

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

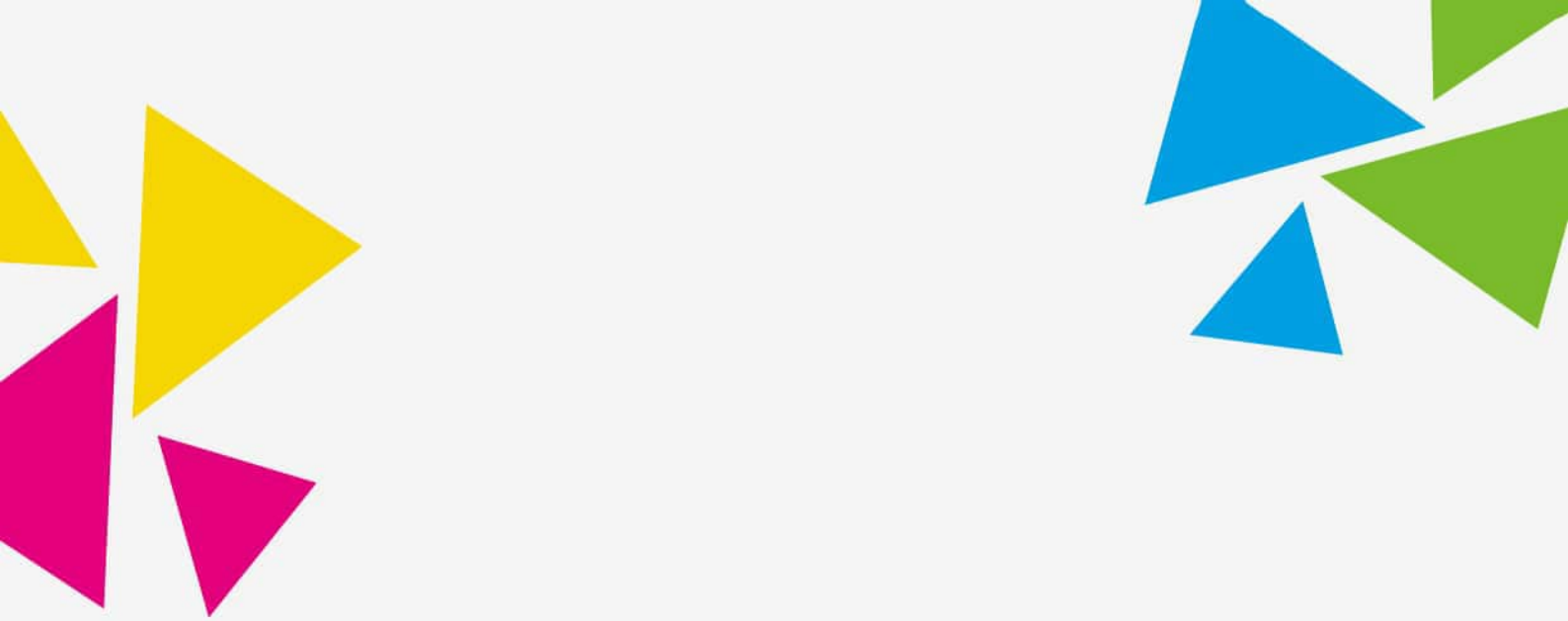
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PART A

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS, DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE, & PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name:	Maynooth Students' Union
Structure:	Unincorporated Association with operations overseen by the Union Executive, Audit & Risk Committee, and Board of Trustees
Trustees:	Alex Balfe (<i>appointed 1 July 2023</i>) (<i>resigned 30 June 2024</i>) Molly Buckley Niall Daly (<i>appointed 1 July 2023</i>) (<i>resigned 30 June 2024</i>) Gavin Fanning (<i>appointed 1 July 2024</i>) (<i>resigned 3 October 2024</i>) Maeve Farrell (<i>appointed 1 July 2025</i>) (<i>resigned 12 September 2025</i>) Lorna Fitzpatrick Niamh Halpenny (<i>resigned 13 June 2024</i>) Richard Hammond S.C. Patrick Hennessy Kyla Henry (<i>appointed 18 October 2024</i>) (<i>resigned 14 October 2025</i>) Dr. Rory McDaid Charli Middleton (<i>appointed 15 October 2025</i>) Cathy Pembroke (<i>appointed 1 July 2024</i>)
Executive:	Alex Balfe, MSU President Gavin Fanning, VP Education Niamh Riney, VP Welfare & Equality Kyla Henry, VP Student Life & Deputy President Ben Holmes, Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Faculty Convenor Amina Traboue, Social Sciences Faculty Convenor Aaliyah Mooney, Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor * Roddie McGuinness, Oifigeach na Gaeilge Sian Cowman, Doctoral Postgraduate Representative Carrie O' Neill, Postgraduate Representative Sarah Mohammad, Environmental Officer Jack Kiernan, Equality Officer * Aaliyah Mooney resigned from their role on 23 April 2024
Principal Office:	Maynooth Students' Union North Campus, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co.Kildare, W23 W6R7
Independent auditors:	BDO (Statutory Audit Firm) Block 3, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 Y754
Bankers:	Allied Irish Banks Main Street, Maynooth, Kildare, W23 F5N2
Solicitors:	Hammond Good LLP HG Legal Chambers, Thomas Davis Street, Mallow, Cork, P51 PAF5 Mangan O'Beirne Solicitors LLP 31 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4, D04 F7H7 FitzGerald Legal & Advisory LLP 6 Lapps Quay, Cork City, Cork, T12 XHE6

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

To the Members of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU),

I am pleased to introduce the MSU Annual Report & Financial Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. This report reflects a year of extraordinary progress, resilience, and innovation as Maynooth Students' Union continued to deliver for students through bold initiatives, democratic renewal, and impactful advocacy.

This year, we witnessed one of the most successful election cycles in recent memory. The MSU Executive and Student Senate Elections drew record levels of participation, with over 3,150 students casting more than 23,700 ballots in the Executive Elections and Student Senate Elections (more on pages 26-27). These outcomes represent not only a recovery to pre-pandemic levels of engagement but a clear sign that students feel a renewed sense of ownership over their Union and its future.

We were also proud to see an unprecedented number of Maynooth students shortlisted across multiple categories in the Student Achievement Awards Ireland (more on pages 30-31), with several bringing home national recognition for their contributions to student life. These nominations and wins are a testament to the inspiring leadership, creativity, and compassion of our student community.

Behind the scenes, our governance and oversight structures have continued to provide a solid foundation for MSU's long-term sustainability and accountability. The Board of Trustees convened on nine occasions throughout the year, providing strategic direction and overseeing financial, commercial, and governance matters. Complementing this work, the Audit & Risk Committee met eight times, focusing on key areas such as the 2022-23 audit, the review of draft financial statements, policy development, risk management, and the Union's funding and financial controls.

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

SCAN TO LISTEN

As always, MSU's successes are due to the unwavering commitment of the MSU Executive, Student Senate, and our dedicated staff team. Together, they have worked tirelessly to respond to student needs, enhance Union services, and strengthen our governance and operational foundations. I would like to especially acknowledge the MSU Executive Officers, whose leadership and visibility across campus have helped drive momentum and engagement in every facet of student life.

I also wish to thank the members of the Board of Trustees and the Audit & Risk Committee for their ongoing guidance, scrutiny, and support in ensuring that MSU remains financially sustainable and strategically focused.

Finally, my heartfelt appreciation goes to the full MSU staff team for their professionalism, adaptability, and care. Our collective work is grounded in service to students—and it is a privilege to work alongside such passionate and talented individuals in pursuit of that mission.

As we look ahead to 2024–25, MSU remains committed to building on this year's momentum, deepening student engagement, and continuing to advocate with purpose for the needs and rights of Maynooth students.

Sincerely,



DILLON GRACE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

MSU EXECUTIVE TEAM 2023-24



Alex Balfe
President



Gavin Fanning
VP Education



Niamh Riney
VP Welfare & Equality



Kyla Henry
*VP Student Life &
Deputy President*



Ben Holmes
*Arts, Celtic Studies &
Philosophy Faculty
Convenor*



Amina Traboue
*Social Sciences Faculty
Convenor*



Aaliyah Mooney*
*Science & Engineering
Faculty Convenor*



Roddie McGuinness
Oifigeach na Gaeilge



Sian Cowman
*Doctoral Postgraduate
Representative*



Carrie O'Neill
*Postgraduate
Representative*



Sarah Mohammad
*Environmental
Officer*



Jack Kiernan
Equality Officer

*Resigned 23rd April

Leading Your Union,
Representing Your Voice

TUAIRISC AN UACHTARÁIN

What a whirlwind. I have probably been in denial that my time here in Maynooth Students' Union would eventually come to an end, so I have never appropriately taken time to reflect. Now, I am struggling to find the words to describe how, although everything this year has been unpredictable, it has been an amazing opportunity. I am honoured to have been the President of Maynooth Students' Union this year and to have worked with such an amazing, dedicated, and inspiring team.

This year, our focus on boosting student engagement has yielded remarkable results. We saw the highest turnout on campus for MSU Elections, a testament to our efforts in empowering student voices and fostering a vibrant democratic process. Our groundbreaking engagement in the housing and commuting survey will significantly strengthen our lobbying efforts, ensuring that student concerns are heard and addressed at all levels.

One of our proudest achievements was the establishment of the MSU Student Pantry, a vital resource that supports students facing the cost-of-living crisis. This initiative underscores our commitment to student welfare and solidarity within our community.

Our union has celebrated numerous accolades this year, including award-winning campaigns and recognition for outstanding student achievements. These achievements not only showcase our dedication to excellence but also highlight the impact we've had on campus and beyond.

Reflecting on this year, I am filled with gratitude. Gratitude for the tireless dedication of my fellow officers and our staff team, and for the unwavering support of our members, the broader student body. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and made a lasting difference in the lives of our peers.

As I prepare to pass the torch to the next generation of leaders, I am confident that they will build upon our achievements and continue to advocate passionately for the student community. To the incoming team, I offer my full support and encouragement. Embrace each challenge as an opportunity for growth and innovation, and always remember the incredible impact that collective action can achieve.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It has been an unforgettable journey—one that has shaped me personally and reaffirmed my commitment to student advocacy.

Go dtí sin,

Alex Balfe
MSU President



ALEX BALFE

MSU PRESIDENT

SUMMARY OF MSU'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) is an unincorporated association formed to represent the students of Maynooth University and St. Patrick's Pontifical University.

VISION, MISSION & VALUES

The vision of the Union is to create an environment in which every member is provided with a world-class academic and student life experience.

The mission of the Union is to provide for, promote, and defend the interests of its members.

The values of the Union are democracy, transparency, accountability, integrity, sustainability, and respect.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Union shall be to provide for, promote and defend the interests of its members. It shall endeavour to:

- Act as a representative body for its members and other students of the University
- Act as a recognised means of communication between the members of the Union and the authorities of the University.
- Endeavour to work in partnership at all levels with the University in the best interests of the members.
- Promote the practice of democratisation at all levels of higher education through collective and individual participation of the members of the Union.
- Actively promote the engagement of the student body in the activities of the Union and students affairs in general.
- Provide and manage MSU social, recreational, and commercial services for the benefit of its members.
- Promote the expansion and development of student services as provided by the University for the benefit of students.
- Provide the structures and means whereby students can partake in an ongoing re-evaluation of the educational process and become more positively involved in their education.
- Promote the unity of the organisation and contact between members through assisting clubs, societies, and other organisations of students within the University.
- Ensure that no member is discriminated against on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, age, disability, race, or membership of the Traveller community.
- Actively pursue good relations within and with the local community and to promote the message of respecting one's university town amongst the student body.
- Improve its environmental sustainability performance and to actively encourage the University and wider community to follow suit for the benefit of its student body and community now and in the future
- Promote and develop the Irish Language among its members, and throughout the University.

The main activities undertaken by MSU in relation to its purpose and key objectives begin on the next page.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

At the start of the office term, our team delivered a Student Handbook for incoming first years. Following the success of last year's Handbook, almost every copy was distributed to first-year students.

To assist with the cost, we sought support from local and national businesses through sponsorship, and we are thrilled that we covered the full cost of the handbook and were able to pay for the tote bags we obtained for the freshers' packs through these partnerships. It was a great way to inform students about the different businesses in the area, and the local businesses were generous with their contributions and ecstatic to be featured in the handbook.

This handbook has become a survival guide for new students in Maynooth, providing them with valuable information about MSU and our services, the University, and various other organisations of value to them. Our team worked together to gather and design the content, ensuring that it was informative, engaging, and user-friendly.



DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

Disability Power Ireland hosted Ireland's first ever Disability Pride and Power Parade, in recognition of Disability Pride Month. They urged people to come out of the shadows and make themselves visible on the streets of Dublin, in a colourful celebration open to all disabled people and allies. MSU Executive members joined as we paraded to the office of the Taoiseach at Government Buildings. There were various speakers and performers speaking on the disabled experience in Ireland, among them being former MSU DARE Student Senator Leesa Flynn, who is the first wheelchair user to qualify as a Primary School Teacher in Ireland.

CHARITY PARTNER



This year we decided to renew our partnership with Threshold for another year due to setbacks faced last year. We ensured to have fundraising initiatives at every event whether it be through ticket sales, cloakrooms or having charity buckets to avail off. We were delighted that a local pub wanted to fundraise for Threshold when they brought back RAG Week, and we were fortunate once again by Clubs and Societies that they fundraised as well.

PRE-BUDGET LOBBY DAY

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) organised a Lobby Day on July 11th. The MSU President alongside the VP Welfare and Equality attended to engage with members of the Oireachtas and discuss the priorities that students and specifically our Maynooth students would like to see in Budget 2024, prior to the finalisation of the USI Pre-Budget submission. The objective of the Lobby Day was to ensure that Oireachtas members were aware of the six key issues for students before decisions on Budget 2024 commence.

During these discussions, we emphasised the challenges surrounding:

- Student accommodation
- Student finances
- Public transport
- Support for postgraduate and international students
- Allocation of dedicated funding for mental health support
- Funding for Tréimhse Foghlama sa Ghaeltacht (Gaeltacht placement for student teachers)

The Lobby Day provided a valuable platform for collaboration with other stakeholders and underscored the importance of addressing these pressing concerns in Budget 2024.

ISSU LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The MSU President participated in a training session for the elected representatives of the Irish Second-Level Students' Union. The MSU President highlighted the importance of knowing when to engage in collective action, the dos and don'ts of collective action, the importance of engaging your constituency, and the importance of closing the feedback loop. The session had 50 young people who had entered their leadership journey, and the MSU President's advice was well received by the group.

PARENT ORIENTATION

The MSU President and the VP Student Life delivered orientation sessions to incoming first years' parents. In this presentation, they delivered an overview of what Maynooth Students' Union is, how we are there to support their child's transition to university, how their child can get involved in MSU, and we answered their questions about student experience and even the what if questions.

SUT/SUT+

The MSU Full-Time Executive attended Students' Union Training facilitated by the Union of Students in Ireland, held at MTU Kerry. Over the four days, they attended various talks, learned more about the roles within the Student Movement, and got to know their peers from other student unions. In August, they attended SUT+ held at Queens Students' Union, which involved a simulation of a year as an SU Officer, where they had to deal with a variety of issues that might arise during their terms

SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER 2023

WORLD SEXUAL HEALTH DAY

We posted information graphics for World Sexual Health Day, highlighting the 2023 theme of consent as it is vital for healthy sexual encounters amongst students. We thought it was crucial to educate students on consent, STI information and the free contraception schemes in advance of them coming back to campus.



FRESHERS PACKS



To assist with the packing of our Freshers' Packs, we invited students to come down and lend a hand. This event was designed as an opportunity for new and returning students to meet and socialise before the start of the term. We ensured a welcoming atmosphere with refreshments available throughout the day, and everyone who helped received a free meal courtesy of Zambreros! This initiative not only facilitated the preparation of the packs but also fostered a sense of community among the participants.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP

Alongside the MU Strategy and Quality Office, The MSU President hosted a workshop to explore methods of involving students in quality assurance at MU. Academic Representatives participated in the session and were provided with several questions. Following this there was a staff/student workshop where various members of the executive and academic representatives attended to provide feedback on the findings of the previous workshops and come to points of agreement.

EU BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EU Black History Month was a celebration of African and Caribbean heritage that lit up October with various events, each one a testament to the richness and resilience of black culture. Beginning with a movie screening of 'Hidden Figures' that embodied the 2023 theme of 'Celebrating our Sisters, Saluting our Sisters, and Honouring Matriarchs of Movements'.

Then, the Fireside Chat between Black & Irish CEO and the VP of MU Afro Caribbean Society turned up the heat with candid discussions about the black experience in Maynooth and beyond. From sharing personal stories to tackling tough topics like racism head-on, this chat wasn't afraid to dive deep and inspire students to stand tall in the face of adversity.

The BHM Media Club offered a diverse range of discussions around media, while the BHM Karaoke Night turned up the volume on cultural celebration. In the end, it was more than just a month.



STUDENT SHOWCASE

The MSU Student Showcase offered our amazingly talented students the chance to perform on the MSU Club stage. With applications open from late September, we received an unbelievably high standard of entries from students across campus and across disciplines.

