

TU Dublin's Postgraduate Officer Manifesto Template

Salih Cheppali

TU 282, Master In Architecture.

Why I'm Running

Briefly introduce yourself and explain why you want to represent postgraduate students. You may wish to mention your experience as a postgraduate, involvement in student life, or commitment to improving the postgraduate experience.

My name is Salih Cheppali, and I am a second-semester student in the Master in Architecture programme (TU 282) at School of Architecture and Building and Environment, TU Dublin. I come from Calicut, Kerala, India, and before moving here I spent years working as an architect and running my own architecture firm, as well as teaching as an assistant professor in a school of architecture back home. Coming to Dublin as an international postgraduate student has been a rewarding experience, but it has also shown me how easy it is to feel invisible in a new place — even when you have years of experience behind you. I am running for Postgraduate Officer because I want every postgraduate student, especially those from international backgrounds, to feel seen, heard, and supported throughout their time here.

Key Issues Facing Postgraduate Students

Identify the main challenges or priorities for postgraduate students at your institution. Focus on 2 - 4 key themes.

From my own experience and from talking with fellow students, three things stand out:

- **Feeling isolated and disconnected** — Moving to a new country to study is not easy. Many of us, especially international students, struggle to find our footing socially and feel cut off from the wider college community.
- **Mental health and wellbeing** — The pressure of postgraduate study is real and often invisible. Many students are quietly struggling, and support is not always easy to find or feel comfortable using.
- **Financial stress** — Dublin is an expensive city. Balancing tuition, rent, and daily costs is a genuine struggle for most postgraduate students, and it affects everything, including how well we can focus on our studies.

My Priorities & Commitments

Outline what you would work on if elected. Keep these clear, realistic, and measurable.

If elected, I will work on the following:

- **Building a real sense of community** — Advocate for regular social and networking events that are genuinely welcoming to all postgraduate students, so that no one — especially those who have come from abroad — feels like they are on the outside.
- **Making wellbeing support more accessible** — Work with college services to make mental health resources easier to find, less intimidating to approach, and better tailored to the pressures of postgraduate life.
- **Helping students navigate financial support** — Make sure every postgraduate student knows about the grants, funds, and supports available to them, and push for better financial assistance where there are clear gaps.
- **Staying open and reachable** — Hold regular informal catch-ups where students can raise anything on their mind, directly and without any hassle.

How I Will Work as the Postgraduate Officer

Briefly explain how you will approach the role.

My background has taught me the value of listening before acting. As an architect I learned to understand a problem fully before proposing a solution, and as a teacher I learned that the best results come when people feel comfortable enough to speak honestly. I will bring both of those qualities to this role. I will be present, approachable, and straightforward — working closely with college staff and student representatives, but always with your interests at the front of my mind.

Closing statement

End with a short closing statement encouraging students to vote for you.

Postgraduate study is one of the biggest commitments you will make in your life. You deserve a college experience that supports you not just in the lecture room or the studio, but as a person. With my background in architecture, teaching, and running my own practice, I understand what it means to take responsibility and follow through.

If you give me your vote, I will give you my full effort — to listen, to act, and to make your time at TU Dublin genuinely better.

Vote Salih Cheppali for Postgraduate Officer.

