



Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY STUDENTS' UNION

The Galway Students' General Election Handbook

What matters to students
And how to hold candidates accountable





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A Note from Us



As the general election quickly approaches, it was important to us to hear from students what the issues are that matter to them. We consulted our class representatives from the University of Galway in order to get feedback on what the pressing issues are.

The following question guide is compiled from feedback given to us by our class representatives. It reflects the issues that students care about, and where they want to see change happening.

We encourage every student to take the time to read this document, and prepare themselves for the General Election. Remember to use your vote, as it is your voice on a national level.



**Coiste Gnó, Comhaltas na Mac
Léinn, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe**

General Questions

These are simple, general questions in regards to day to day life for students in the University of Galway.

- **What are you going to do for Irish?**
- **What makes you the right candidate?**
- **What are you doing for students?**
- **What will you bring to my community?**
- **Are you a landlord?**
- **What can you realistically achieve?**
- **With rapid industrialisation, how are politicians still serving young people?**
- **How do you plan to meet deadlines?**
- **How can we trust you'll be different than our current government?**



Cost of Living

These are questions regarding the ongoing cost of living crisis, and what can be done to help students



- **Can SUSI be increased in line with inflation?**
- **What can be done to help students who struggle with accommodation & financial crises?**
- **What do you intend to change now for cost of living that will be better long term?**
- **What will you do to ensure rent reductions?**
- **Will you implement a permanent decrease in fees for third level students?**

Global Affairs

These are questions regarding issues on a global level, and Ireland's important role we play in them



- **Will your party enact the Occupied Territories Bill?**
- **What support will you be offering migrants entering the country, in particular refugees?**
- **How will you further environmental action to combat the environmental crisis?**
- **What will you do about the rise of fascism and the far right?**
- **How will you support students from Palestine, and ending the genocide in Gaza?**
- **How will you stop the increasing numbers of students emigrating?**

Housing and Transport

These are questions regarding the rental crisis, and public transport for students

- **What measures are being taken to effectively address the housing crisis, in particular for International Students?**
- **What are you going to do about affordable student accommodation?**
- **Do you intend to build more accommodation?**
- **How will you empower young buyers entering the housing market?**
- **What is your party's view on fuel tax being imposed on people who live rurally with no public transport options?**
- **Will developments be made to improve Ireland's public transport so we are on par with our European counterparts?**
- **Will you be developing public transport locally in Galway?**





Health Care

These are questions regarding Ireland's current health care system



- **How can people with disabilities be better empowered by this Government?**
- **What is being done to improve the state of mental health care in Ireland?**
- **Will you be increasing the provision of free contraceptives?**



Postgraduate Rights

These are questions regarding postgraduate workers in Ireland



- **How will you improve postgraduate working conditions?**
- **How will you attain workers rights for PhDs?**
- **How will you be working with the Postgraduate Workers Organisation?**