



Terms of Reference for Dóchas Representative on the Development Studies Association of Ireland.

The Development Studies Association, Ireland is a membership based and membership driven organisation including individual and institutional members. It is an independent all-Ireland association with membership of the European Association of Development Institutes (EADI) and links with the DSA (UK). It acts as a national platform to harness the knowledge of higher education for Ireland's international development programme in dialogue with the NGO sector.

The **mission** of DSA Ireland is to provide a national platform, which provides an open and participatory space for dialogue between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners, who have an interest in, or are working in the area of international development. DSA Ireland will achieve this by:

- supporting cohesion and capacity-building in the development studies sector
- promoting strategic alliances and partnerships to grow the development studies sector
- harnessing research which supports and promotes coherent evidence-based development policy and practice aimed at the reduction of global poverty, the enhancement of all forms of equality and respect for human rights.

DSA Ireland's main goal is to build research capacity in the development studies constituency in Ireland by creating a vibrant, dynamic community of researchers and practitioners who are committed to change for the most vulnerable in developing countries.

Acknowledging the critical voice of Dóchas in the humanitarian and development sector and the potential to achieve important synergies between the two bodies, DSAI and Dóchas are seeking a representative from Dóchas to join the Steering Committee for a period of 24 months from June 2020 – May 2022.

The Representative will undertake the following:

- Participate in six 2.5 hour meetings of the Steering Committee per year, and collaborate in the oversight and governance of the DSAI and its workplan as approved by Irish Aid
- Report to DSAI on important/strategic Dóchas initiatives to ensure synergies are maximized and to promote coherence between the two bodies in the eyes of key stakeholders

- Contribute to the development of DSAI initiatives such as the Research Summer School and Annual Conference, cognizant of potential synergies / opportunities between Dóchas and DSAI
- Contribute to the strengthening of DSAI's Study Groups with practical support for and in thematic seminars as appropriate and with strategic advice on opportunities to grow the contribution of the Study Groups
- Contribute with advice and guidance to the Coordinator on the development of future proposals to Irish Aid and progress reports.

Dóchas Representation

Dóchas members are encouraged to collaborate with external networks on behalf of the network. Members wishing to represent Dóchas on the DSAI Steering Committee should nominate themselves to the secretariat. Please contact Gillian Ivory at gillian@dochas.ie.

Any member representing Dóchas will be required to report back and to pass on information of activities to Dóchas and its members at regular intervals. Members interacting with external bodies or networks are doing so on behalf of Dóchas and not on behalf of an individual agency.

The mandate of anyone appointed to represent Dóchas will be withdrawn in the event that the person ceases to be employed by a Dóchas member agency, or that his or her agency ceases to be a Dóchas member.