In the end, the entries were narrowed down to four acts who took to the stage on Wednesday, 18th October to showcase their abilities and take home a JustEat Voucher for their efforts. We want to say a massive thank you to all involved. Whether you submitted an application or made it to the main stage, everyone who applied proved to us what we already knew – Maynooth has some of the most talented students around!

MAYNOOTH GREEN CAMPUS VIDEO FOR GREEN GOWN AWARD

In September, Maynooth's Green Campus was shortlisted for a Green Gown Award. The MSU President was featured in the finalist's video, discussing how Maynooth Students' Union has adapted to become more sustainable in recent years. In particular, Alex highlighted the success of transitioning to a paperless system for MSU Elections.

BWG AWARDS CONFERENCE AND MSU LONDIS SHOP MANAGER AWARD

The MSU Londis Shop Manager, along with our MSU Londis Shop, earned recognition with a Retail Excellence Award at the recent BWG Conference in Co Clare.

Massive congratulations to Brian and his team for their dedicated efforts in upholding store standards, consistently providing exceptional customer service, always ready to assist students and staff with a smile. Their efforts create a friendly and supportive atmosphere that makes the MSU Londis Shop a beloved part of the campus community and this recognition is well deserved.

PWO CONSULTATIVE BALLOT

On Tuesday 24th October, all PhD researchers in Maynooth were asked to vote in an online ballot titled 'Consultative Ballot on PhD Supports and Collective Action'.

With 139 responses to the ballot, ~25% of all PhD researchers at MU, the results of this vote show that Maynooth University PhD researchers are unsatisfied with the outcomes of the National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers, with 91% voting to that effect.

The survey showed us that PhD researchers are prepared to partake in the following:

- Collective action in response to the current conditions of PhD researcher rights in Ireland.
- Full withdrawal of labour in teaching and/or research activities
- Full withdrawal of specific forms of labour or withdrawal of labour in specific circumstances, disaffiliation, demonstration of discontent and action short of withdrawal of labour at a rate of 60-79% across different types of actions.

USI – RAINY DAY PROTEST

The Union of Students in Ireland staged a demonstration, calling on the government to use its €65 billion 'rainy day' fund to address the student accommodation crisis and the cost of attending university. This coincided with the USI's pre-budget submission, to which the Vice President for Welfare and Equality and the MSU President contributed, and we attended their lobby day in July.

We joined the USI for the protest, urging the government to invest in its students. We gathered at 12 pm outside the Garden of Remembrance and marched towards Merrion Square. On the day, Alex spoke to multiple media outlets, including RTÉ, and featured in their news article and the 6:01 news that evening, explaining how the accommodation crisis impacts Maynooth students.

'Speaking to RTÉ News, Alex Balfe, President of the students' union at Maynooth University, said: "If a student is lucky enough to find a room in a house, they're paying €800 or €900 a month and we've got multiple complaints about mould in rooms, about unsafe landlords."



HALLOWEEN WEEK

This year we decided to host a range of events around the spookiest time of the year. From the 23rd to the 27th of October we held a range of events all having Halloween theming. Over the week we had a range of activities with different Halloween traditions. These included, magicians, tarot card reading, witches walk, pumpkin paint and sip during the day. Some nighttime events included a late-night screaming, the Big Spooky Quiz of the Year and a Halloween Ball.

The Halloween Ball was filled with a variety of costumes, fear pong competition and a best costume contest, and a karaoke contest with the winner taking home a €100 Ticketmaster gift card! Prior to the Halloween Ball we curated a wise up before you dress up infographic, reminding students to be respectful when they dress up, and to also avoid culturally offensive costumes or controversial costumes based on popular news topics.

Along with the different events we highlighted how to stay safe on a night out with graphics outlining different ways they can be cautious on a night out.



NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2023

MOVEMBER

November shone a light on men's health awareness with USI's 'Open Up' mental health campaign. The foyer became a haven of self-care, offering mini packages, mindfulness colouring, and mental health info. Students even had the chance to snag a self-care tote bag package full of goodies. Then the Healthy Campus Team visited the Info Centre to promote free STI checks and screenings instead with some moustaches for Movember.



WHAT IS MOVEMBER?


Maynooth Students' Union
An tAonas na Mac Léinn Mháine

Movember is an annual event during the month of November to fundraise and raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's mental health and suicide prevention.

By encouraging men to get involved, Movember aims to increase early cancer detection diagnosis and effective treatments, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths.

Movember challenges stereotypes and stigmas surrounding men's health, including the notion that seeking help is a sign of weakness. By fostering open conversations and encouraging men to take control of their health, the initiative works towards breaking down barriers to mental health care and support.

GOOD MORNING MAYNOOTH

The Good Morning Maynooth Podcast was firstly introduced in 2020 by a previous Vice President Student Life. It was a way of engaging with students over the pandemic, with various topics and featured different people from the student body. We were delighted to bring it back this year as podcasts is a passion of Kyla's and she really wanted to make it work this year. In total we had around 4 episodes released including a 45-minute Christmas edition featuring the full Sabbatical Team and two officers from USI. (recording one next week)

Recording, editing and producing a podcast proved to be a lot more difficult than originally expected. However, next year it will be a high priority and hopefully will flourish even more than ever before.

GREEN FLAG

Back in September, the VP Student Life alongside members of the Green Campus Community met with An Táisce, to help with awarding Maynooth with another Green Flag. Kyla presented on behalf of MSU outlining the ways Maynooth Students' Union has become greener through the collection of disposable vapes and introducing fully electronic elections reducing the waste of paper. In November we were delighted to attend the awarding of the Green Flag down in the library. It was great to see Green Campuses work being recognised and now the flag flies proudly on our campus.

SING YOUR WAY TO THE SUN

Amid the rain and clouds of November and December, MSU were delighted to welcome back a beacon of light – our Sing Your Way To The Sun Competition! Over the course of five weeks, this karaoke competition saw students take to the MSU Club stage to battle it out for a place in the final.

With 20 lucky and talented students making the cut, our grand final took place on Tuesday, 5th December. Singing their way to the sun, our ultimate winner was the recipient of a €250 Ryanair Voucher for the holiday of their choice.



PINK TRAINING

From November 17th to November 19th, six representatives from MSU, including the VP Education part-time Equality Officer, and four students participated in the Pink Training event organised by the Union of Students in Ireland which in recent years has revolved into Europe's largest LGBT Training and Networking event for third-level students. This event provides students with information on various aspects of being a member of the LGBTQ+ community in Ireland, delivered by professionals from LGBT assistance and advocacy groups, as well as community leaders. This contributes to building confidence, fostering a sense of well-being, and promoting community among the attending students.

As part of the event, delegates engaged in talks and workshops covering topics such as Trans Mental Health, Questioning Identity, LGBT+ and Disability, How to Run an LGBT+ Society, how to be a Queer Activist, and Living with HIV in Ireland, among others. The event featured a compelling keynote speech by Anna Nolan, an Irish television presenter, producer, and former nun, who shared her experiences growing up, living, and working in Ireland while discovering her sexual identity. Pink Training proved to be an inspirational event, allowing our delegates to connect with like-minded individuals, gain valuable insights into the LGBT community in Ireland, and foster a sense of belonging both in Maynooth and in Ireland as a whole.

2023 ACUI REGION VII CONFERENCE BUILDING BELONGING

Six members of the MSU Team attended the 2023 ACUI Region VIII Conference | Building Belonging from Monday, 13 November 2023, to Monday, 20 November 2023, in Boston and Connecticut. As part of the pre-conference experience, we had the privilege of exploring the Student Unions at institutions like Yale University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and Central Connecticut State University. These visits showcased how each student centre was intricately designed to foster a sense of belonging, providing students with a home away from home ambiance, complete with welcoming peers ready to offer support. With the anticipation of a new student centre on the horizon in Maynooth, we are eagerly looking forward to incorporating best practices from these experiences to further enhance the student journey at Maynooth Students' Union.

The main conference program featured a range of keynote presentations, educational sessions, PechaKuchas, and networking opportunities.

Participating in the 2023 ACUI Region VIII Conference and gaining knowledge from campus and facility tours, operational insights, and innovative initiatives during five campus visits was immensely advantageous for both MSU and the students of Maynooth. We aim to embed these insights, along with those from the educational sessions, into our campus operations, striving to implement them to the fullest extent possible, especially in when renovating the MSU Student Centre. One of the highlights for me was participating in a student discussion panel alongside colleagues from the UK and US. Drawing from my personal experiences as a student, as well as my roles as the VP Education and President of Maynooth SU, I shared insights into what student life is like in Ireland amidst the current cost of living crisis. While we all expressed shared concerns about the challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis, some issues, such as a commute exceeding one hour, proved to be relatively unheard of among my colleagues from the US. The exchange of perspectives underscored the unique nuances of student experiences across different regions.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

International Counsellors:

The MSU President met with and delivered a presentation to counsellors of American Institutions about the supports MSU offer to students, should their counsellors need to signpost them during their time here in Maynooth.

Wonkhe Students Unions:

The Director General and the MSU President facilitated a group of Student Union staff members from across the UK. Here they presented a PowerPoint about MSU and they shared best practice and shared ideas on academic structures, student engagement, student feedback, and other practical advice.

ARQUS

Maynooth University has joined a European Universities Alliance, known as Arqus. This alliance consists of nine different Universities across Europe. Maynooth Students' Union were asked to join the Alliance's Student Representative Council, where the MSU President and VP Student Life were selected, whilst the Front Office Manager sits on the Student Services Working Group. Over the year, this Council has met numerous times and have shared insight into things happening on different European campuses and how we can best collaborate.

The VP Student Life will be attending the Arqus Alliance Annual Conference on July 2nd to July 4th in the University of Minho.

HEALTHY CAMPUS CHARTER

The MSU President was invited by MU Healthy Campus to co-sign Maynooth University's Healthy Campus Charter in December, a comprehensive framework providing guidance to tertiary institutions for enhancing existing well-being initiatives. The Charter facilitates the integration of health and well-being throughout the entire campus, spanning teaching and learning, student support services, staff development, and policies.

DRUG HARM REDUCTION



This year just before Christmas we did an informational campaign on Drug Harm Reduction. This campaign aimed to educate about the legal and health risks of drug use. We gave information on the risks of taking different drugs with the short-term and long-term effects. Also, as a part of the campaign we gave information on what to do and different supports that are available if you chose to take drugs.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS ANNUAL FREE STUDENT PRIZE DRAW

As with tradition, MSU was again proud to present to our amazing Maynooth University & St Patrick's Pontifical University students our annual 12 Days of Christmas FREE student prize draw.

This FREE prize draw is a great opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer and bring some well-deserved treats to the lucky student winners as we prepare for the festive season.

As always, this event was hosted by our MSU Front Office Manager Ann Marie, each day on the run up to the Christmas break in the MSU Info Centre.

QR codes were available in the MSU Info Centre, MSU Londis Store and the MSU Club. Students had the opportunity of scanning the QR codes daily to enter the FREE draw.

Since its initial launch back in 2018 where we had just 10 contributors and 36 prizes, we are delighted to say that the event has grown so much. This year we had 21 Contributors, and 98 prizes which is truly amazing. We have seen a continual increase in student engagement within our annual Free prizes draw, with nearly 2000 students entering this year.

Each day the MSU Info Centre was buzzing, as lots of students gathered in anticipation of grabbing one of the amazing prizes on offer. We also streamed the draw LIVE on Instagram, giving students the opportunity of watching remotely to see if they were one of the lucky daily winners.

There were amazing prizes donated this year, some of which included, One4All Vouchers, Hoodies, Designer Glasses, Hampers, Board Games, Food Vouchers, Book Shop Vouchers, MU Water Bottles & Grad Bears, RedBull, etc.

We are so thankful to all our amazing contributors this year. Thank you on behalf of all our wonderful students for your continued support, as without you this simply would not be possible



MSU CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

To ring in the festive season, we had our annual turning on of the Christmas Lights outside MSU. On the 27th of November we invited students, staff and members of the Maynooth Community down to relish in this festive occasion.

We had wonderful singing curtesy of Keelin Brereton our Mature Student Senator, and the wonderful Musical Society to kick off the event. We provided mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate for those who attended.

Alex marked the occasion reflecting on the year so far and wishing everyone a happy holiday season. When the lights went on, we popped confetti and had smoke machines curtesy of the Quiz King himself Keith Shanley! Throughout the event we had various representatives with Charity buckets collecting money for Threshold and our very own Santa Claus!



HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Throughout the month of December MSU was in the Christmas spirit with a range of events happening throughout the month.

To kick off we decorated Christmas ornaments in a festive spin of paint and sip. We also had a festive Karaoke getting everybody up to sing their favourite Christmas carols. Then the officers hosted Merry Quizmas with all the questions around the festive season. We had an all-day Christmas Marathon with snacks provided with a great list of the best Christmas

movies. We also had a commuter event on the last Monday of semester with a DJ in the bar and Karaoke in the venue.

This year we brough back a Charity Reindeer Dash in aid of Threshold. Threshold were down on the day and provided us with T-Shirts and pens to hand out to students.

POWER OF DISABILITY CONFERENCE

Ahead and USI collaborated on a two-day virtual conference that included discussions, presentations and feedback sessions encouraging students with disabilities to be leaders on their own campuses and build practical skills on self-advocacy and constructive advocacy. Maynooth was chosen to host the conference watch party on behalf of the Border, Midlands & Western Regions of third level institutions for students and staff to attend for free.

INTERCULTURAL WEEK

Intercultural week was a celebration of the diverse cultures that make up our campus community in Maynooth. It was all about fostering understanding, respect, and growth through the exchange of ideas and traditions.

There was an Intersectionality Workshop developed through the STAND ideas collective initiative where students were able to delve into discussions about social justice and learn from each other's experiences. The Commuter Quiz provided students with a chance to test their cultural knowledge in a fun and engaging way.



But the real star of the show was the Open Mic Night, where linguistic diversity took center stage. From original music to covers being performed, students showcase their talents in their mother tongues, creating a rich tapestry of cultural expression.

Games Night brought students together in a playful atmosphere, with games from around the world and even Lego building challenges featuring flags and monuments. Then to finish off, the After Party was a vibrant celebration of music from different cultures which was the perfect finale to a week of cultural exploration and celebration.

BEAT THE MENACE

We were beyond excited to welcome Maynooth alumni Darragh Ennis back to Maynooth. Darragh is known primarily as a Chaser on ITV's "The Chase"; however, he is also known online for his TikTok content. Students reached out to Darragh, asking if he would be interested in coming to Maynooth to host a quiz.

With Darragh, we organised the quiz in the MSU Venue, and within an hour, all of the tickets were gone due to high demand. Darragh was an amazing quiz host, very welcoming, and happy to meet and chat with students about his experience as a Chaser and tales of television.



CHILL & SKILL

With Student Health & Well-being today being such an important part of college life, back in February the MSU Front Office manager, Ann Marie, collaborated with the lovely Sharon Tyndall (an amazing mature student) to introduce our weekly "Chill & Skill" events. These events give students the opportunity of learning a new skill (or practicing an old one), while also taking some well-deserved "time-out" of their busy college life.

Supplies were purchased so that the students could knit, crochet, sew, sketch, colour, or simply "chill" with their friends. Soon the word spread around campus that these events were happening, with some very kind people donating resources to this simple, but effective weekly event.

Ann Marie & Sharon will be back in semester one to start this weekly event once more, so if you're interested, pop into the MSU Info Centre, grab yourself a set of needles and join us as we develop an old skill or learn a new one



PERIOD DIGNITY CAMPAIGN

Over the past few years, MSU have tried where possible to provide period products in our bathrooms as we took a firm stance against period poverty, working to ensure students have access to period products on campus. Last year, the VP Welfare & Equality collaborated with the Law Society on campus with the 'Period Poverty' campaign where they worked to ensure there was period products provided across campus as well as in student frequented venues in Maynooth town. In response to this, as well as the 'Positive Periods' campaign the MAP office had launched, and issue of period poverty on our campus, Maynooth University created a sub-group to help action a 'Period Dignity' campaign across campus as a way of delivering a key action from the MU Gender Equality Action Plan 2023-2026 (Action 7.6). Maynooth University have partnered with 'We Are Riley' and presented a 3-year pilot project where eco-friendly, organic cotton, toxin free products which are kind to the body and the planet will be provided for staff and student at five locations across campus (the Library, Student Services, Rye Hall, Phoenix & MSU).

'Period poverty' is a serious injustice that affects people all over the world. The term refers not only to a lack of access to period products, but also to a lack of information on menstruation and to appropriate sanitation facilities. It can cause many problems such as physical discomfort, missing work/study, having to choose between groceries or period products and not being aware of how your body functions. To kick off the campaign, a formal launch event was held, with a panel discussion based about period poverty and menstrual health as a celebration of progress and a reminder of the importance of menstrual equity.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

To mark International Women's Day, our Equality Officer, Jack, conducted extensive research on iconic women in Irish history. The post detailed the various contributions made by these women who paved the way for the future of Irish women.

GAYNOOTH

A short and quirky 2-day campaign, not just to spread awareness but as a vibrant celebration of love, identity, and the beauty of human expression in queer culture.



