

The logo consists of the text 'EPI-STEM' in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a yellow, trapezoidal shape that resembles a folded ribbon or banner. A green, triangular shape extends downwards from the bottom right corner of the yellow shape.

EPI-STEM

National Centre for STEM Education

A larger version of the EPI-STEM logo, featuring the text 'EPI-STEM' in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a yellow, trapezoidal shape that resembles a folded ribbon or banner. A green, triangular shape extends downwards from the bottom right corner of the yellow shape.

EPI-STEM

**National Centre** for STEM Education

# EPI-STEM Membership Policy

*University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland*

Tel: +353-61-234786 Web: [www.epistem.ie](http://www.epistem.ie)





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## 1.EPISTEM MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

### 1.1 EPI-STEM MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

In addition to core EPI-STEM members, made up of all staff employed or assigned to the centre, registered Masters and PhD students enrolled in EPISTEM etc., the following membership structure has been put in place to ensure that both local, national and international academics have opportunities to work closely with EPI-STEM to advance STEM research.

MEMBERSHIP	INSTITUTION	EXAMPLE
EPI-STEM Adjunct Professors and Professor Emeritus	University of Limerick and associated universities	Members of the EPI*STEM International Advisory Board
EPI-STEM Associates	University of Limerick and associated Higher Education Institutes	Academics involved in STEM education, research and development from the School of Education, the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences and from other faculties at UL and elsewhere
EPI-STEM Visiting Professors, Fellows and Researchers	International colleagues/collaborators (e.g through the Erasmus+ projects etc.)	International academics involved in STEM (and STEAM) education, research and development from faculties external to UL
EPI-STEM Research & Development Officers	University of Limerick and outreach centres and schools	Experienced STEM teachers, and doctoral students working in STEM (STEAM) related research and development projects e.g. HEA project on Science and Math Teacher CPD
Friends of EPI-STEM	University of Limerick, Erasmus Exchange Students, STEM Subject Associations.	STEM student teachers, in undergraduate or postgraduate ITE programmes who volunteer to become part of EPI*STEM activities e.g. classroom pedagogies, teacher CPD etc.
EPI-STEM Out-Of-Field Teachers	University of Limerick, EPI*STEM and the Department of Education and Skills	e.g. Out-of-Field Math Teachers upskilling in the PDMT program

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## 1.2 HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Most memberships will be by invitation, with the exception of the EPI-STEM Associates scheme. For this scheme we are asking interested faculty members at UL and in the School of Education to make contact with us and to submit a brief application. We want to arrive at an ethical agreement upfront with faculty so that we can support a mutual and productive relationship for the development of cutting-edge research and development in EPI-STEM. The application form to support this process is found in Section 2.

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## 2. EPISTEM ASSOCIATES INITIATIVE

### 2.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the EPI-STEM Associates Initiative is to recognise the extensive work being done in the area of STEM research and development across UL and other Higher Education Institutes. It seeks to develop mutually beneficial working relationships with colleagues in the School of Education, the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences, other UL faculties and other Higher Education Institutes to strengthen links with faculty involved in research and development activities in STEM education through EPI-STEM, The National Centre for STEM Education. Under this initiative it is hoped that EPI-STEM would work with colleagues across faculties and HEIs to develop a supportive research community of practice that looks to harness contributions that people are willing and eager to make towards STEM research and development. In future, we envisage that this associates initiative will lead to the submission of large-scale collaborative competitive funding bids and projects with a national and international STEM focus.

### 2.2 ELIGIBILITY

Academics regularly working in STEM education, research, development and outreach activities or academics whose work is predominantly situated outside of the STEM disciplines but who are working on a project(s) that relate in some way to the STEM disciplines will be considered eligible for membership of the EPI-STEM associate initiative. Please note that membership of the EPI-STEM Associates initiative will have no bearing on your contractual obligations.

### 2.3 EPI-STEM ASSOCIATES BENEFITS AND EXPECTATIONS POLICY

#### 2.3.1 Benefits of Membership

The following are some benefits we envisage for those who become an EPI-STEM associate:

1. Use of EPISTEM name and reputation;
2. Opportunities to work with colleagues and to develop a critical mass to support your own research and development;
3. Access, on request, to EPI-STEM space<sup>1</sup> for conferences, CPD events, STEM project events etc.
4. Access, on request, to administration support<sup>1</sup> for research and development projects in STEM;
5. Web presence/profile on the EPI-STEM website;

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to availability

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6. Support, on request, from EPI-STEM academic staff for research and development projects that align with research interests;
7. Social media support to publicise academic/education/development/outreach achievements.

### 2.3.2 Expectations of EPI-STEM Associates

The following is what is expected of EPI-STEM associates:

1. Communicate with Director of EPI-STEM and the core team when a research & development project and/or potential funding streams are identified in order to develop a mutual understanding of the project; the practical needs of the project and to identify the supports that EPI-STEM can offer;
2. Deliver and participate in lunchtime seminars (associates will be asked to deliver a maximum of one lunchtime seminar based on their work in any academic year);
3. Assist in populating the EPI-STEM newsletter, which is released twice a year, by writing very brief articles in relation to any of your recent STEM publications/outreach events/achievements etc.;
4. Acknowledgement of EPI-STEM in conference proceedings and other relevant publications and in relevant public fora;
5. Submit your metrics for any publication/funding in the area of STEM research and development on an annual basis and provide EPI-STEM with permission to use these metrics.

### 2.4 APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to apply to become an EPI-STEM associate please contact us to arrange a meeting at your convenience with the Director through the office of Helen Fitzgerald, Executive Administrator of EPI-STEM [Helen.Fitzgerald@ul.ie](mailto:Helen.Fitzgerald@ul.ie). We will also require you to complete the attached application form in Appendix A.

**Dr Geraldine Mooney Simmie & Dr. Niamh O'Meara**  
**Director and Co-Director, EPI-STEM The National Centre for STEM Education**

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## APPENDIX A: EPI-STEM ASSOCIATES APPLICATION FORM

Name	
Institute	
Department	
Which STEM discipline do you most associate with? (Please select one)	Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Computer Science Other: _____
Social Media Handles [if applicable]	
ORCID ID [if applicable]	

### Declaration of Interest

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [PRINT NAME], would like to become an EPISTEM Associate and in doing so I would be:

- Willing to promote STEM research
- Subscribe to the Ethos of the Centre
- Adhere to the EPISTEM Associates expectations and benefits policy

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By (Office Use Only): \_\_\_\_\_

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