

RaPSS: Research Proposal

Aims and Objectives

Aims of the Research Project

1. To establish evidence of vulnerability factors in cases of student suicide which can be used to develop preventive strategies for students in higher education.
2. To investigate good practices in responding to student suicide which have the potential to reduce the adverse effects on other students, students' families and staff in HEIs.
3. Through dissemination, to provide information on good practice in prevention and response in respect of student suicide which can be used by HEI staff, student unions and relevant health professionals.

Project Objectives

1. The project will identify and interrogate a range of perspectives on student suicide including those of student peers and families, as well as those of HEI academic, administrative and support staff.
2. The project will explore and compare, through the detailed analysis of case studies, the circumstances preceding a student's suicide and the response of the HEI and its staff following the event.
3. The project will assess the impact of student suicide and its aftermath on the individuals concerned in the light of HEI procedures and services.
4. The project will identify and promote models of good practice in the areas of strategies for primary prevention, responsive student support services, communication structures and confidentiality codes in HEIs, communication between HEIs and mental health services and in the institutional response following a student suicide.
5. The project will seek, through its dissemination strategy, to raise awareness of both student suicide and relevant sources of support and advice in the student community, in the broader HEI sector and among health care professionals.