Midlands LGBT Project held an information stand where students got the scoop on such initiatives as their queer book club or social club. Then the 'Open Closet' gender-affirming swap shop gave students the opportunity to pick up some clothes that made them feel like themselves without costing a fortune because feeling fabulous in your own skin is the ultimate fashion statement, followed by a smash hit of a movie night. We also Queer Artistic Expression Panel that sparked open conversations in a safe space, followed by Sam's Collective Queer Open Mic Night which was the real showstopper where students showcased self-expression and celebrated their authentic selves while performing their talents.

BODY POSITIVITY WEEK

Body Positivity Week was a whirlwind of events designed to boost confidence, promote self-care, and spread love for all body types.

USI joined us to serve students some mini self-care packages because a little pampering session never hurt anyone. The Body Positivity Coffee Morning was a hit, with tea, coffee, treats and chats about embracing our beautiful bodies along with an affirmation mirror where students were able to write inspirational messages for other students to see when they look in the mirror. We joined Student Services for their weekly Yoga sessions, stretching out any self-doubt and soothing the soul. The Commuter Quiz was an opportunity to flex those brain muscles while debunking myths and winning some fabulous self-care prizes. Dance Society's Open Dance Class let students dance like nobody was watching as they celebrated the skin, they're in. To wrap it up, the Sculpt & Sip celebrated every body type by channelling the timeless beauty of Greek statues in all their diverse glory.



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place once again from the 1st – 7th of March. The first event was a fairs day held in the foyer. We had Conradh na Gaeilge, TG4 and Oifig na Gaeilge in the University there to chat with students about the various opportunities within Gaeilge, and to know how they can use Gaeilge in Third Level or in their everyday life. Later on, that day we hosted a Céilí with International Students to teach them Irish Dancing. The following day we had Tae agus Plé happening in the Info Centre with Cuallacht Chomchille, following that we had Cluichí Boird agus Scannán. To help students learn their cúpla focail. Roddie provided a quick Irish lesson on the Wednesday.

The big event of Seachtain na Gaeilge was the Pop-Up Gaeltacht with USI/AMLÉ and Tráth na gCeist on the Wednesday night. Students had an opportunity to win prizes through spin the wheel, and we had deals on in the bar if you ordered as Gaeilge. The quiz was done bilingually allowing any student to participate even if they had no Gaeilge. It was great fun with the winners taking home prizes.

GNÍOMHAÍ GAEILGE

We took part in the Gníomhaí Gaeilgescheme once again for 2023-24. Gníomhaí Gaeilge is a mentoring scheme for people and organisations who are actively involved in the Irish Language in third level institutions. As part of the scheme, we had to outline specific aims and were asked to achieve these over the course of the year with the help of our mentor John Ó Liodáin. We were successful and were awarded a Gradam Airgead for the union. Our Oifigeach na Gaeilge Roddie Mac Aonghusa also achieved an individual award for his work this year.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl arís ón 1 – 7ú Márta. Ba é an chéad imeacht ná Aonach Sheachtain na Gaeilge a reáchtáladh san fhorhalla. Bhí Conradh na Gaeilge, TG4 agus Oifig Gaeilge na hOllscoile ann chun comhrá a dhéanamh le mic léinn faoi na deiseanna éagsúla atá sa Ghaeilge, agus chun iad a chur ar an eolas faoi na bealaí éagsúla gur féidir leo an Ghaeilge a úsáid ag an Tríú Leibhéal ina saolta go laethúil. Níos déanaí, d'eagraíomar Céilí le Daltaí Idirnáisiúnta chun Damhsa Gaelach agus Rince Seite a mhúineadh dóibh. An lá dar gcionn bhí Tae agus Plé againn san Ionad Eolais le Cuallacht Chomchille agus ina dhiaidh sin bhí Cluichí Boird agus Scannán againn um thráthnóna. Chun cabhrú le daltaí a gcúpla focal a fhoghlaim chuir Roddie ceacht gasta Gaeilge ar fáil ar an gCéadaoin.

Ba é an Pop-Up Gaeltacht agus Tráth na gCeist oíche Chéadaoin an ócáid is mó a reáchtáladh do Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí deis ag na mic léinn duaiseanna a bhuachan trí roth AMLÉ a chasadh, agus bhí margaí againn sa bheár má d'ordaigh tú i nGaeilge. Rinneadh an tráth na gceist go dátheangach ag ligean d'aon scoláire páirt a ghlacadh fiú mura raibh Gaeilge acu. Bhí an-spraoi ann leis na buaiteoirí ag tabhairt duaiseanna abhaile.

Ghlac AMLMN páirt sa scéim Gníomhaí Gaeilge i mbliana. Is scéim mheantóireachta í Gníomhaí Gaeilge do dhaoine agus eagraíochtaí atá gníomhach leis an nGaeilge ag an tríú leibhéal. Mar chuid den scéim seo, bhí ar AMLMN spriocanna a chruthú dúinn féin agus iad a bhaint amach le linn na bliana le cúnamh ónár meantóir John Ó Liodáin. D'éirigh linn an cuid is mó dóibh a bhaint amach, agus de réir na hoibre seo, bronnadh Gradam Airgid orainn mar thoradh. Leis sin, bronnadh Gradam Pearsanta ar Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Roddie Mac Aonghusa, don obair a rinne sé i rith na bliana seo.

USI DIGS SURVEY – PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS

The MSU President joined the Union of Students Ireland to present their DIGS survey results to members of the Oideachas on March 6th.

To enact the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Bill 2023 which would grant a better level of protection for all parties involved and makes sure that no student is exploited for the circumstances that have lead them to seek this option.

The main points from this presentation were that the government need to take responsibility for the crisis in which we are in and they need to actively work towards solutions. Here are the list of recommendations we presented:

- The government to publish the National Student Accommodation Strategy, as promised 3 years ago, and release clear plans with the public development of APBSA at the core of them.
- To evaluate the rent-a-room relief and to make the tax-free amount proportional to the amount of days a room owner uses the room for Digs.
- Extending the remit of the RTB, particularly the dispute resolution body of the RTB, to cover those living in Digs.
- To reinstate the ban no-fault evictions until such point that the housing crisis is resolved at its core.
- To create a Rent-a-Room Registry that would allow students to ensure the legitimacy of the homeowner, property and for the registration of vacancies on this platform to be made mandatory for receiving the relief
- To strictly crack down on the mis advertisement of Digs properties as being not occupied by the homeowner.
- To extend the application of Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ) legislation to include Digs properties Notably, Richard Boyd Barrett TD referenced our presentation during the question time directed at Simon Coveney. The live stream of our presentation will be distributed to all members of the Oireachtas.

USI COMHDHÁIL

On the week starting March 25th, AMLÉ/USI hosted their national Comhdháil. Maynooth Students' Union was represented by 15 delegates, where we spoke on a wide range of issues facing students. Maynooth Students' Union also proposed and passed a number of motions, USI taking a stance on abolishing Direct Provision was particularly well received by the Comhdháil floor.

This year's delegation went above and beyond through their research of various topics, through their support for one another and for effectively speaking to the concerns facing students including but not limited to: State Supports Fleeing Conflict Zones, SUSI Grant Reform 2024, Transgender Health Care in the North and in the Republic of Ireland, Extra-Curricular Activities Engagement, Student Survey Boycott and Reform, USI Accountability, Fair Pay for Fair Work, General Election Campaign, Transgender Healthcare, USI Student Accommodation Position Paper 2024-2025, Harm Reduction Campaign, USI Taking a Stance on Abolishing Direct Provision, Motion on PTO Engagement, Grassroots Communication and Direct Action, Member Organisation Satisfaction.

We are beyond proud of this year's delegation, especially those who received awards for their contributions:

- Best First Time Speaker – Gvantsa Chkhetiani
- Best Use of Procedural Motions – Andrew Victory
- Best use of Gaeilge – AMLMN/MSU
- An Gaeilgeoir is fearr – Craig MacGabhann
- Best storyteller – Keelin Brereton

PAPER BLANK DIARIES

Paper-Blanks, Thank you again!

Our MSU Info Centre manager Ann Marie seized the opportunity to again reach out to Paper-Blank in the hope of securing some beautiful planners/diaries for our Maynooth University & St Patrick's Pontifical College students.

In late March a delivery of over 2100 creative planners arrived just in time to give our students a nice treat prior to the Easter break.

Students' were delighted as they queued to receive their very own beautiful FREE planner and again were spoiled for choice at the range that were on offer in the MSU Info Centre.

A huge "THANK YOU" to Paper-Blank, your generosity in giving us these amazing planners to pass out to our students free of charge is much appreciated.



'FUNDING THE FUTURE' EVENT

On the 11th of April, the MSU President, along with other student representatives, attended the Department of Further, Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science event held in Portlaoise. The event featured several student panels and keynote talks from individuals within the department.

Keith Moynes, Assistant Secretary for DFHERIS, gave the opening address, emphasising the significance of the second annual "Funding the Future" event as "one of the most important days of the year" for the department. The primary aim of the event was to gather feedback from students to help shape future policies.

Throughout the day, panelists discussed critical issues such as housing, discrimination, transport and commuting, and barriers to education. Among the suggestions were abolishing education fees entirely, with graduates committing to stay in Ireland for four years and repay the fees once they begin working.

Panelists also highlighted the lack of mental health support, limited accommodation, expensive food on campuses and in local centers, and insufficient transport for rural areas. These issues were identified as key areas where improved support could significantly benefit learners.

Staff from the department took note of all opinions and ideas expressed during the event, ensuring that the information gathered would be conveyed back to DFHERIS and the Minister. However, there was some disappointment among attendees that the new Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan TD, was not present at the event, as it was his second day in office and denied his first opportunity to meet with students in his new role.

MEP HUSTINGS



On the 16th of April, The MSU President organised Member of European Parliament (MEP) Hustings in the MSU Venue. This event provided an important opportunity for both students and staff to meet and ask questions to the candidates hoping to become MEP for the North Midlands and Western Region. Kathy Sheridan chaired the hustings, and the five candidates who attended were Ciaran Mulooley, Lisa Chambers, Rory Hearne, Brian O'Boyle, and Pauline O'Reilly. They all had opportunities to explain why they were running and what they hoped to achieve if elected to the European Parliament. Following introductions and a few debates, the floor was opened to questions from students. Overall, it was an informative debate aimed at helping students and staff decide whom to vote for in the upcoming European Elections on June 7th.

This event promoted political engagement among students and staff, providing a platform for them to interact directly with the candidates. This kind of engagement is crucial in fostering a well-informed electorate, capable of making educated decisions at the polls.

The hustings also helped demystify the political process, making it more accessible to young people who may feel disconnected or disinterested in politics. By giving students a voice and allowing them to pose questions directly to the candidates, the event empowered them to take an active role in their democracy.

WOMENLEAD

On the 24th of April, Alex, Kyla, and Carrie (Taught Postgrad Officer) attended WomenLead at DCU. WomenLead is focused on encouraging women to run for leadership roles within Students' Unions, Clubs and Societies, and more. Alex was invited to sit on a panel on achieving gender equality in Students' Unions and shared her experiences working in Students' Unions. The event was informative and empowering, featuring workshops based on various scenarios that one may encounter in leadership roles and how to address them.



MSU ELECTIONS

RECORD-BREAKING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN MSU ELECTIONS 2024

MSU has just completed one of its most successful elections ever — with over **3,150 students** taking part in shaping their Union!

Held over two days (13 & 14 March 2024), Maynooth students voted to fill key roles on the MSU Executive and Student Senate. These positions play a vital role in championing student voices, leading campaigns, and influencing university-wide decisions that affect everyday student life.

The MSU Executive and Student Senate Elections drew record levels of participation, with **over 3,150 students casting more than 23,700 ballots** in the Executive Elections and Student Senate Elections

MSU continued its commitment to hybrid elections this year, combining the flexibility of online voting with a strong on-campus presence. **40 iPads** were set up in polling booths across five key campus locations, creating a real buzz and making it super simple to vote between classes.

Choosing digital ballots over paper helped us save the equivalent of **between two and five trees** — a win for democracy and sustainability! Our polling staff made the process smooth and accessible across campus.

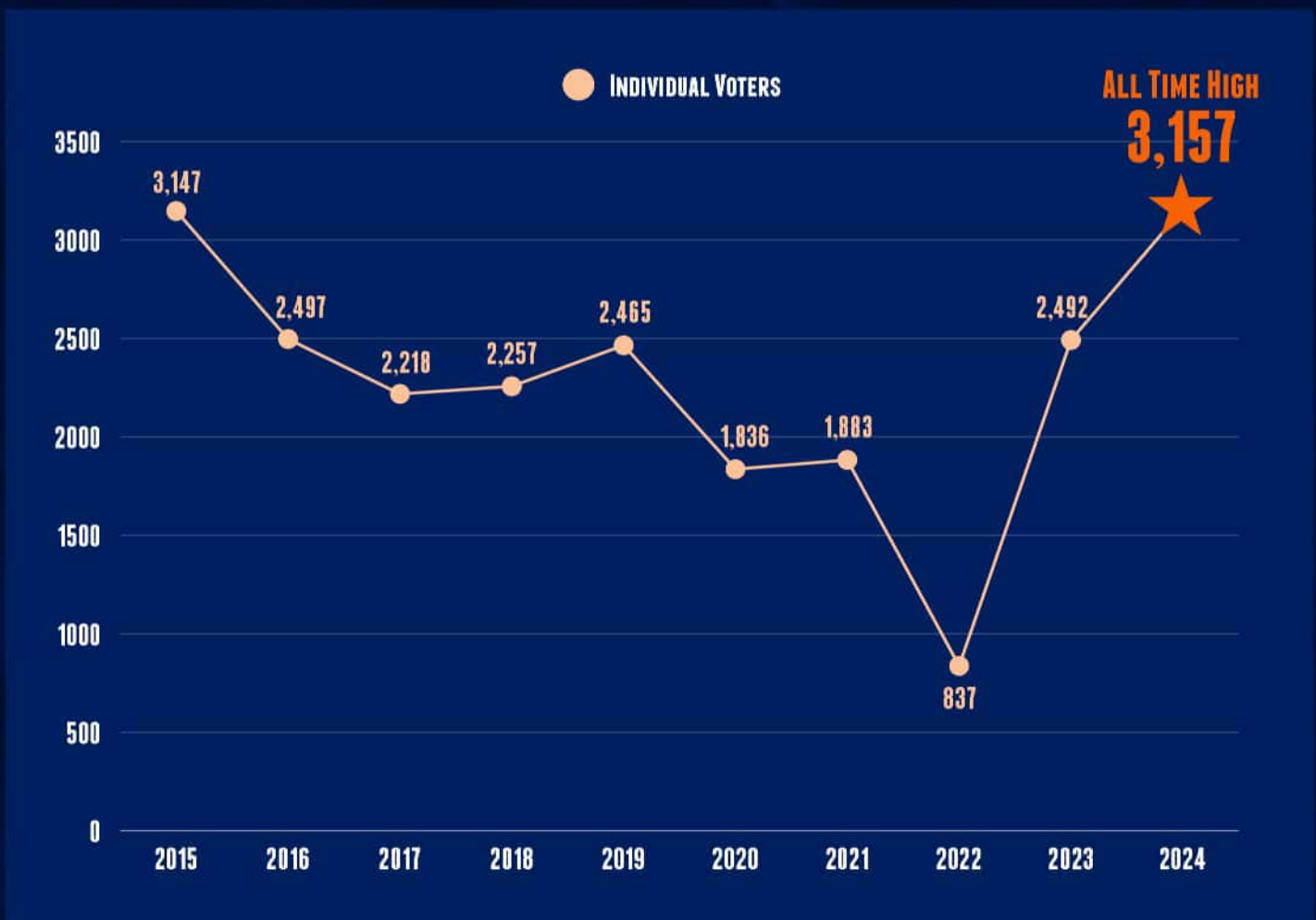
To every student who voted, campaigned, or supported a candidate — thank you. You've made your mark, and your engagement helps keep MSU strong, representative, and student-focused.

We also want to send a massive congratulations to all of our newly elected officers! We can't wait to work with you as you step into your leadership roles and begin your journey representing the students of Maynooth.

The logo features the letters 'MSU' in a large, bold, blue font. To the right of 'MSU' is a stylized icon of a building with three vertical bars. Below 'MSU' is a small orange star. Underneath the star, the word 'ELECTIONS' is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

MSU ELECTIONS

5 YEAR SUMMARY



MAY-JUNE 2024

MAY 7TH

As we are a significant commuter university we wanted to give back to students and ensure that they have a fun event to mark the end of the semester. This is something we did throughout the year but on May 7th it was our biggest one yet!

The day kicked off around 1pm with outdoor games with Connect 4, Giant Jenga, Mini Arcade Basketball. We had a paddling pool filled with water and windup toys for students to race each other. At long last we brought back the sand! It was just a paddling pool filled with a small bit of sand, but it finally returned! We also brought the USI/AMLÉ Pop-Up Gaeltacht outside for student to win a range of prizes including Bucket Hats!

In the bar we had a range of music all day with an acoustic set to kick off the day. Then we had in Casa Disco heightening the vibes with a saxophone player, DJ and Mimi Lane on vocal. Daddy Sax was going around the whole bar and Mimi was getting the crowd on the mic to sing along to classic songs.

A special mention to games soc who facilitate us with Mario Kart for our Outdoor Screen, there was queues of students waiting for a chance to play Mario Kart. Lego Soc also had a pop up in the info centre for anyone who wanted to chill for a bit!



