable Procurement Minimal common sustainability criteria for Sustainable Procurement](#)

[processes to select Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprise suppliers](#), accessed 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

- 3) Rethink consumption, identify waste streams and promote improved waste management processes through; reducing the amount we use, reusing what we already have and recycling where possible;
- 4) Facilitate staff training to develop an understanding of sustainable procurement and build a culture and institutional capacity for sustainable practices;
- 5) Appoint Sustainability Procurement Champions across specified categories of spend;
- 6) Review, strengthen and update existing procurement policies, procedures and protocols in consultation with staff and suppliers to embed sustainable procurement across RCSI;
- 7) Review spend category areas to identify and prioritise areas of spend to yield more positive and sustainable outcomes in both the short, medium and long term;
- 8) Engage with internal and external stakeholders to identify key challenges within spend areas to reducing negative impacts and develop appropriate strategies to progress the more sustainable practices;
- 9) Encourage small and medium local business where possible to tender for suitable contracts;
- 10) Engage with suppliers to assess and promote their capacity to respond to sustainability requirements, specifications and criteria;
- 11) Communicate this policy to relevant internal and external parties;
- 12) Keep abreast of developments and best practices in the area of sustainable procurement;
- 13) Monitor the implementation of this policy and associated procedures and protocols to capture organisational learnings and promote continuous improvement.
- 14) Consult with experts, agencies and policy makers to enhance sustainable procurement measures and develop metrics for environmental and sustainable governance (ESG) reporting.