HE Spark*

Design on the Frontline (DOTFL) Scholars – National Showcase 2025

The Design on the Frontline (DOTFL) Student Scholarship is a national initiative by the HSE Spark Innovation Programme that empowers design students to collaborate with frontline healthcare professionals to solve real-world healthcare challenges. Each DOTFL scholar receives a bursary to develop impactful, human-centred solutions.

Top 3 DOTFL Scholars 2025

Isabelle Bentley Curran – Elithiya: A Softer IUD Experience

Isabelle Bentley Curran is reshaping the conversation around women's reproductive health with Elithiya, a project focused on improving the intrauterine device (IUD) experience. While IUDs are widely used for contraception and menstrual health, many users report pain, anxiety, and a lack of support throughout the process. Elithiya introduces a more empathetic, patient-centered approach addressing discomfort, misinformation, and emotional wellbeing. Isabelle's work highlights the power of design to create more inclusive, compassionate healthcare experiences.

Conan Connaughton – AdrenaPod

Conan Connaughton's AdrenaPod reimagines the epinephrine autoinjector for people living with severe allergies. Traditional devices are often bulky, prone to misuse, and environmentally wasteful. AdrenaPod offers a sleek, intuitive, and sustainable alternative—designed to be easier to carry, safer to use, and more cost-effective over time. Inspired by personal experiences and user research, Conan's innovation aims to reduce risk and improve quality of life for allergy sufferers everywhere.

Amber O'Hagan – The Lotus: Home Limb Rehabilitation

Amber O'Hagan's The Lotus brings comfort and independence to individuals recovering from limb loss. Recognizing the physical and emotional challenges of post-amputation rehabilitation, The Lotus is a home-based solution that supports ongoing therapy, reduces pain, and empowers users to regain control of their recovery. By easing pressure on healthcare systems and improving patient outcomes, Amber's design is a meaningful step toward more accessible and human-centered rehabilitation. alternative—designed to be easier to carry, safer to use, and more cost-effective over time. Inspired by personal experiences and user research, Conan's innovation aims to reduce risk and improve quality of life for allergy sufferers everywhere.