MY PERSPECTIVE: THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IN CREATING AND IMAGINING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL

As part of the MU Teaching and learning showcase a panel discussion was held with Kyla the VP Student Life and Deputy President being a panellist alongside Prof. Randall Bass, Georgetown University, Dr Susan Gottlober, Dean of Teaching and Learning and Associate Dean of T&L (FAH), Prof. Mary Murphy, Department of Sociology MU, and Dr. Aidan Mooney, Department of Computer Science and it was chaired by the new VP Students and Learning Tim Thompson. The panel discussion was on our own perspectives: the purpose of education in creating and imagining a better future for all. It was interesting to hear staffs perspectives on this this topic and highlight the student perspective speaking on my own experience here in Maynooth.

MAY-JUNE 2024

GO PURPLE DAY [CW: DV]

We posted informational graphics on May 3rd to mark Go Purple Day, an annual campaign to raise awareness for domestic abuse and the local domestic abuse support services available.



LOCAL AND EUROPEAN ELECTION GUIDE

With Local and European elections happening on the 7th of June, we wanted to make sure students were aware of what these elections entail and why it is important for them to use their right to vote to elected people who represent their views. In the guide it gave a run down on what both elections are, a breakdown of the work that is carried out by city and county councils and the European parliament.

MAY DESTRESS

During the May exam period we provided students with a variation of things to alleviate stress during exams. Across the exam period we kept the pantry stocked with snacks that are usually seen in our food trolley with healthy snacks courtesy of Healthy Campus. We also set up games when the weather was dry over at John Hume for students to have a bit of craic during the day whilst taking a break from their studies. With the Ice-Pops being so popular last year we had random ice pop drops scattered across the exam period. We also had a stock of essential exam items such as pens, calculators, rulers etc to make sure that if a student had forgotten anything for their exams, we had them sorted!





STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IRELAND 2024

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES:

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR

CHARLI MIDDLETON

ACCESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

SHARON TYNDALL

FEACHTAS GAEILGE NA BLIANA

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

MSU PANTRY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

GVANSTA CHKHETIANI

MATURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

KEELIN BRERETON

OUTSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVISM

ELLE GEORGE

STUDENT ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR

BAISAT ALAWIYE

CHARITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

DOMINICON - GAMES SOCIETY

EQUALITY CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

ACCESS//ABLE

INCLUSIVITY X DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

SU TEAM OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM DELEGATION

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

WINNERS:

SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

MSU PANTRY

"This nominee has had an immensely positive impact on the student community of their institution marks a crucial step towards addressing a pressing social injustice on campuses across Ireland. The impact of this campaign is profound and immediate, showcasing a dedication to cultivating a community of care and advocating for student welfare. Through tireless lobbying this campaign secured €130k and a dedicated space on campus to address systemic issues contributing to food insecurity among students."

EQUALITY CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

ACCESS//ABLE

"The focus of this campaign had a clear focus on supporting, informing and empowering students with disabilities in their campus and they achieved this through holding a number of different events aimed at students with disabilities and culminating with a comedy show that aimed to break through societal stereotypes and also platform neurodiverse voices. The focus at both a campus level and local community engagement highlights the impact this campaign had both on campus and locally and will continue to have into the future."

MATURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

KEELIN BRERETON

"This year's winner has an extraordinary record of advocacy, representation, and impact. They are a shining example of the deep, meaningful and lasting impact that many mature students have on the college experience. The judges were particularly impressed with the transformative impact of this student's hard work and advocacy, and the application on their behalf spoke to a hard-won improvement to college services that will benefit students like them for years to come."

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

GVANSTA CHKHETIANI

"This student has been an inspiration to other students within their university and they have gone above and beyond to support fellow international students with being away from home. Through events, workshops, and awareness campaigns, they have created inclusive spaces where students from diverse backgrounds can come together to learn, share perspectives, and work towards common goals. Through their dedication to their studies and their activism, this student has not only helped other students navigate the college experience but has also fostered a welcoming community of resilience, solidarity, and social responsibility."

OUTSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVISM

ELLE GEORGE

"While all the entries in this category were amazing, and the work being done is fantastic, the winner stood out due to the breadth and range of work they have done in the mental health space. They are obviously not afraid to roll up their sleeves and get involved, no matter what needs doing, but they were also clearly the driver behind a lot of the ideas and initiatives. Their enthusiasm for all they do shone through in the numerous examples provided of the work they have done throughout the year, and it's clear they are, and will continue to, make a real difference in the mental health space."

MSU INFO CENTRE

Whilst on campus the MSU Info Centre is your one-stop-shop for your student needs. It is located on North Campus, beside the MSU Club. If you have any queries or questions, simply call into see Ann Marie the Info Centre Manager, or any of the student staff members, and they will be sure to assist you.



MSU HOUSING & COMMUTING STUDENT SURVEY

With accommodation, or more importantly, the lack of it, impacting greatly on our student population, MSU recently offered students the opportunity of engaging with a Housing & Commuting Student Survey. Findings showed that 68% of the response reported that commuting was having a negative impact on their mental health. Whilst on campus it is therefore so important that student social spaces are inclusive, inviting and available to students, especially when they initially arrive on campus via the many means of transport they use. The MSU Info Centre understands, especially during the cold Winter months that having somewhere warm and indeed open is a necessity for our commuting students. In recent years the MSU Info Centre re-established its opening hours to reflect this.

Apart from being an everyday social space for our students, we can also report that over the last academic year our MSU Info Centre was "booked" on just under 200 occasions for various events such as Coffee Mornings/Afternoons, visiting information sessions for International Delegates, Elections Campaigns Area, Spraoi Session Film Event, Chill & Skill sessions, Moodle Support sessions, Bursars' Office One-One information, whilst also catering for the day - to - day operations of the office, which is always student focused and student centred.

The MSU Info Centre wholeheartedly welcomes the many students who frequent this space, and we will continue to strive to increase this engagement in the coming academic year.



Whilst on campus the MSU Info Centre is your one-stop-shop for your student needs. It is located on North Campus, beside the MSU Club.

Within the MSU Info Centre there are a range of services, some of which include Printing, Laminating, & Binding. These services are currently the cheapest on campus, so be sure to call if you need any of them :)

Your MSU Info Centre is also an agent for Leap Card, so if you are looking for your Student Travel Card, call in and we can assist you in processing your card.

Other services within the MSU Info Centre include our Reciprocal Bookshelf, which is always stocked with books for you to take away free of charge. If you have a book that you no longer need for your course, pop it on the shelf so there will always be loads to go around.

Our MSU Info Centre is also a "Bookable Space". Students/staff can avail of this area by booking a table on our on-line booking system. This space is perfect for Coffee Mornings/Information Pop-Up Stands, etc,

Within the MSU Info Centre students can avail of borrowing a lap-top from the Lap-Top Station. Students simply scan their Student ID Card on the system and they can avail of a lap-top for up to three hours. This is a great service, especially when your lap-top needs charging and you forgotten your charger.

We also have a Parcel Point, right here in the MSU Info Centre for both students and staff to avail of. You can collect, return or send a parcel with us. Register with [parcelconnect.ie](https://www.parcelconnect.ie)

We also offer a range of merchandise from hoodies, jackets, polo-shirts, graduation bears and baseball hats. Again, we offer value for money when it comes to our merch, so if you are looking for Maynooth University or Maynooth Students' Union goodies, call into us or visit our on-line store.

We also have Payzone facilities in the MSU Info Centre where you can top-up your travel card or mobile phone, it is so convenient.

MSU LONDIS

Summer 2023 was probably one of the quietest we have experienced in MSU Londis. This gave us the opportunity to plan and prepare for September and the start of the 23/24 academic year.

This year we were able to hire sixteen student staff headed up by myself Fiona and Jana. We had a great blend of returning staff and many new faces. Their contribution was invaluable in managing increased customer flow and maintaining high service levels.

Our dedicated team helped us win two prestigious awards this year. In September, we were awarded the Retail Excellence Award by BWG Londis. We got the opportunity to celebrate this award in Spanish Point with our SU President, our General Manager and our Finance Director. In March, we achieved the LRQA Gold Standard Award. This accolade reflects our strong quality management practices and our dedication to continuous improvement.

As ever, we supported the students Union with some very important campaigns throughout the year including the distress campaigns around exams and the launch of the Pantry opposite the shop in the John Hume building. The Pantry is a great addition to the service provided by the students' union, and we will continue to support and help improve it. We also continued our support for the wider campus community and were delighted to be able to source goods for the tea mornings and the healthy campus team.

I would like to thank my team, Fiona and Jana for their hard work and dedication throughout the year in supporting the delivery of our busy service offering. Our successful year would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our customers, the hard work of our staff and the leadership, dedication and commitment of Fiona and Jana. (Thank You)

Brian Torley
MSU Londis Manager



MSU CLUB

The MSU Club continued to operate as a vibrant hub at the heart of the Students' Union, offering a welcoming space for study, socialising, and celebration throughout the academic year. Open from early morning to late evening Monday to Thursday, and until 4 PM on Fridays, the Club delivered a diverse experience for members with coffee, food, entertainment, and events under one roof.

Activity remained exceptionally strong, with an estimated 150,000 customer engagements recorded across the year. Demand for our offering was reflected in an average of 1,350 transactions per day. Some interesting figures can be found in the Year in Numbers on Page 36.

Weekly entertainment, including quizzes, karaoke, music bingo, and live performances, continued to draw consistent attendance, while large-scale events in The Venue remained highlights of the student experience.

Our Coffee Dock sustained strong footfall through its Seattle's Best Coffee offering and convenient grab-and-go options.

Club Management extends its deepest appreciation to our staff whose professionalism and energy kept the Club operating at pace throughout the year. We also offer heartfelt thanks to every student who visited, engaged, and made the MSU Club their space away from home.

We look forward to another successful year ahead.

MSU Club Management Team



YEAR IN NUMBERS

EVENTS HOSTED

224

BY MSU

ALCOHOL FREE

55

EVENTS

CLUBS & SOCS

31

EVENTS HELD IN THE
VENUE

BALLOTS CAST

23,700

IN ELECTIONS

STUDENTS ENTERED

2,000

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
FREE PRIZE DRAW

UNIQUE VOTERS

3,157

IN MARCH ELECTIONS

BREAKFASTS

11,824

SERVED

CHICKEN FILLET ROLLS

3,442

EATEN

CUPS OF

7,786

TEA & COFFEE SOLD

LITRES OF

4,000

CURRY SAUCE

HOURS PROVIDED TO

3,750

STUDENTS IN THE CLUB

CLUB TRANSACTIONS

150,000

IN 2023-24



MSU INFO CENTRE STAFF EMMA APPLEBY

For me working in the MSU Info Centre was both a beneficial and satisfying experience. I believe that it has significantly boosted my confidence within my second year of studying here in the university. I really enjoy coming to work each day at the MSU Info Center and always went home with a huge smile on my face, having made a difference to the people I met and helped during my shift. I am always thrilled when I see Ann Marie, the manager of the front office. I've picked up loads of skills since I started working there in September that I will use in my next job, from confidence, public speaking to self-reliance and collaborative abilities. Working beside me has been the most amazing bunch of student staff, with whom I have formed lifelong connections!

I am starting to get a feel for the workings of MSU and how well our Maynooth students are served. As an operations student staff member at the MSI Info Center, I have particularly appreciated being able to translate the facility into both English and Irish by creating equipment signs that has the Irish translation next to it. I was really pleased with myself for being able to apply my newly acquired talents to transform this proposal that I brought to management.

My understanding of the University has also expanded significantly due to answering students' questions and being approachable, which was another aspect of working at MSU that brought me happiness. Self-confidence was a struggle I had in my first year of college, and this job has unquestionably helped me to get over this.

With flexible hours and a living wage income, Ann Marie makes this experience feel nothing like a part-time job, it was fun and rewarding. I have nothing but praise for this profession; it has improved me as a person and shown me what a true team looks like—one where there's always time for humour and cooperation when needed. The fact that each day is unique makes it truly rewarding.

A REFLECTION ON THE YEAR

SCAN TO LISTEN



As my first term as Vice President Student Life and Deputy President wraps up, I find myself looking back on different things and already thinking what I could do better starting my second term. Alas, this is a reflection on the year gone by so let me reflect real quick.

One of the first things I learned in this role, is that we have roughly 70 something days face to face with students when you consider the hours of meetings across the year, or trips you go on in this role which is wild to think about. The year truly goes by in a blink of an eye, it still feels like only a few weeks ago I was elected but it was over a year ago now (crazy).

My first days were swooped up in planning for Orientation and Freshers, meeting different staff across the university and producing the Freshers Handbook. We got to meet the officers across the country when we went to SUT and SUT+ and made great friends with other unions. You think Summer would be a quiet period, but you learn in this role there is rarely a quiet period.

One of my highlights has got to have been throwing events for students. Knowing so many students in final year it was a push for me to ensure that we had great events to make their final year memorable since majority would have started amidst Covid. Hosting a prom, getting so close to winning at Bingo Loco, all of it has been so memorable and I can't wait to start planning for next year.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Sabbat team this year Alex, Gavin, and Niamh. Alex has been a powerhouse as our President and none of us could have done what we did without her guidance, I hope I can continue your legacy in some way! There can be moments in the office where we are all slightly delirious, or singing along to Keep Driving in the office, it's all been hilarious. I will miss the two girls as they go on from Maynooth Students' Union but you have left your mark. Please don't be strangers and do come visit.

To the rest of the executive, the senate and any other student I bumped into on the way it's been real (bereal warning sign emoji?). Especially the part time officers and senate. The dedication you have shown to help Maynooth Students' Union is remarkable especially while you are all flat out with your degrees!

Thats all for now folks it's been a pleasure so far and I can't wait to keep going for another year.

Long live (Taylor's Version)

Kyla ;)



KYLA HENRY
VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT
LIFE & DEPUTY PRESIDENT

A REFLECTION ON THE YEAR

SCAN TO LISTEN



What a chaotic year!

Before stepping into this role, I never would have imagined finding myself on stage in front of hundreds of first years giving orientation speeches, or hosting events where I'm giving out sex toys as prizes, organising kink workshops and riding rodeo penises! This year has propelled me out of my comfort zone in the best ways possible, and I have grown tremendously because of it, both personally and professionally

Campaign planning might be hectic, but the effort is entirely worth it when I see students actively engaging in workshops or witness incredibly creativity during events like sculpt & sip. The interactions I had with students has been the highlight of my year – you are equally hilarious and heartwarming. Hearing firsthand from students that they enjoyed our events or how our support during their hardship made a difference has been the most fulfilling aspect of this year.

Never again will I have a job that gives me the opportunity to organise such fun events that I genuinely enjoy hosting. I am indebted to the Events Team for helping me bring my campaign ideas to life and to the Comms Team for providing the most spectacular graphics to advertise them to students, none of my campaigns would have been possible without your support.

I'm beyond grateful to everyone that helped me this year, from the dedicated Executive to some amazing student reps, your support has been invaluable. To the staff especially, I truly could not have successfully navigated this role without your support and consistent encouragement. To my fellow Officers, thank you for making my year fun, quirky, and memorable.

This year has been unforgettable, filled with rewarding experiences and valuable lessons that I'll carry with me into my next adventure. I will cherish the memories I have made and be eternally grateful to the people I have met during my time here, from working in the Info Centre to becoming a Sabbatical Officer.

While I'll miss the unique and often quirky nature of this role, I'm excited to see what next year's team will accomplish, their fresh perspectives and energy will undoubtedly contribute hugely to the Union and to the Maynooth students' experience and I wish them all the best.

Here's to a year of chaos, growth, and unforgettable memories!

Niamh



NIAMH RINEY
VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE & EQUALITY

A REFLECTION ON THE YEAR

SCAN TO LISTEN



As the year comes to an end, I am taking the time to reflect on some key highlights. One of the first tasks I undertook was addressing repeat exams. The DeStress campaign was a highlight, aimed at easing student anxieties during the exam period. During this time, we were able to provide students with exam essentials and reintroduce the food trolley. It was great to be on the ground and communicating with students during this period.

A memorable experience was attending Pink Training as the delegation leader, along with five other representatives from MSU. Over the training, we participated in various workshops and talks, and took part in evening activities, which gave us opportunities to chat with other officers and representatives from across the country.

Through various USI/AMLÉ events, I had the chance to meet not only fellow education officers but also other sabbaticals from various student unions. These were excellent opportunities to build connections for the year and to exchange advice on a variety of topics.

Throughout this year, I attended numerous protests representing MSU on both national and local levels. These ranged from Palestine protests to PWO protests. I felt proud wearing the MSU logo at these protests, showing our solidarity on many issues.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my Faculty Convenors and the Academic Representatives for their support this year. It has been a pleasure to work with you and to help address the variety of issues that students face here in Maynooth. To the Executive and Senate, thank you. It has been a pleasure to work with you, and I know you will go on to achieve wonderful things in your future.

Le meas,
Gavin



GAVIN FANNING
VICE PRESIDENT
EDUCATION

TAKE 2



Back by popular demand, SHAG week (take 2) was more than just your average campaign – it was a wild ride of education and empowerment!

