



**SARAH**  
**4 Postgraduate**  
**Affairs**

Susi

Access and Parents

Rent Relief

Action for PhD's

Halt the Fees



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## 1. SSUSI

Fee coverage only at a **maximum of €6,270**. Many courses with increases have fees higher than this.

Have to be out of college for three years to be **classed as an independent**. Hence your parents income is being counted irrelevant of financial support from parents.

I would aim to work with the VP Welfare on bringing light to this as **postgrad barriers to Gov supports** are often ignored.

## 2. Access and Student Parents

### National level guidance on Access Scholarships

For Research postgraduates **some HEIs have access scholarships** some do not. I would like to gather information on **access opportunities to postgraduate courses** (Masters + PhDs) and push with the VP for Equality & Citizenship for more national level guidance and policies **supporting access students** who want to go beyond undergraduate studies

### National level guidance on Student Parent Supports

Work with the information from the **childcare survey** from this year, and examine its **impact on postgraduate** students making sure they are **not overlooked**, as they are the cohort of students with the most amount of student parents.

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### 3. Rent Relief

New students over 23's, **parents cannot claim rent relief**. This is a clear exclusion for a lot of postgraduate students who cannot afford to earn enough outside of their course to pay for rent and their parents are **not afforded the same level of financial support** than what's offered to undergrads, hence **furthering the financial barriers** to postgrad studies.

### 4. Action for PhD Treatment

Campaigns on PhD stipend issues have been fractured across the country. I would like to work with the VP Campaigns and MO's to **push a collective national effort** in showing our disapproval of treatment of funded and unfunded PhD students.

### 5. Halt the Fees

Many institutions have "**subject to annual fee increases**" for postgrad courses. This is a clear exploitation of postgrads due to the income they provide institutions with. I would **review** these fee increases and create a **report** capturing fee increases in comparison with inflation and living wage etc. changes.

Once this report captures the fee climate nationally I would work with MO's and the Coiste Gnó on **further action** we would like to take whether this is fighting for fees freezes, restriction of increases or government intervention.

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