



**TU Dublin Students' Union**  
**Student Council Officer Report 2022/2023**  
*Tuarascáil Oifigeach Comhairle na Mac Léinn Aontas  
na Mac Leinn, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta, Baile Átha  
Cliath 2022/2023*



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<b>Officer Position:</b> <i>Seasamh an Oifighigh</i>	Postgraduate Officer	<b>Period of Work:</b> <i>Treimhse Oibre</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> July-19 <sup>th</sup> October

### Key Points Since Last Meeting

*Príomhphointí ón gcruinniú deireanach*

#### **Training:**

Though I am a part-time officer, I was invited to take part in "Comms Week" in early August where we were trained in social media, disclosure, anti-bias and anti-racism with Black & Irish and general administration. We also planned the events for the year. I was also trained with fellow part-time officers in regards to the SU structure, class reps and other general administration during part-time officer training late August.

#### **Inter-University Events**

Over the summer, I ran inter-university postgraduate meet ups with DCU and RCSI postgraduate students. I partnered up with the DCU postgraduate officer and RCSI Postgraduate Student Union in which I was the unofficial events officer at the time. The 16<sup>th</sup> of July we did a hike in Howth and had a total of 32 people: 16 from TU Dublin, 12 from DCU, 3 from RCSI, and 1 guest. The 30<sup>th</sup> of July we went to the National Gallery of Ireland and had a total of 12 people: 10 from TU Dublin, 1 from DCU and 1 guest. The 20<sup>th</sup> of August we did a hike in Bray and had a total of 20 people: 5 from TU Dublin, 10 from DCU, 1 from RCSI, and 4 guests. These are all free events that come at no cost to the SU.

#### **TUDSU Postgrad Social Events**

I started our TUDSU Postgrad series of social events which I hope to run on a monthly basis. I do these events on the weekend in the city so that Blanchardstown and Tallaght students can come. We had our first one which was a BBQ the 17<sup>th</sup> September. We had a turnout of 34 people: 4 Master's taught students, 3 Master's research students, 26 PhD students and 1 guest. 31 students were from City Campus, 2 from Blanchardstown, and none from Tallaght. I'm currently planning Drink & Draw for our November event and a Christmas Party for our December event. I have planned the events for the following year as well. These are all events that postgrads pay and the SU pays little to no money depending on the turnout.

#### **PhD Student Protest**

The 14<sup>th</sup> of September I attended the PhD protest organised by the PhD's Collective Action Union (PCAU) with the President, Deputy President of City Campus, Deputy President of Tallaght, and VP for Education for City Campus. Other attendees included the Trinity College Dublin Graduate Students' Union (GSU), Students4Change, TCD Postgraduate Workers' Alliance, RCSI Postgraduate Student Union (RCSI PGSU), DCU SU, and USI. There were over 100 people of which over 20 were TU Dublin postgraduates. The protest called for an increase to the stipend which in TU Dublin currently ranges from €10,000 to €18,500 a year. TU Dublin specific stipends are €16,000 a year in which many TU Dublin postgraduates fall under. With the cost of living rising, this is not enough for students to live, and change must be done.

#### **Discussion with TU Dublin in regards to low PhD stipend**

The 19<sup>th</sup> of September during the Graduate Research School Board (GRSB) meeting, we did bring up the low stipend issues faced by students. The GRS has assured me that they are looking into it and are currently assessing the cost implications of various avenues to help students. The VP of Research and Innovation, Dr. Brenden Jennings, reached out to me after the meeting to speak more over the issue. We met and will be meeting every other month to receive



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updates. Since the last meeting, the new budget was announced, and it will further increase SFI and IRC funded stipends which will bring them up to €19,000 a year which now puts it €3,000 more than TU Dublin funded stipends. This is an issue that will be brought up at the next meeting to see what the university can do.

#### **Orientations and Class Reps**

I presented at the MA Programmes in Social Science orientation over what the SU is and provides. I also went around evening classes to recruit class reps.

#### **Grad Connect**

The TU Dublin Counselling Services started Grad Connect, a postgraduate support group. Postgraduate studies are difficult and affect our mental health tremendously. Having a support group that is a safe space to talk about our problems and know that we aren't alone is essential. I've been promoting this service to postgraduate students and will work with TU Dublin Counselling Services to promote other services to postgraduate students.

#### **TUDSU Postgraduate Seminars**

I started TUDSU Postgraduate seminar series called "Showcase Your Work" which will be held on a monthly basis. This is an opportunity for postgrads to come together to socialize and hear about some of the amazing work being done by postgraduates in TU Dublin. The SU is providing pizza and drinks. The first one is scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> of October evening. It will be in the Grangegorman campus, but it is a hybrid event so that others can attend. We have three speakers scheduled. All are 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD students. Two are from City Campus and one from Tallaght Campus. Two are in the STEM field and one is outside the STEM field.



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<b>Meetings Attended (and Number)</b> <i>Tinrimh Choistí agus Cruinnithe (agus Líon)</i>	<b>Priorities for Next Period</b> <i>Tosaíochtaí don chéad tréimhse eile</i>
Comms Week 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> August Part-time Officer training 29 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> August Governing Body – 2 Academic Council – 1 Graduate Research School Board – 1 Meetings with VP of Research and Innovation – 1 MA Programmes in Social Science Orientation – 1 Class Rep meeting – 1	Student Council TUDSU Postgrad Seminar TUDSU Postgrad Social Events Class Rep training Research Programme Committee Meeting Grad Connect
<b>Events/Activities Attended</b> <i>Tinrimh Imeachtaí / Gníomhaíochtaí</i>	<b>Gifts Received</b> <i>Bronntanais a Fuarthas</i>
Inter-university postgrad meet ups – 3 PhD student protest – Dail Eireann Cost of Living protest TUDUS Postgrad Social event – 1 Spill Da Tea Freshers	
<b>Any Other Matters</b> <i>Aon nithe eile</i>	