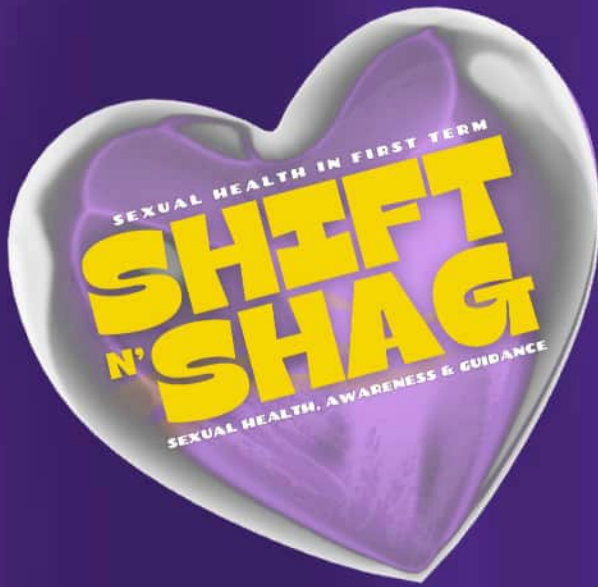
Beginning with students diving into the Digital Intimacy Active* Consent Workshop, where they learned the ins and outs of safe online interactions in crash course on digital romance. Next up, Navigating Dating & Relationships in 2024 with Deirdre McDonagh from MU's Counselling Service provided a safe space for students to have open discussions on modern love in the age of emojis and dating apps.

Sexlympics brought a whole new meaning to "getting physical", with students competing in cheeky mini-games and soaking up info on sexual health along the way.

Then, things took a turn for the adventurous with the Sex on the Peach Workshop, where students explored the world of anal play in a fun and risk-aware way. It was like a crash course in peachy pleasure!

Sculpt & Sip turned anatomy into art, celebrating the beautiful diversity of human bodies one sculpture at a time. And best of all, we brought back the Rodeo Penis as a hilarious romp, proving that laughter really is the best medicine.

And to finish off with a bang, Sex Toy Bingo brought the house down with a mix of education and entertainment, proving that sexual health education can be both informative and downright fun, embracing all things sexy and silly.



SHIFT n' SHAG (Sexual Health in First Term n' Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance) started the semester off by unleashing a week-long extravaganza aimed at turning up the volume on sexual health awareness for our students. Plastering the MSU building into a hub of colourful posters and leaflets, each shouting the importance of knowing your stuff when it comes to sexual well-being.

Kicking off the party was the HSE Roadshow Activation, a carnival of condoms and lube brought by the HSE's Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme. They came and they served by doling out goodies and sparking conversations about everything from contraception to crisis pregnancy prevention. Meanwhile, the USI SHAG Roadshow was like a sexual health circus, complete with different contraception demonstrations, leaflets, and enough information to make your head spin (in a good way, of course).





The Active* Consent Workshop offered a safe space for students to navigate the world of sexual consent. MU Healthy Campus joined us in educating students on college romance etiquette, including information on local support services. We also had the Active* Consent Green-Flag post-it notes which encouraged students to stick up their favourite green flags in relationships onto our board. It was a celebration of healthy love and positive vibes, while also showcasing everyone's different definitions of green flags and what people should aspire for in romantic relationships.



And who could forget the Speed Dating/Friending shindig? It was like Tinder, but IRL and with chiller vibes. Students mingled, laughed, and maybe even found a spark. The "Chains, Whips, and Self-Care Tips" workshop delved into the world of kinks and fetishes, all while keeping things safe, sane, and consensual. Then students were able to unleash their creativity during the paint & sip while fostering open conversation about all thing's sexual health.



The Sex Toy Quiz proved to be the big finale as we tested students on their sexual health knowledge on everything from safe sex to STI's, all while dishing out fun facts with some sex toy prizes for the winners to destigmatise the conversation around SHAG.

To summarise, SHIFT n' SHAG wasn't just a campaign; it was a celebration of sexual health, education, and good old-fashioned fun. Because when it comes to staying safe, a little laughter and lube can go a long way.

access// able



Access//Able was a week-long celebration of inclusivity and accessibility through a series of engaging events and workshops. The objective included raising awareness of the work of organisations like AHEAD that are dedicated to accessibility and disability awareness, providing students with opportunities to learn about applying for advisory groups and post-college opportunities as a chance to learn, connect, and pave the way for a more accessible future.

The MU Access Office (MAP) joined us on two occasions to facilitate a MILO workshop, where students were able to learn the ins and outs of MU's inclusive online learning platform, as well as a workshop on the assistive technology and exam accommodations MAP offer as student supports. Autism Friendly Town Maynooth also stopped by to discuss their initiatives promoting accessibility and inclusivity in Maynooth, encouraging student involvement and understanding.

The Access//Able comedy show aimed to entertain while challenging stereotypes and promoting representation and neurodiversity acceptance. The Speed Friending event provided students an opportunity to make new connections, expand their social circle, and foster community building among students. The Chill & Skill (Access//Able edition) provided a space for students to relax, unwind, and develop new skills while exploring accessibility elements. To finish off the week, the LipSync Battle made a triumphant return, offering students a chance to shine on stage and showcase their talents.

The // in 'Access//Able' is used to symbolise how access is the only determinant of ability. It circumscribes ability, and it is the unaccommodating structures around one that determine what both disability and ability are. Overall, the campaign's aim was to educate, empower, and create a more inclusive environment for all students.

msu Orientation Week

18–22 Sept

During Orientation week, we were fortunate to welcome the new first year students to Maynooth Students' Union as a part of their first week on campus. The main objective is to inform students of the supports and resources available in Maynooth Students' Union throughout their university experience.

Alongside the Orientation talks in MSU, Alex provided a joint welcome every morning in the TSI Building and also was in the Welcome Video that was shared with all first years.

Across the 5 days, the Full-Time Officers facilitated 28 talks, to a total of (add number) students. This was an opportunity to introduce them to us as a team, highlight what Maynooth Students' Union does and the various services we provide such as the Info Centre, Londis, and the MSU Club. Alongside we showed the academic support, advocacy and social aspects of Maynooth Students' Union.

During the talk we had different Icebreakers and engaged with the crowd including playing a game of among us where one of the Sabbats would be hidden in the crowd disguised as a first year and the first to spot us won various prizes throughout the week. Following the talk, they were brought around to the Info Centre where they received their 'Freshers Packs', these packs contained freebies and essential items within a branded MSU x Londis tote bag. Each pack included the Student Handbook, various leaflets and discount codes, popcorn, water, can of monster and redbull, sweets and snack bars, pens, and condoms.

We also held events at lunch and in the evening to give the opportunity for students to socialise during orientation. The lunch time sessions included; a welcome picnic, Rock and Roll Bingo, Commuter gig, Open Mic and slushies, and TGI Friday Café. Each night we had a social event in the Venue and a non-alcoholic event in the Info Centre. Some of these included Speed-Friending, Karaoke, Let's Get Jiggy with It, Paint and Sip, board game bonanza, and a movie night. Alongside the events we had a range of deals provided by the MSU Club including porridge deals, free pastries, free tea or coffee and a fresher's fry deal.

The non-alcoholic events proved to be very popular amongst the new students with the info centre filled each night.





SEPTEMBER

25th-29th



Freshers' Fest marked the first big week of events for our team this year! Planning kicked off in July to ensure we delivered a top-notch week of excitement to kickstart the semester.

Almost every day, we had something lined up at 10 am, 1 pm, 5 pm, and 9 pm, catering to all students. Each day kicked off with Know Your Union Info Huts, where students had the chance to meet officers and USI, getting involved on a personal level and learning how they could contribute to upcoming campaigns.

Our evening activities were a blast, ranging from quizzes to karaoke to Bingo Loco! Keith Shanley kicked off the first Speed Quiz of the year on Monday, followed by County/Country Colours, allowing students to proudly flaunt their county/country colours.

Tuesday brought a mind reader to campus, leading up to the BIG GIG with a former MSU President taking the stage. Wednesday was packed with excitement as officers hosted the Big Freshers Quiz sponsored by White Claw. But that's not all! Just before that, we brought back Viola Gayvis and Coco Rí to slay the venue with an iconic Drag Show!

And to end the week with a bang, Thursday saw Bingo Loco giving away iconic prizes, ensuring a fantastic night for those lucky enough to get tickets.

Throughout the week, our bar offered various deals, and we had exciting activations with Anytime Fitness, Hot Press, Freshers Fades with Grafton Barbers, and Red Bull. A massive thank you to all those who came down with freebies for the students!



Re freshers

To welcome students back to campus for the 2nd Semester, we decided to reintroduce a Refreshers' week. The vibe of this week was like Freshers' back in September but on a smaller scale, with some great events happening over the week.

First up was our Retro Prom, with Abbaesque headlining. In the lead-up to the prom, we held a corsage-making workshop and a prom decorating committee to involve students in the preparations, akin to what they do in America. We then transformed the venue into a Retro Prom space with decorations galore. Alongside Abbaesque, we had Shazarama opening, playing all the greatest hits from the 80s and setting the retro mood. Abbaesque, who are favourites in Maynooth, then put on an iconic show, getting everyone up dancing and having the time of their lives. Following Abbaesque, we crowned our Prom Royalty for the night.



Refrashers

On Wednesday, we hosted a commuter-friendly Mario Kart Tournament in collaboration with the Games Society, with the winners receiving two free tickets to our comedy gig that night. That night, we welcomed Steve Bennett for a comedy gig called "Dungeons and Naggins", where he took the crowd through the land of Nagginthia. It was a highly interactive comedy show, with the crowd involved in determining what came next in the story.



Thursday's events involved a commuter table quiz and a welcome electronic party hosted by ESN. The welcome party was for any international students who had just arrived in Ireland, providing them with an opportunity to meet other students and have a memorable start to their studies here in Maynooth.

Throughout the week, we had "Know Your Union" Info Huts centred around the upcoming elections. It was an opportunity for students to chat with officers about their roles, what it entails, and why they should run for roles in the union.

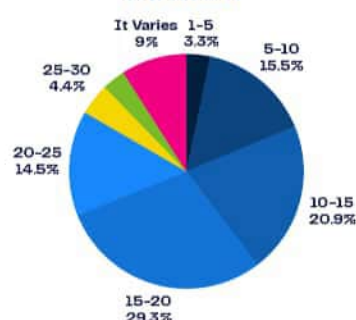


MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION HOUSING & COMMUTING SURVEY

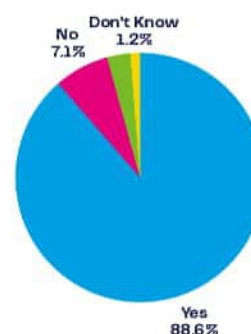
Maynooth Students' Union spearheaded an extensive research project to find factual information about the challenges, advantages, impacts, alienations facing our students, specifically when it comes to commuting, their accommodation, and their search in finding suitable student accommodation in the perimeter of Maynooth.

On the 27th of November, we launched the Housing and Commuting survey with the aim of gaining these valuable insights. We encouraged students to open up and get the conversation going, to help break the stigma about opening up, to combat this, we invited our members to a members' meeting held on the 5th of December where we asked thought provoking questions to get the conversations going. It wasn't long until the room was of a consensus that we are facing an extreme accommodation and commuters crisis.

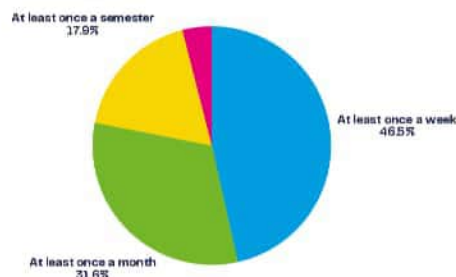
How many hours do you work in a week?



Do you need to work to pay rent or commuting costs?



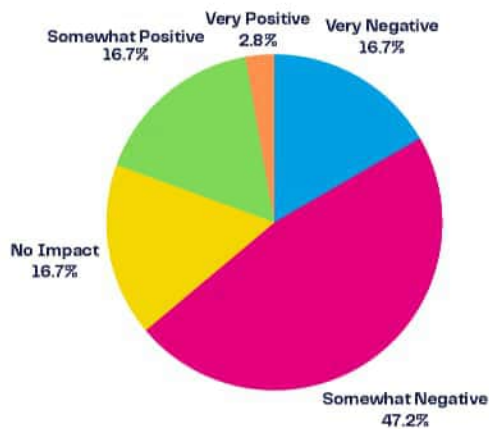
How often do you skip classes in order to work?



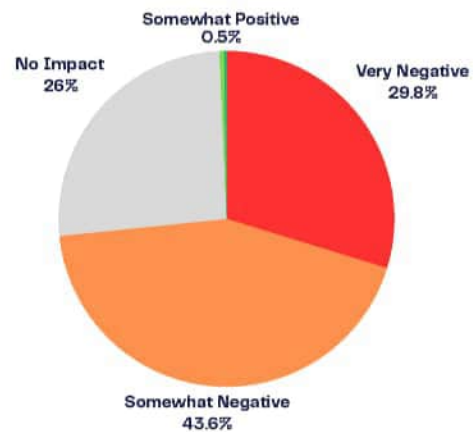
These efforts are part of our commitment to student consultation, ensuring that we thoroughly understand the concerns and needs of our community before formulating our demands for direct action.

In the accommodation and commuters survey we found some staggering statistics and remarks, unfortunately, the survey showed us that there are very few positives facing students at this time in relation to accommodation and commuting.

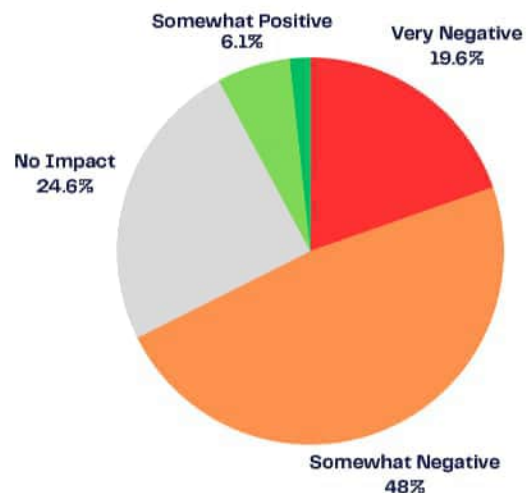
What impact does having to work have on your mental health?



What impact has searching for a home had on your mental health?



What impact does commuting have on your mental health?



LIVING SITUATION

OPEN RESPONSES

When given the opportunity to answer 'Do you have any comments on how searching for a home has affected your mental health and students experience?' via a free-text answer, the valid responses (n=220) could be divided into six broad themes which highlight the challenges faced by students due to the lack of housing.

1. Exhaustion:

Many students report spending significant time commuting, often 2-4 hours daily. This travel time leads to physical and mental exhaustion, reducing their ability to study, participate in social activities, and engage fully in university life.

2. Mental Health Impact:

The process of searching for affordable housing combined with long commutes contribute to high levels of stress and anxiety among students. This stress often interferes with their academic performance and personal well-being.

3. Impact on Academic Performance:

Long commuting hours reduce the time available for studying, leading to decreased academic performance. Many students reported missing classes and struggling to complete assignments on time due to the time spent commuting and the exhaustion it causes.

4. Social Isolation:

Students forced to commute often have to leave campus early to catch buses or trains and find it difficult to participate in social and extracurricular activities, leading to feelings of isolation and missing out on the full college experience.

5. Finance & Work Life Balance:

The high cost of housing forces students to either commute long distances or spend a significant portion of their income on rent. Many students have to work long hours to afford their commutes or potential housing, which further impacts their ability to focus on their studies.

6. Dissatisfaction and Hopelessness:

The combined effects of long commutes, financial strain, and social isolation lead to a generally negative college experience for many students, making them feel disconnected and disillusioned.

COMMUTING

OPEN RESPONSES

When given the opportunity to answer 'Do you have any comments on how commuting has affected your mental health and students experience?' via a free-text answer, the valid responses (n=482) could be divided into three broad themes which highlight significant challenges faced by students due to commuting to university.

1. Impact on Mental Health:

Emotional Stress:

Many students mentioned experiencing stress and anxiety due to unreliable transportation and long commutes.

Mental Exhaustion:

Students expressed feeling mentally drained from long hours spent commuting, impacting their ability to focus on academics and social activities.

Isolation:

Commuting prevented students from fully participating in campus life, leading to feelings of isolation and missing out on social opportunities.

2. Disruption to Student Experience:

Limited Engagement:

Students reported being unable to fully engage in campus activities, clubs, and events due to commuting constraints.

Missed Opportunities:

Long commutes resulted in missed classes, events, and social gatherings, impacting their overall university experience.

Academic Impact:

Students mentioned difficulties in attending lectures and managing their coursework due to commuting challenges.

3. Physical Strain & Challenges:

Fatigue and Exhaustion:

Students described feeling physically tired and drained from long commutes, impacting their overall well-being.

Logistical Issues:

Practical challenges such as parking availability, unreliable transportation, and financial strain added to the burden of commuting.

UNIVERSITY RESPONSE

OPEN RESPONSES

When given the opportunity to answer 'What additional supports would you like to see from Maynooth University to ease the effects of the housing emergency?' via a free-text answer, the valid responses (n=763) could be divided into these broad themes.

1. Academic Support:

Online Classes:

The majority of students expressed a desire for more online classes, recorded lectures, and online resources to accommodate their commuting challenges or other personal circumstances.

