

Sheran Bahadir

Manifesto for: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Introduction and Experience:

Hi everyone! I'm Sheran and I'm re-running to be your next Vice President for Academic Affairs! I am currently the Campus Vice President of our Tallaght campus, and I have a wide range of experience in leadership roles as well as relative experience to the role of VP for Academic Affairs.

In my role as a CVP, I got to sit on various university committees such as the Academic Council, as well as getting to represent our union on an international level in France as a part of EU+. Prior to joining the union, I have worked with EU on another project called 'Imagine' under EU Peace. I've also been a part of QQI's external ENQA Review Panel. Amongst these, I've been participating in radical protests such as 'Solidarity with Palestine' and USI's 'Pre-Budget Protest'

My Goals

LOBBYING FOR A BETTER ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

I want to run a University-wide survey to gauge our students' preferences regarding exam/assessment times, particularly focusing on the feasibility and desirability of pre-Christmas exams. This initiative extends to getting student feedback on various facets of the 'Academic Calendar', including the scheduling of review weeks. I plan to actively collaborate with the Academic Council to advocate for concrete changes based on the survey findings (i.e. what students actually want).

This includes championing the introduction of pre-Christmas exams if deemed beneficial for the student community. I also recognize the importance of synchronizing exam result release dates with grant application deadlines; so, I want to push for adjustments to the Academic Calendar to ensure exam results are released well in advance of grant application deadlines, thereby promoting financial stability and reducing undue stress for students.

REMOVAL OF REPEAT FEES:

Considering the current cost-of-living crisis, no student should be paying to sit their repeat exams; especially when a high number of students taking repeats are the ones who are from disadvantaged backgrounds. Therefore, I want to advocate for a fair exam-to-continuous assessment ratio to alleviate the burden of repeat fees on students. Following this, I want to lobby the university to either eliminate or substantially reduce repeat fees to promote accessibility and fairness in education.

CURRICULUM DIVERSITY AND REPRESENTATION:

I want to collaborate with the faculty heads to promote the inclusion of diverse perspectives in course materials and syllabi. This includes advocating for the development of courses that explore topics such as race, gender, sexuality and social justice. This would ensure our education is not only rigorous but relevant to today's climate, and is inclusive, as well as reflecting on how diverse our student body is.

HYBRID LECTURES:

In our current system, education is not fully accessible to everyone as students have been missing lectures due to disabilities or long commuting hours. I want to ensure the university provides hybrid lecture options by working with the heads of faculties and advocating for resources and support systems necessary for the successful execution of hybrid learning models.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:

I want to increase student engagement by holding distress and recharge campaigns and providing opportunities for relaxation in the exam periods, amongst with an 'UpSkill Week' where students will be provided with opportunities for professional development and skill enhancement beyond the traditional curriculum. Similar to the 'Student Media Crew', 'Events Crew' and 'Welfare Crew' I would like to establish an 'Academic Affairs Working Group' where you can feed into our campaigns, and give feedback on major projects we're working on.

Why Me?

Throughout this year I have accomplished great things as a CVP. I am very passionate about making a meaningful difference in your lives by enhancing your academic experience in the upcoming academic year; and I'll do everything I can to make sure I can accomplish all my goals if elected.

**VOTE SHERAN FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ON
MARCH 18TH - MARCH 21ST**