

# 5 step guide to Generation Citizen

**CHANGE** 

Love your community



DON'T TALK ABOUT CHANGE. LEAD IT.

# Introduction



**"Welcome to the ChangeX Generation Citizen guide! We're delighted you're thinking about bringing GC to your college campus. Here you'll find all the information and resources you need. We're excited about GC spreading to Ireland and helping you to empower Irish young people to really engage in the political system. Don't be afraid to get in touch at any stage, we'd love to help".**

**Scott Warren, Co-Founder of Generation Citizen**

## What is Generation Citizen?

Generation Citizen is a secondary school programme that aims to ensure that every student receives an effective action civics education, providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in our democracy as active citizens. To achieve this, Generation Citizen's core programme partners college volunteers, called Democracy Coaches, with secondary school teachers to lead an action civics curriculum in which students identify a pressing local issue (e.g. public transport, mental health, community gang culture) and learn to make their voices heard by developing and executing an action plan to address it. Generation Citizen aims to revitalise our democracy by changing how civics is taught, encouraging a diverse set of young people to make their voices heard, and reframe our society's perception of the political

process – motivating and enabling young people to become life-long engaged citizens, capable of leading change on important issues and ensuring that government is responsive to the needs of all citizens.

## Why it Matters

Citizens are often distrustful of their leadership and civically disengaged. In response to a citizenry that is tuned out, leaders make decisions that fail to respond to a diverse constituency, and a vicious cycle ensues, wherein citizens become even less motivated to get involved. This cycle of civic disengagement can be particularly pronounced among youth. Young people, while idealistic and seeking change in our society, do not see politics as the answer, and turn away from an increasingly dysfunctional government. In turn, our elected officials and institutions are not paying enough attention to young people.

## The Background

While studying at Brown University, Co-founder Scott Warren recognised that Americans (especially youth) lacked the democratic spirit he had witnessed in parts of the developing world. Because citizens aren't making their voices heard, our government only responds to a small subset of the citizenry. He started Generation Citizen (GC) in his senior year to teach young people the skills to participate in our democracy.

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## Generation Citizen in Ireland

Generation Citizen's programme is used by schools and universities around the world but not yet in Ireland.

We want to pilot the programme in Ireland and will support a team of passionate, ambitious college students to set up the first GC college chapter in Ireland. Training, support and advice will be provided by Generation Citizen HQ in the US.

This guide is designed to provide you with a very brief summary of what's involved but if you're interested in getting started or you'd just like to learn more [get in touch](#) and we'll provide you with the full guide and any other information you need.

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# 5 Steps & Checklist



## 5 STEPS

1. Research - Community Scan
2. Meetings with Key Players
3. Recruit Democracy Coaches
4. Secure School Partnership
5. Democracy Coach Training

## WHO

Someone who...

- is passionate about youth voice and democratic participation
- is entrepreneurial and ambitious
- understands the Irish national and local political system
- strong relationship building ability

## RESOURCE CHECKLIST

- A partnership with local school
- A small group of volunteers
- Small amount of seed funding to cover printing etc.

## TIME



As a leader you'll need approximately 1 day a week to launch and run your chapter