Flexibility with Attendance and Extensions:

Students emphasised the importance of flexibility regarding attendance policies and extensions, suggesting that strict requirements and the need for doctor's notes can be burdensome.

2. Financial Assistance:

Affordable Accommodation:

Many students highlighted the need for more affordable on-campus accommodation or assistance in finding affordable housing off-campus.

Financial Supports & Subsidies:

Students called for financial support, including subsidies for commuting costs, cheaper accommodation, and reduced student fees. Students also highlighted the need for better transportation options, such as increased bus services or subsidies for commuting costs.

3. Support from within University:

Understanding & Support from Staff:

Students desired greater understanding and support from lecturers regarding personal circumstances affecting attendance or academic performance.

Improved Communication and Information:

Some students emphasised the importance of improved communication and access to information regarding accommodation options, support services, and academic resources.

In recent years MSU have been inundated with accommodation queries and complaints and the same for commuting. We are highly concerned about the depth of the issues being raised by students, such as, unjustifiable evictions, price and unreliable public transports, lack of, price of, and standard of, disputes with landlords outside of RTB protection, Maynooth University StudentPad not being fit for purpose and the service not raising awareness about the need of tenancy agreements, and the failure of the government to provide DIGS legislation. Over the year, we have called for:

- To enact the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Bill 2023 which would grant a better level of protection for all parties involved and makes sure that no student is exploited for the circumstances that have lead them to seek this option.
- The government to publish the National Student Accommodation Strategy, as promised 3 years ago, and release clear plans with the public development of APBSA at the core of them.
- Extending the remit of the RTB, particularly the dispute resolution body of the RTB, to cover those living in Digs.
- Enhanced bus routes to Maynooth University, namely the 139 bus service from Naas to Maynooth which has now been increased to an hourly service.

We are currently in the process of forming the MSU Position Paper on the housing and commuting crisis which will set out our demands for the coming years



The MSU Student Pantry/AMLMN Pantrach is officially open! Earlier this year, we proposed the idea of a student pantry to Maynooth University to help support students through the cost-of-living crisis. Last year, when Alex was VP Education, one of the most frequent concerns raised was from students who could not afford their next meal. The Pantry provides students with non-perishable foods to help support them.

The benefits of having a student pantry are numerous. It helps alleviate the immediate stress and anxiety associated with food insecurity, ensuring that students can focus more on their studies and less on where their next meal will come from. By providing essential food items, the pantry fosters a sense of community and support, showing students that their university cares about their well-being.

The impact of the pantry has already been significant. Many students have expressed gratitude for the assistance, noting that it has made a tangible difference in their daily lives. The availability of non-perishable foods has enabled students to stretch their budgets further, reducing the financial strain they face. Additionally, the pantry has encouraged a culture of giving and mutual aid, with students and staff contributing donations to keep it stocked.

Overall, the MSU Student Pantry/AMLMN Pantrach is not just a resource for food; it is a vital support system that enhances the student experience and promotes a more inclusive and caring university environment.

STATEMENT ON PALESTINE

Maynooth Students' Union stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine as they endure brutal violence, war crimes and genocide ultimately leading to the tragic loss of countless innocent lives. We condemn the continuous aggression and war crimes by Israel and their outgoing illegal occupation of Palestine, perpetuating a system of apartheid. It is imperative for students and the university community especially to recognise the significance of standing in solidarity as we recognise that the liberation of Palestine is a vital anti-imperialist and anti-racist struggle that should be at the heart of our collective movements.

It is our duty to stand with Palestine in solidarity and advocate for justice.

NOVEMBER 9TH:

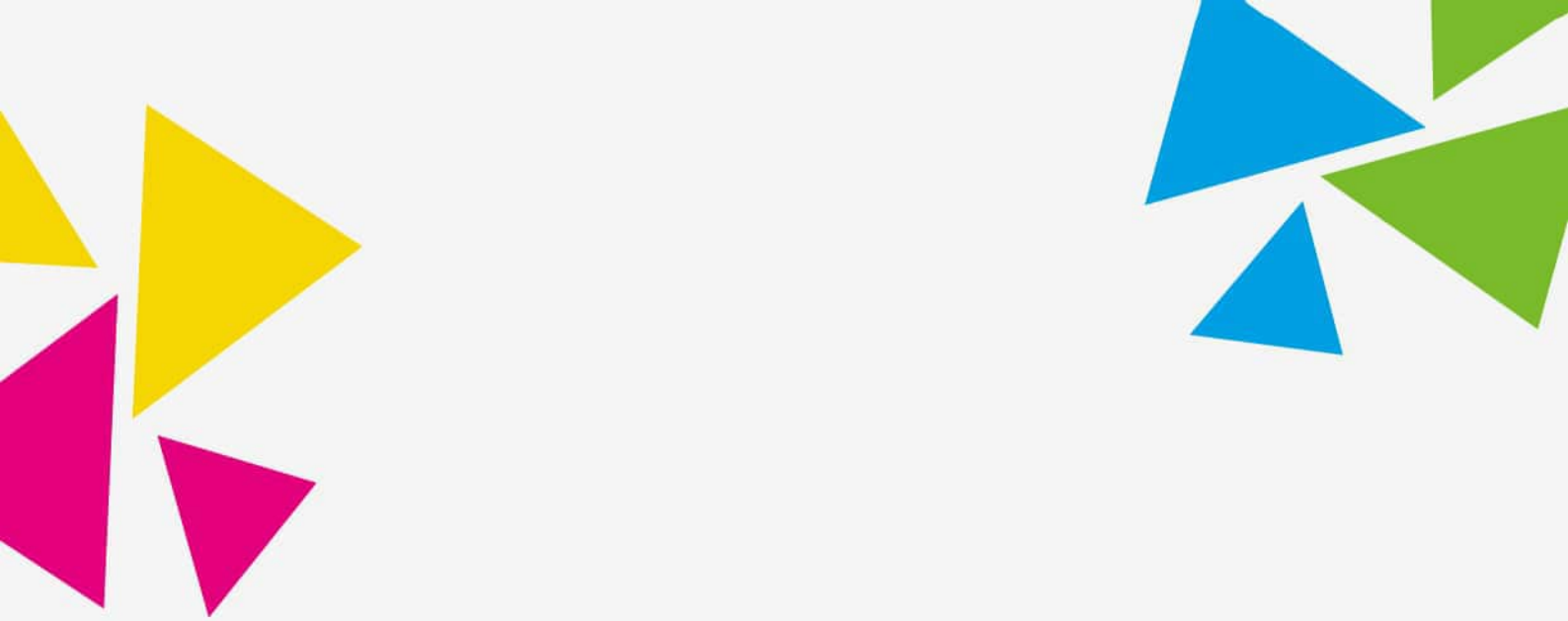
After passing a motion in our MSU Student Senate in support of Palestine, we issued a supportive statement and organised a moment of silence and vigil at the MSU Info Centre on November 9th at 10am. Candles were thoughtfully placed throughout the day, allowing individuals who couldn't participate during the designated time to join at their convenience and pay their respects.

DECEMBER 20TH:

Maynooth Students' Union join Academics for Palestine and members of the university community in Maynooth in a statement of solidarity with Palestinians as we urge Maynooth University to respond to the call from Palestinian universities as they call for international universities to take concrete action to:

1. Call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, guaranteed by the UN
2. Urge immediate entry into Gaza of sufficient amounts of life-saving humanitarian needs (incl. Water, food, fuel, medicine), equitable distributed throughout the whole territory of Gaza Strip.
3. Demand UN protection for the 2.3 million Palestinian civilians trapped under siege in Gaza
4. Issue clear positions rejecting any ethnic cleansing
5. Support in dismantling the settler colonial and apartheid system and achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

“Over the past two months, across our various groupings we have been organising teach-ins, walk-outs, vigils, public readings, fundraisers and other events on campus and online – to learn together, to provide mutual support, to mark and mourn the catastrophe that has been unfolding, to hold space in our hearts for all of those who have borne the brunt of this atrocious war and the longer siege and occupation of which it forms part. We will continue to do so, and to do whatever little we can to support the Palestinian rights to freedom, equality and justice.”



PART A

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, & MANAGEMENT

MSU Board of Trustees

MSU Audit & Risk Committee

MSU Student Senate

MSU Executive

MSU Staff

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Dear Members of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU),

This year has been a period of remarkable progress, innovation, and renewed engagement across the Union community.

MSU has made significant strides in strengthening its democratic foundations. MSU's student elections recorded some of the highest participation rates in recent years — an encouraging sign of growing student engagement and trust in MSU's role.

Alongside these democratic achievements, MSU launched a series of new initiatives aimed at improving the student experience — ranging from wellbeing supports and sustainability-focused campaigns to innovative services that respond directly to the needs voiced by students. These projects have been student-led, evidence-informed, and grounded in MSU's commitment to meaningful representation.

Throughout the year, the Board of Trustees met on 13 occasions to ensure robust governance and oversight of our operations. The Board continue to act as guardians of MSU's long-term sustainability and good governance, and their work is detailed further within this report.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend sincere thanks to all those who make our work possible — our student leaders, volunteers, staff, University colleagues, and wider community partners. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving the progress outlined in this Annual Report.

MSU is more than just a representative body — it is a collective endeavour, rooted in the belief that students should shape their own experience.



Thank you for your continued trust and engagement.

Sincerely,

PATRICK HENNESSY

**CHAIRPERSON
MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-24

The Union is an autonomous unincorporated association whose aims and objectives are defined by its Constitution.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The Board of Trustees defends the long-term interests of the Union and has oversight and responsibility in relation to the Union's financial, commercial, budgetary, and corporate governance matters and oversees the following aspects of the Union:

- Finances, financial management, and financial planning
- Commercial activities and commercial development
- Expenditure and financial controls
- Corporate governance
- Policies, procedures, and costs in relation to expense payments to Union officers and staff and all comparable expenditures
- Employment and management of staff

The Board met on 13 occasions during the reporting period. Membership and attendance at Board of Trustees meetings for the reporting period are set out in the table below.

The Director General and Director of Finance attend meetings of the Board of Trustees but are not members of the Board of Trustees.

The Director General acts as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.



MOLLY BUCKLEY



ALEX BALFE
(MSU President)



LORNA FITZPATRICK



NIAMH HALPENNY



RICHARD HAMMOND S.C.
(Deputy Chairperson)



PADDY HENNESSY
(Chairperson)



DR. RORY MCDAID



NIALL DALY

MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-24

Member	Appointment	Term	Number of Meetings Eligible to Attend	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage Attendance
MOLLY BUCKLEY	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	13	9	69%
ALEX BALFE	1 July 2023	One year (term of office as president)	13	13	100%
LORNA FITZPATRICK	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	13	10	77%
NIAMH HALPENNY	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	13	10	77%
RICHARD HAMMOND S.C.	9 October 2023	Three years from the date of appointment	13	13	100%
PADDY HENNESSY (CHAIR)	9 October 2023	Three years from the date of appointment	13	13	100%
DR. RORY MCDAID	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	13	8	62%
NIALL DALY	1 July 2023	One year (term of office as president)	13	9	69%

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-24



**MOLLY
BUCKLEY**

Molly is a native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly. A Public Health Nurse by profession, she is best described as an Equality & Disability Rights Activist. Molly has worked tirelessly within the community and voluntary sector for many years to improve the quality of people's lives. She chairs the Boards of several local and national organisations, and manages various community projects, including, Domestic Violence, Voluntary Housing, Disability, Homelessness and Older people. Molly's skills and strengths include Advocacy, Lobbying, Facilitation and group work, Strong interpersonal and communication skills, Ability to develop partnership, networks, and relationships.



**ALEX
BALFE**

Alex was elected MSU President for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, having previously served as Vice President for Education. Now in a second term representing the student body, Alex is committed to fostering an inclusive, engaged, and dynamic campus community, advocating for students and encouraging them to seize the full range of academic, social, and extracurricular opportunities available at Maynooth. Drawing on extensive experience in student representation, Alex works to ensure all students feel supported and empowered throughout their university journey, and remains an accessible point of contact for anyone seeking guidance, connection, or involvement with the Students' Union.



**LORNA
FITZPATRICK**

Lorna currently works in public affairs and previously worked with the National Council for the Blind in Ireland as the Advocacy and Engagement Manager. Prior to joining NCBI, Lorna was the President of the Union of Students in Ireland for two years. She has a degree in Human Resource Management and can often be heard on Sunday Radio stations speaking passionately about the issues affecting young people in Ireland. She is a Trustee of Maynooth Students' Union, a member of the Student Grants Appeals Board and a member of the Labour Party Executive Board.



**NIAMH
HALPENNY**

As a graduate of Maynooth University, Niamh brings a diverse range of experiences to her professional profile. With a strong background in higher education policy, student representation, advocacy, and campaigns, she has honed her skills in various leadership roles. Niamh has served as a member of Maynooth University's Governing Authority and has been an active participant in numerous academic and student life committees.

Currently, as the Head of Student Services at Independent College, Niamh continues to make a difference in the lives of international students studying third-level degrees in Ireland. She is passionate about supporting their personal welfare, academics, and career aspirations, utilising her diverse range of skills and expertise.

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-24



**RICHARD
HAMMOND
S.C.**

Richard is a Senior Counsel (being in the first coterie of solicitors ever to be elevated to that status by the Government of Ireland on 1st September 2020) who practises as a solicitor with his spouse Joyce A. Good Hammond at Hammond Good, Solicitors & Notaries Public, Mallow, County Cork where he is a partner. He is a self-described "succession law enthusiast" who also specialises in professional regulation. Much of his practise involves succession law consultancy for other law firms. He is a former President of the Southern Law Association and is a member of the Council of the Law Society of Ireland. Richard teaches extensively at the Law School of the Law Society of Ireland on the Professional Practice Courses. He is widely published and contributes regularly to CPD Conferences for Law Society Professional Training and for local Bar Associations.



**PATRICK
HENNESSY**

Fr Patrick Hennessy SBD is Provincial Bursar/Economer of the Salesian order in Ireland. He is a qualified teacher and has worked in second and third level education institutions. He has been involved in setting up and funding of community-based projects including the ACRE. He acts as coordinator of the Provincial Development Office.



**DR RORY
MCDAUID**

Director of Research, Marino Institute of Education.
Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Education
Course Leader, MES intercultural Learning and Leadership
Coordinator, Migrant Teacher Project
Visiting Research Fellow, CAVE, School of Education, Trinity College, Dublin



**NIALL
DALY**

Niall twice deferred the final year of his studies to serve as Vice President Education and Deputy President (2021-22), and then as President (2022-23) of Maynooth Students' Union.

He completed his undergraduate degree at Maynooth University in 2024 and is continuing his education, pursuing a master's degree at UCD's Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business.

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Dear Members of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU),

As Chairperson of the MSU Audit & Risk Committee (ARC), I am pleased to provide this statement as part of our Annual Report, outlining the important oversight role the ARC has played in supporting the financial stewardship and risk governance of MSU throughout the year.

The ARC exists to assist the MSU Board of Trustees in fulfilling its responsibilities regarding financial oversight, internal control, and risk management. Our remit covers a wide range of areas including the review of financial statements, audit processes, policy oversight, and ensuring that effective systems are in place to support the integrity and sustainability of MSU's operations.

Over the course of the year, the ARC convened on eight occasions. These meetings provided valuable opportunities to examine and evaluate critical areas such as audit process, the draft financial statements, and ongoing developments in risk management. We also advised on MSU's internal financial controls, contributed to the review of key policies, and considered MSU's overall financial position and funding strategy.

The ARC has also played a central role in advising the Board on the appointment of external auditors, and in making informed recommendations regarding the approval of MSU's financial statements.

As we look forward, the ARC remains committed to maintaining robust oversight of MSU's financial and risk management systems, and to ensuring that these systems evolve to meet MSU's changing needs. We recognise that sound governance and financial sustainability are foundational to MSU's mission to represent and support students.



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Committee members for their diligence and thoughtful contributions throughout the year, and to all those across MSU who have supported our work.

DR. SHANE MCCARTHY

**CHAIRPERSON
MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2023-24

A sub-committee of the MSU Board of Trustees

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit & Risk Committee assists the Board of Trustees in the fulfilment of its functions with respect to the Union's financial statements, financial condition, audit, and risk management. The Committee's responsibilities include:

- Reviewing the draft annual financial statements of the Union.
- Recommending the approval of financial statements to the Board of Trustees.
- Advising the Board of Trustees on matters relating to external and internal audits.
- Recommending whether to award contracts to external auditors.
- Reviewing and advising on Union policies and risk management systems.
- Considering and reviewing the system of internal financial controls.
- Satisfying itself that arrangements are in place to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Over the course of the year, the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) has convened on eight occasions. Its focus has centered on key issues such as the 2022-23 audit, financial statements, Union policies, risk management, and the overall funding of MSU.

Throughout these initiatives, the ARC has worked closely with the MSU Finance Office. This collaborative relationship has contributed significantly to ensuring the smooth operation of MSU's financial operations.

MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2023-24

Member	Appointment	Term	Number of Meetings Eligible to Attend	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage Attendance
MOLLY BUCKLEY	28 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	10	10	100%
DR SHANE MCCARTHY	28 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	10	10	100%
HUGH MCGEOWN	28 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment	10	9	90%



MOLLY BUCKLEY



DR. SHANE MCCARTHY
(Chairperson)



HUGH MCGEOWN

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2023-24



**MOLLY
BUCKLEY**

Molly is a native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly. A Public Health Nurse by profession, she is best described as an Equality & Disability Rights Activist. Molly has worked tirelessly within the community and voluntary sector for many years to improve the quality of people's lives. She chairs the Boards of several local and national organisations, and manages various community projects, including, Domestic Violence, Voluntary Housing, Disability, Homelessness and Older people. Molly's skills and strengths include Advocacy, Lobbying, Facilitation and group work, Strong interpersonal and communication skills, Ability to develop partnership, networks, and relationships.



**DR. SHANE
MCCARTHY**

An accomplished Solicitor, Chairman and Board member who has led complex, high-profile organisations with significant experience in consumer protection, regulation, governance, change management and audit and risk management in various sectors.

Since merging his practice in 2016 with Fitzgerald Legal & Advisory LLP, Shane has practiced as a consultant solicitor continuing to provide strategic advice on complex, niche areas of law. Shane has an MA in Criminology and been awarded a PhD in Law, for his research on the manner in which the Irish Parole Board balances the issues of Justice and Risk in their decision-making processes. Shane is a published co-author of "Probation and Parole in Ireland: Law and Practice" winner of the Law book of the Year at the Irish Law Awards 2022



**HUGH
MCGEOWN**

Hugh is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, having qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2004, following completion of an accounting degree at the University of Ulster. He became a Partner in 2008. Hugh has developed considerable experience in advising a broad range of clients including both indigenous and multi-national business, across many industries. He has significant experience in advising clients in the Investment Management industry with regards to their compliance needs as well as acting for fast paced start-ups throughout their growth journey. He has a particular interest in advising clients that are establishing a presence in Ireland, from their initial setup to dealing with all aspects of corporate compliance and on-going reporting requirements to include payroll and other outsourced services.

JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE MSU STUDENT SENATE AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE MSU STUDENT SENATE

As speaker and deputy speaker of Senate we would like to extend our thanks to each Senate representative and member of the MSU Executive team for giving a considerable amount of their time to represent the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University at Senate this year.

The members of the MSU Student Senate are elected by the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University and each of the representatives ensure that current student issues and concerns remain at the forefront of all Maynooth Students' Union's work and ensure students have their voice heard within the University committees and boards along with ensuring issues faced by students in Maynooth are heard locally and nationally also.

During the eight sitting of MSU Senate several policies and mandates were debated and discussed including the MSU Plan of Work a considerable number of motions across all aspects of student life in Maynooth and both national and international issues were also debated. Motions brought to the MSU Senate varied from issues facing the day to day running of MSU including the Boycott of Aramark, to student welfare issues including the Implementation of a Separate Transition Fund, communicating the work of MSU through the MSU Student Email Communication motion, embedding Gaeilge in MSU through the Stratéis na Gaeilge motion and a focus on the future of democratic engagement in MSU through the Democratic Affairs Review working group consultation motion. This sitting of Senate also saw some emergency motions brought to MSU Senate including a motion to take a stance on the Palestine/Israeli conflict and the Re-Implementation of Re-Open Nominations (RON) regardless of position' motion.

The MSU Senate's main function is to ensure MSU has robust policy in which to lobby and speak on behalf of the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Senators and MSU Executive for their hard work and dedication to representation and debate of student issues during this sitting of Senate. The work undertaken by both Senators and Executive members will remain as a lasting legacy and shape the future of all work undertaken by Maynooth Students' Union and the national union, the Union of Students in Ireland.

We would like to thank the Secretary of Senate and the staff of Maynooth Students' Union for their support in the organisation and running of the eight sitting of Student Senate for without them the work of Senate could not be achieved.



Marie Lyons
Speaker

Craig MacGabhan
Deputy Speaker



MSU REPRESENTATION 2023-24



SPEAKER OF MSU STUDENT SENATE: MARIE LYONS

MSU PRESIDENT: ALEX BALFE

VP STUDENT LIFE & DEPUTY PRESIDENT: KYLA HENRY

VP EDUCATION: GAVIN FANNING

VP WELFARE & EQUALITY: NIAMH RINEY

ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY FACULTY CONVENOR: BEN HOLMES

SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY CONVENOR: AMINA TRABOUE

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FACULTY CONVENOR: AALIYAH MOONEY

OIFIGEACH NA GAEILGE: RODDIE MCGUINNESS

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE: CARRIE O'NEILL

DOCTORAL POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE: SIAN COWMAN

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER: SARAH MOHAMMAD

EQUALITY OFFICER: JACK KIERNAN

ACSP FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: CURTH CORTEZ

ACSP FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: NAIMBH FOLEY

ACSP FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: SIMONA SANDULACHE

SS FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: CAOIMHE WOODS

SS FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: CHARLI MIDDLETON

SS FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: MIA MCCARTHY

S&E FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: ANVI AGARKAR

S&E FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: ALEXANDRA ENGELBRECHT

S&E FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: NAOISE MCMANUS

ACCOMMODATION SENATOR: **STEPH COLLINS**
 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP SENATOR: **ANDREW VICTORY**
 CAMPUS LIFE SENATOR: **DANIEL LEWIS**
 CHARITY SENATOR: **ABIOLA AWOSIKA**
 COMMUNITY SENATOR: **SEAN KERRIGAN**
 COMMUTER SENATOR: **JAN AQUINO**
 DARE SENATOR: **ABBY SPENCER**
 ETHNIC DIVERSITY SENATOR: **KIRSTEN BALTAZAR**
 FIRST YEAR SENATOR: **FRANKY COLE**
 FROEBEL SENATOR: **BAISAT ALAWIYE**
 GENDER EQUALITY SENATOR: **SOPHIA HIJAZI**
 GREEN CAMPUS SENATOR: **KIAN CURRAN MAHON**
 HEAR SENATOR: **TIARNÁN LEE-FLYNN**
 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SENATOR: **NIVED RAJAN**
 LGBT+ SENATOR: **LIBBY MCCOLGAN**
 MATURE STUDENT SENATOR: **KEELIN BRERETON**
 MENTAL HEALTH SENATOR: **ALEX YEARSLEY**
 MINCÉIR SENATOR: **JAMES STOKES**
 PARENTS & CARERS SENATOR: **SHARON TYNDALL**
 PART-TIME COURSE SENATOR: **MICHAEL COMER**
 TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE SENATOR: **CRAIG SMITH**
 ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE SENATOR: **SOPHIE BRODERICK**
 STUDY ABROAD & ERASMUS+ SENATOR: **LIAM GLENNON**
 SOCIETIES SENATOR: **REBECCA MCCARTHY**
 INDEPENDENT SENATORS: **EMMA APPLEBY**
 CONOR DEVLIN
 MARY MAHONY
 CAITLIN HICKEY



20.5
HOURS IN
SENATE MEETINGS

65
OFFICER REPORTS
APPROVED

38
DISCUSSIONS

19
MOTIONS
PASSED

NO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

MSU EXECUTIVE 2023/24

The MSU Executive is the student-led team that drives the daily representative work of Maynooth Students' Union - and everything they do is with you in mind. Elected by students, for students, this team is made up of Full-Time and Part-Time Officers who are here to make sure your voice is heard loud and clear on the issues that matter most.

The four Full-Time Officers are the senior members of the Executive. They represent you across every aspect of university life - from academic matters and welfare concerns to equality, campus culture, and beyond. They sit on key decision-making bodies and make sure that the student voice shapes policy and progress at every level.

Each Part-Time Officer also takes on a unique portfolio, bringing fresh ideas, energy, and leadership to support students across different areas of student life.

Whether you've got a question, a problem, or a big idea, your Executive is here to listen, support, and make change happen. And if you're ready to lead, every ordinary member of MSU is eligible to run in our elections - happening in October and March each year. Why not get involved?

Leading Your Union, Representing Your Voice

MSU EXECUTIVE 2023/24



ALEX BALFE | MSU PRESIDENT

Alex is a graduate of Theology and Nua-Chaeilge and was elected MSU President for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, having previously served as Vice President for Education. Now in a second term representing the student body, Alex is committed to fostering an inclusive, engaged, and dynamic campus community, advocating for students and encouraging them to seize the full range of academic, social, and extracurricular opportunities available at Maynooth.



KYLA HENRY | VP STUDENT LIFE & DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Kyla was elected Vice President Student Life and appointed Deputy President for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. She was previously the Arts, Celtic Studies, and Philosophy Faculty Convenor and she has served as an Academic Rep and Faculty Assembly Member back in 2021. Kyla graduated from Maynooth with a degree in Media Studies and Sociology starting her studies online in 2020. Her role falls around organising an array of events for students throughout the year and also promoting various opportunities for students during their studies.



GAVIN FANNING | VP EDUCATION

Gavin was elected Vice President Education for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. He served previously in various capacities, including as a Student Senator (DARE), Part-Time Officer (MSU Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor). My engagement in extracurricular life has been central to making Maynooth my home, and I continue to encourage students to get involved, build connections, and make the most of their time here.



NIAMH RINEY | VP WELFARE & EQUALITY

Niamh was elected VP Welfare & Equality for the academic year 2023/2024. Niamh is an International Business graduate from Maynooth University.

Niamh's main priorities this year were promoting the mental, physical, and sexual health and overall wellbeing of the students we represent. She was also responsible for providing guidance and support to any students in welfare-related matters, promoting equality, and advocating for social issues of significance.

MSU EXECUTIVE 2023/24



BEN HOLMES | ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY FACULTY CONVENOR

Ben has been part of Union representation since his 1st year of college in 2021 as a Faculty Assembly-member, then as LGBTQ+ Senator and having spent the 2023/24 term as ACSP Faculty Convenor. Ben's passion lies in LGBTQ+ representation, policy and Union organisation work, and his responsibility this year lay in managing academic representation and casework within the faculty, and ensuring the student voice is present across University forums and events.



AMINA TRABOUE | SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY CONVENOR

Amina Traboue was elected Social Science Faculty Convenor for 2023-2024. She is currently a final year International Business and French student. Furthermore she had the opportunity to study abroad in Belgium last year, so it felt like she was in first year all over again. Throughout her time of work, she has been attending and listening attentively to the committees and meetings in addition to contributing to various topics and discourse. She also helped out on various events behind the scenes such as I.D. Week with other senators and aiding the full-time officers



AALIYAH MOONEY | SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FACULTY CONVENOR

In their role as the Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor, they were a primary means of communication between the students and the Academic Representatives in the faculty, and the MSU Executive.

They resigned from their role on 23rd April 2024.



RODDIE MC GUINNESS | OIFIGEACH NA GAELGE

Bhí Roddie tofa mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge don bhliain acadúil 2023/24. Is mac léinn in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad é Roddie, ag déanamh staidéir ar an ríomheolaíocht agus mata, agus tá sé ag súil lena chéim a fháil i mí na Samhna.

Bhí dualgas aige an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san Aontas agus a bheith mar ionadaí ar phobal na Gaeilge ar champas.

MSU EXECUTIVE 2023/24



SIAN COWMAN | DOCTORAL POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Sian Cowman was elected Doctoral Postgraduate Representative of MSU for the academic year 2023/2024, a role she carried out alongside her second year of PhD research in the Department of Media Studies. Sian's work focused on representing PhD researchers and issues they face at Maynooth University; and collaborating with the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation Maynooth branch.



CARRIE O' NEILL | POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Carrie was elected Postgraduate Representative for the academic year 2023/24. Alongside her role, she is an MSc Digital Marketing student. Carrie also served as the Social Sciences Faculty Convenor (2022/23), Charity Senator (2021/22), and as an Academic Rep (2020/22). Carrie graduated from Maynooth with a BA in International Business & Chinese Studies. Her role focused on representing taught postgraduate students and supporting them with any issues they face in Maynooth University.



SARAH MOHAMMAD | ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

Sarah Ahmed was elected as the Executive Environmental Officer of the Maynooth Student Union for the academic year 2023-2024. Sarah has done master's in finance from Maynooth University. She played a vital role in shaping students life in the Environmental prospective. Serving as the Environmental Officer, she championed sustainability initiatives, including campus cleaning drives and campus recycling programs. Her efforts led to increased environmental awareness among students.



JACK KIERNAN | EQUALITY OFFICER

Jack was the first Equality Officer to sit on the executive of the Students Union. He spent his term solidifying the role and ensuring it functioned as intended when brought into being. Jack also met with Senators, Student Representatives and students to discuss issues of equality and what students would like to see the Union doing in those areas. And as a Cavan man, he finished out the year without having claimed any expenses.

MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2023-24

It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make Maynooth Students' Union tick - and we're lucky and proud to have an incredible team of professional staff who help bring your student experience to life.

From representation and governance to events, communications, and services, our staff work side-by-side with your elected officers to ensure that MSU can effectively champion the needs of both MU and SPPU students.

Nearly every campaign you see, every service you use, and every good idea that becomes reality – it's all made possible by their hard work and dedication.

So whether you're looking for help, looking to get involved, or just looking for a friendly face – **your MSU team is here for you.** Always!



MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2023-24



**SHONA
CASSIDY**

shona.cassidy@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

EVENT COORDINATOR

Shona first graduated with a BA in Music and English from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. A native of the Treaty City, she relocated to Maynooth in 2021 to complete her MA in Creative Music Technologies at MU. Shona began her journey in MSU in 2022 as a member of the Events and Facilities Operations Team.

Loving her role and wishing to contribute even more to campus social life, she has most recently taken the step into a full-time position as the union's Event Co-ordinator. From Freshers' Week to our end of term celebrations, Shona is committed to making sure there's always something exciting happening on campus. She has worked closely with our Sabbat Officers throughout the year to create a schedule of fun and informative events that cater to all tastes. The behind-the-scenes of her job includes booking performers, managing budgets, organising prizes and other freebies, and even climbing up a ladder to decorate for things like Retro Prom!

Looking ahead, Shona is excited for another year of sharing her passion for student engagement in 2024/2025. With some exciting ideas already in the works, she can't wait to collaborate with our new Executive Team and continue creating unforgettable experiences for the student body.



**ANN MARIE
CUDDEN**

frontdesk@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

FRONT DESK MANAGER

A fellow Maynoothian, Ann Marie returned to education as a mature student back in 2007. She studied to be a teacher, right here in Maynooth University. Having received her qualifications, she decided she loved Maynooth so much that she was going to stay!

Since completing her studies in 2012, Ann Marie has worked in various departments right here in Maynooth University. She has a wealth of knowledge on all things Maynooth, and her background and education mean she is an invaluable source in assisting students as they navigate their educational journey.

She joined MSU back in 2017, an enormous asset to MSU's front of house supports for students. Ann Marie embraces all that is student centred and is often affectionately referred to as our 5th officer for her passion, enthusiasm and drive for better services and supports for our students.

As Front Office Manager she is well-known face in MSU and across campus and can be found in the SU Info Centre which is located on the right within the SU building. As an advocate for all things 'green' Ann Marie strives to promote sustainability and re-use. The SU Info Centre offers student centred services, and Ann Marie is more than happy to assist you if you are looking for your Student Leap-Card, to meet your MSU Officers, hoodies, printing, binding, information, parcel-point, etc.

Pop in and say hi to Ann Marie anytime you are in the SU, where a smile and a warm welcome is always ensured :)

MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2023-24



**DILLON
GRACE**

dillon.grace@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Originally from Clonmel, Co Tipperary, Dillon is a first-generation university student who graduated from Maynooth University in 2015 with an Honours Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree.

Dillon has shown unwavering dedication to the growth of MSU through various roles. He was elected Vice President for Education/Deputy President in 2015 and MSU President in 2016.

During his presidency, Dillon managed budgets, planned annual workstreams, and served as the primary student representative on the Governing Authority and Academic Council. After his presidency, he joined MSU's full-time staff as Union Development Administrator focusing on policy enhancement before serving as the Director of Democracy providing staff leadership to MSU's democratic function.

Now serving as the Director General, Dillon is committed to strengthening student representation, transparency, and student engagement in decision-making. He emphasises advancing student democracy, accountability, and constitutional compliance within MSU.



**HANNAH
KEEGAN**

hannah.keegan@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

REPRESENTATION ADMINISTRATOR

Meet Hannah, she graduated from Maynooth in 2023 after completing a Master's in Irish history. Hannah's journey began in 2021 when she joined the MSU as a member of the Front Office Operations Team. Her job was to greet people, answer phones, and provide students with everything from Leap Card's to Hoodies. Not yet ready to leave the MSU family, Hannah became a full-time employee in 2023 as Governance Representation Administrator. Her new role came with the weighty responsibility of coordinating meetings of the MSU Executive, MSU Student Senate, The Board of Trustees, and the Audit & Risk Committee. She now wields the mighty power of the calendar, ensuring that no meeting goes unscheduled, and no document goes unprepared.

Hannah is known to collaborate with the Events Coordinator and the Content Creator, forming a trio of almighty power and resilience. Together, they tackle the annual MSU Elections with a smile and an enthusiastic approach. If you ever spot Hannah, be sure to say hello!

MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2023-24



**VIKTORIJA
PECIULYTE**

vic.peciulyte@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

CONTENT CREATOR

Viktorija, or better known as Vic/Vicky, graduated from Maynooth University in 2021 with an International Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies and Nua-Ghaeilge.

