

# Manifesto

**Name:** Roisin O'Donovan

**Position contested:** Vice President for Welfare

Hey guys! My name is Roisin O'Donovan and I am re-running to be your **Vice President for Welfare** for the DIT Students' Union (#GoForRo) so I can represent you and all other DIT students for a second year.

I've learned a lot over past year about DIT and DITSU. I have a better of understand of what is realistically achievable by me as your student representative, so I would love to take on the role for a second year and see how much more I can achieve this time around.

## **Experiences:**

- Current DITSU Vice President for Welfare (2017/18).
- Volunteering Chairperson, then President of DIT Societies (2015-16, 2016-17).
- Founder and Chairperson of the first ever Mental Health Society in DIT (2016/17).
- LGBT Society committee member (2016/2017).
- Class Rep and Student Councillor for the DIT Students' Union (2016/2017).

## **If re-elected, I hope to continue various projects that I've begun this year, such as:**

- Health & Safety proposal for better signage, CPR and defibrillator training, nap-rooms, online locker management system, improved first aid rooms and better accessibility for students with disabilities and health impairments.
- Investigating the DIT Human Resources recruitment policy at Governing Body as this has caused many difficulties for counselling service, teaching staff, libraries and access support staff for students.
- Supporting the LGBTQ+ Society by organising collaborative events.
- Organising a repeal plebiscite that's open to all DIT students.
- Lobbying DIT Estates for CCTV, security and swipe-card access to DIT Buildings.

## If re-elected, my main goals are the following:

### **1. Support and guide students searching for Accommodation in Dublin**

There is an accommodation crisis which is affecting hundreds of students in DIT at present. Accommodation is expensive and there is a shortage in Dublin. If re-elected, I plan to:

- Ensure students are informed about their rights as a tenant.
- Support and guide students in finding accommodation.
- Lobby the government along with other third-level institutes and Student Unions' on the homeless and housing crisis and demand for more investment in public housing.
- Work closely with the DIT Accommodation and finance sector to assist them.

### **2. Ensure a safe environment on all DIT campuses**

It's important that DIT students feel safe at all times while in college and I want to help ensure that by:

- Providing 'Start a Heart' training at inductions & during the year for all students.
- Tackling antisocial behaviour on campus with more CCTV cameras and appropriate policies for reporting student misconduct.
- Organising a "Walk Home Safe" campaign at the beginning of the year and during winter months.
- Providing Self-defence classes in collaboration with DIT Sports Office.
- Ensuring appropriate access for students with disabilities and health impairments.
- Investigating the possibility of creating a peer support system for international students with the DIT International Office.

### **3. Support Mental Health and Well-Being**

Mental health is a rising issue for third-level students and I wish to make sure that the mental health of all students is supported, I plan to do this by:

- Providing free mental health workshops and suicide prevention training to students.
- Holding fun mental health events such as a charity boxing match, by working with your DITSU Vice President for Events.
- Hosting a two week mental health campaign, similar to this year's campaign.
- Lobbying DIT for improved counselling resources, both in staffing and funding.

### **4. Educate students about Sexual Health and Consent**

Sexual health education is crucial in college, due to the lack of education received in secondary school. I plan to educate students about sexual health and consent by:

- Hosting bystander intervention workshops and disclosure training for staff and students.
- Organising Dublin Rape Crisis Centre site visits.
- Raising awareness about the Student Health Centres' STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) checks.
- Implementing consent education during inductions to all first year students.

So these are my main goals for the year but I would love to hear from you, as a current DIT student, what you think are the main issues on the ground. I would be humbled if I could be your representative for another year. My passion, enthusiasm and commitment to this job has only grown stronger since I started last July. So please get out and Vote for Ro between February 27th and March 1st, so that I can be your Vice President for Welfare for another year. I look forward to meeting you all over the next two weeks of campaigning and on the polling days!

Roisin O'Donovan #GoForRo