During her time at Maynooth University, Vicky was highly involved with the Visual Media Society. She was Secretary in her second year and awarded 'Best Emails' at the Diversity Ball. Her final year saw her elected as Societies Senator and President of the Visual Media Society due to her unstoppable passion for teaching people the best ways to express themselves through visual media.

In 2022 she joined MSU as part of the Creative Ops Team. She learned all of the most efficient ways to get quality content out to students. At the beginning of 2023 she became the Full-Time Content Creator for MSU.

Within her role she designs the social media content, creates MSU's yearly publications and ensures the MSU Elections have as much visibility on campus as possible.



**JANA
SIMUNEKOVA**



SCAN TO LISTEN

RETAIL SUPERVISOR

Jana Simunekova, originally from Slovakia, joined the Londis Maynooth Student Union team in 2022 as a store supervisor. She quickly adapted to the role and found a passion for the busy and fun atmosphere of the student union. Jana loves the buzz of student life and enjoys getting to know the students, finding their energy and enthusiasm contagious.

In her role as store supervisor, Jana is responsible for managing the store's day-to-day operations. She ensures everything runs smoothly, from stocking shelves to handling customer inquiries, all while maintaining a welcoming and lively environment. Her ability to balance the demands of a busy store with a friendly and approachable demeanour has made her a favourite among both students and staff.

Jana's positive attitude and dedication have made her an integral part of the team. She takes pride in her work and thrives in the fast-paced environment, always ready to handle any challenges that come her way. Her commitment to creating a fun and engaging atmosphere has greatly contributed to the overall success of the store. Jana truly enjoys her work at the MSU Londis, finding it both rewarding and enjoyable to be part of such a dynamic community.

MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2023-24



**FIONA
TIERNEY**



SCAN TO LISTEN

RETAIL SUPERVISOR

Fiona has been a dedicated retail supervisor at MSU Londis since December 2017. With over six years of experience in this role, Fiona has honed their skills in customer service, team leadership, and store management.

Prior to joining MSU Londis, Fiona worked in the hospitality industry, where they developed a strong foundation in service excellence and operational efficiency. Fiona thrives in the dynamic environment of the university, working closely with both students and staff to ensure their shopping experience is seamless and enjoyable. Their ability to connect with a diverse customer base, coupled with their attention to detail, has earned them a reputation for reliability and professionalism. She is committed to fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere within the store. They believe in the importance of continuous improvement and are always looking for ways to enhance store operations and customer satisfaction.

Outside of work, Fiona enjoys Walking, reading and spending time with family and friends, which helps her maintain a balanced and fulfilling life.

With a blend of hospitality experience and retail expertise, Fiona continues to make a significant impact at MSU Londis, contributing to the store's success and the well-being of the university community.



**BRIAN
TORLEY**

brian.torley@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

MSU LONDIS SHOP MANAGER

Brian joined Maynooth Student's Union in February 2015 bringing with him many years of retail experience. His firm belief in the importance of customer service and teamwork have been the cornerstone of our successful shop. These values have helped drive the shop to continuous growth since he came on board.

During Brians time with us, MSU Londis has seen significant improvements including a major redevelopment in 2017. Under Brians leadership our store has won many industry awards including the Londis Excellence Award this year.

Brians ability to identify market trends and implement effective strategies has been crucial in evolving the shop to where it is today. His commitment to the delivery of excellent customer service has established MSU Londis as a campus landmark.

Brian is a keen Liverpool fan, and you will often find him at the back of the shop discussing games and results with staff and suppliers alike.



PART B



REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Principal activities

Maynooth Students Union (MSU) is an unincorporated association with operations overseen by the Union Executive, Audit & Risk Committee, and Board of Trustees.

MSU represents the students of Maynooth University (MU) and seeks to serve their social, cultural, welfare, educational, political and developmental needs, to further their interests both inside and outside MU, and generally to enhance their well-being.

An overview of MSU's main activities undertaken in relation to its purpose and key objectives are contained within section 2 of the MSU President's Report.

Results and dividends

The deficit for the financial year, after taxation, amounted to €72,041 (2023 - deficit €45,312).

Trustees

The members of the MSU Board of Trustees:

- **Alex Balfe** (appointed 1 July 2023) (resigned 30 June 2024)
- **Molly Buckley**
- **Niall Daly** (appointed 1 July 2023) (resigned 30 June 2024)
- **Gavin Fanning** (appointed 1 July 2024) (resigned 3 October 2024)
- **Maeve Farrell** (appointed 1 July 2025) (resigned 12 September 2025)
- **Lorna Fitzpatrick**
- **Niamh Halpenny** (resigned 13 June 2024)
- **Richard Hammond S.C.**
- **Patrick Hennessy**
- **Kyla Henry** (appointed 18 October 2024) (resigned 14 October 2025)
- **Dr. Rory McDaid**
- **Charli Middleton** (appointed 15 October 2025)
- **Cathy Pembroke** (appointed 1 July 2024)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Statement on relevant audit information

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Union's auditors are unaware, and
- the Trustees has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustees in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Union's auditors are aware of that information.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the Union since the financial year end.

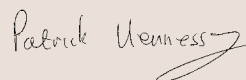
Auditors

The auditors, BDO, continue in office.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf.



Charli Middleton
President



Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/12/2025

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Union as at the financial year end date, of deficit for that financial year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Union's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Union will continue in business.

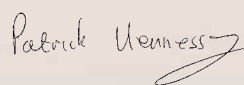
The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Union keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Union, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and deficit of the Union to be determined with reasonable accuracy, and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Union and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Union's website. Legislation in Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board



Charli Middleton
President



Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/12/2025



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

Report of the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Maynooth Students' Union (the 'Union') for the financial year ended 30 June 2024, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Union as at 30 June 2024 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Union in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Maynooth Students' Union (continued)

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is the Trustees' Report. The other information also comprises the remaining information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The remaining other information in the Annual Report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditors' report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information obtained at the date of this Auditor's report as well as the remaining other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained at the date of this Auditor's report, or based on the work we will perform on the remaining other information included in the annual report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained at the date of this Auditors' Report, we have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Union and its environment obtained in the course of this audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set on page 3, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Union's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Maynooth Students' Union (continued)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Union's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Union's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Union and the Union's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Carbery'.

Simon Carbery

**for and on behalf of BDO
Statutory Audit Firm**

Block 3, Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Baginbun Street Lower,
Dublin 2, D02 Y754

Date: 18/12/2025

Income and Expenditure Account
For the financial year ended 30 June 2024



	Note	2024 €	As restated 2023 €
Income	4	2,817,218	2,991,784
Cost of sales		<u>(999,763)</u>	<u>(1,073,245)</u>
Gross profit		1,817,455	1,918,539
Administrative expenses		<u>(1,889,496)</u>	<u>(1,963,851)</u>
Loss for the financial year		<u>(72,041)</u>	<u>(45,312)</u>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		675,909	721,221
Loss for the financial year		<u>(72,041)</u>	<u>(45,312)</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		<u>603,868</u>	<u>675,909</u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2024 or 2023 other than those included in the income and expenditure account.

Signed on behalf of the board:

Charli Middleton

Charli Middleton
President

Patrick Hennessy

Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/12/2025

Balance Sheet
As At 30 June 2024



	Note	2024 €	As restated 2023 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	<u>74,754</u>	<u>63,803</u>
		74,754	63,803
Current assets			
Stocks	10	85,774	83,533
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	11	33,983	35,051
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>828,881</u>	<u>1,169,712</u>
		948,638	1,288,296
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(419,524)</u>	<u>(676,190)</u>
Net current assets		<u>529,114</u>	<u>612,106</u>
Net assets		<u>603,868</u>	<u>675,909</u>
Financed by:			
Reserves	16	<u>603,868</u>	<u>675,909</u>
Closing reserves		<u>603,868</u>	<u>675,909</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board:

Charli Middleton

Charli Middleton
President

Patrick Hennessy

Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/12/2025

The notes on pages 87 to 101 form part of these financial statements.

1. General information

These financial statements comprising the Income and Expenditure, the Balance Sheet and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of Maynooth Students' Union for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Maynooth Students' Union is an unincorporated entity formed by the students of Maynooth University and Saint Patrick's Pontifical University, along with all their associated campuses across Ireland, to represent the Union's members to the said institutions and associated campuses.

The Union's primary objective is promoting and defending the interests of its members. The Union's principal office is located at Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare, the Republic of Ireland.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'. The disclosure requirements of Section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

The Union's functional and presentational currency is Euro.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the Income and Expenditure Account within 'administrative expenses'.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Union and the income can be reliably measured. Income is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before income is recognised:

Sale of goods

Income from the sale of goods is recognised when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the Union has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the buyer;
- the Union retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated
- with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of income can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the Union will receive the consideration due under the transaction; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Capitation Income

Capitation income is income received by MSU, through Maynooth University, from the Student Contribution. The Student Contribution was introduced by Government on the abolition of tuition fees in 1995 and is the charge payable by students who are deemed eligible for free tuition fees under the Free Fees Schemes.

The Working Group that drew up the HEA's 1998 Framework of Good Practice, relating to the Student Contribution, recommended that the student services' allocation from the Student Contribution should include funding for: Students' Union, Clubs, and Societies. The funding for MSU therefore is drawn from the Student Contribution and it was specifically intended for that purpose.

Capitation Income is the primary source of income to Maynooth Students' Union funding the delivery of our core representative supports, services, events and activities to members annually. Growth in this funding source is wholly dependent on annual representations made by MSU through engagements with Maynooth University.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Other Income

Other sources of Income to Maynooth Students' Union arise on an adhoc basis, and are derived from identifying opportunities to promote and support initiatives, product and projects where collaboration with providers in linking them to our members directly results in additional beneficial services and offerings to the student body.

2.5 Grants

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to Income and Expenditure Account at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a income nature are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account in the same period as the related expenditure.

2.6 Defined contribution pension plan

The Union operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Union pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Union has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the Income and Expenditure Account when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Union in independently administered funds.

2.7 Taxation

The Union as a member's organisation and unincorporated entity operates the delivery of its representation supports and services, other services, events, and activities on the principle of notfor-profit, re-investing available surpluses in these supports, activities, facilities, and operations provided directly to and for members, therefore no liability to corporate taxation arises.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20.00%
Bar fixtures and fittings	-	12.50%

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

2.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, being the estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost is based on the cost of purchase on a first in, first out basis. At each balance sheet date, stocks are assessed for impairment. If stock is impaired, the carrying amount is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell. The impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Income and Expenditure Account.

2.10 Debtors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

2.12 Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Holiday pay accrual

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the balance sheet date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the balance sheet date.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Financial instruments

The Union only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade debtors and creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received. However, if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or in case of an out-right short-term loan that is not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially at the present value of future cash flows discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost, unless it qualifies as a loan from a trustee in the case of a union, or a public benefit entity concessionary loan.

Investments in non-derivative instruments that are equity to the issuer are measured:

- at fair value with changes recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.
- at cost less impairment for all other investments.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Financial instruments (continued)

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the Union would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the balance sheet date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Balance Sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

3. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The trustees do not consider any accounting estimates or judgments to be critical to the financial statements.

4. Income

	2024	<i>As restated</i> 2023
	€	€
Capitation income	767,813	760,062
Sales shop	1,208,661	1,221,479
Sales bar	727,059	914,595
Other services	113,685	95,648
	2,817,218	2,991,784

All income was generated in Ireland.

5. Deficit on operating activities

The operating deficit is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	24,190	24,369
Defined contribution pension cost	20,918	27,926

6. Employees

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Wages and salaries	673,221	731,912
Employers PRSI	71,339	77,452
Pension costs	20,918	27,926
	765,478	837,290

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was 31 (2023 - 33).

The number of employees whose salaries include staff benefits, but excluding employer pension contributions and employer social insurance contributions, amounted to €20,000 or more in the financial year was as follows:

Bands	2024 Numbers	2023 Numbers
€20,000 - €40,000	8	10
€40,001 - €60,000	1	4
€60,001 - €70,000	1	1
€70,001 - €80,000	1	-
€80,001 - €90,000	-	-

Capitalised employee costs during the financial year amounts to €NIL (2023 - €NIL).

7. Key management remuneration

	2024	2023
	€	€
Wages and salaries	222,390	280,657
Employers PRSI	26,935	30,988
Pension costs	9,206	19,017
	258,531	330,662

Included in the above is the stipend paid to the President of the Union for the year of €28,000 (2023 - €28,000), and employers PRSI for the year of €3,094 (2023 - €3,094).

8. Trustee remuneration

Trustees are not paid a salary for their role on the board. During the year, honorariums paid to the chair and members of the board and board subcommittees amounted to €37,400 (2023 - €23,450).

During the year trustees and board subcommittee members were reimbursed for travel expenses of €12,253 (2023 - €4,990).

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Admin Assets €	Shop Assets €	Clubs / Ents Assets €	Bar Assets €	Total Assets €
Cost or valuation					
At 1 July 2023	61,468	244,813	689,807	195,450	1,191,538
Additions	-	-	-	35,141	35,141
At 30 June 2024	61,468	244,813	689,807	230,591	1,226,679
Depreciation					
At 1 July 2023	52,249	236,434	682,384	156,668	1,127,735
Charge for the year	3,054	2,793	3,726	14,617	24,190
At 30 June 2024	55,303	239,227	686,110	171,285	1,151,925
Net book value					
At 30 June 2024	6,165	5,586	3,697	59,306	74,754
At 30 June 2023	9,219	8,379	7,423	38,782	63,803

10. Stocks

	2024 €	2023 €
Closing Stock	85,774	83,533
	85,774	83,533

There is no material difference between the replacement cost of stock and the Balance Sheet amounts.

11. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

		2024	As restated 2023
		€	€
Trade debtors		17,054	377
Amounts owed by Maynooth University	20	-	20,893
Prepayments & other debtors		16,929	13,781
		33,983	35,051

All debtors are due within one year.

Amounts owed by related parties are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

12. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	828,881	1,169,712
	828,881	1,169,712

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	As restated 2023
	€	€
Trade creditors	198,821	323,149
Amounts owed to Maynooth University	14,781	-
VAT payable	32,806	41,119
PAYE/PRSI	21,007	23,040
Accruals and other creditors	78,921	105,444
Deferred income	73,188	183,438
	419,524	676,190

The repayment of trade creditors varies between on demand and ninety days.
No interest is payable on trade creditors.

Included in other creditors is an amount €NIL (2023 - €2,768) charity funds raised by the Union, and which is payable to the nominated annual charity. These funds are held in a designated bank account.

14. Financial instruments

	2024 €	2023 €
Financial assets measured at amortised costs		
Cash at bank and in hand	828,881	1,169,712
Trade debtors	17,054	377
Amounts owed by Maynooth University	-	20,893
	845,935	1,190,982
	2024 €	2023 €
Financial liabilities measured at amortised costs		
Trade creditor	198,821	323,149
Amounts owed to Maynooth University	14,781	-
	213,602	323,149

15. Prior year adjustment

During the year, it was identified that the capitation income amounts from Maynooth Union had not been correctly accounted for in line with Section 23 of FRS 102. The effect of the prior period adjustment is as below:

	As originally stated in 22/23	Prior period error adjustment	As restated in 22/23
A. Retained Earnings			
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	897,971	(176,750)	721,221
Profit for the financial year	(29,874)	(15,438)	(45,312)
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	868,097	(192,188)	675,909
B. Income and Expenditure Account			
Income	3,007,222	(15,438)	2,991,784
C. Balance Sheet			
Amounts owed by Maynooth university	29,643	(8,750)	20,893
Deferred Income	-	(183,438)	(183,438)
	29,643	(192,188)	(162,545)

16. Contingent liabilities

The Union had no contingent liabilities at the end of the financial year (2023 - €NIL).

17. Reserves

Reserves of the Union can be categorised as:

- Unrestricted Funds of which there are General Funds, funds available to the Union for general purposes use. These funds will be spent in whichever way that the Board of trustees recommends in accordance with the reserves policy and in support of the Unions stated objectives; and
- Restricted Funds, funds that can only be used for the specific purpose they were given. Use of the funds may necessitate expenditure approvals by related parties.

Reserves Analysis	2023/2024	2022/2023	Movement
General Funds	479,762	551,803	-72,041
Restricted Funds	124,106	124,106	+0
Total	603,868	675,909	-72,041

18. Retirement benefit obligations

The union operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. The pension entitlements of employees are administered separately by a pension fund. The defined contribution pension charge for the financial year was €20,918 (2023 - €27,926). The amount outstanding at the financial year end was €1,712 (2023 - €6,436).

19. Commitments under operating leases

At 30 June 2024 the Union had future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Not later than 1 year	28,890	28,890
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	46,066	74,956
	74,956	103,846

20. Related party transactions

Relationship with the Maynooth University

National University of Ireland, Maynooth (commonly known as Maynooth University) is a higher education institution established under the Universities Acts 1997, as amended from time to time, and is an autonomous body and a registered charity. Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) is an autonomous unincorporated association, whose aims and objectives are defined by its Constitution, formed to represent the students of Maynooth University (MU (and St Patrick's Pontifical University)).

Transactions

During the year MSU received total grants of €767,813 (2023 - €760,062) from MU. There were €48,236 (2023 - €73,963) of purchase recharges and €39,632 (2023 - €39,433) of rent expenses charged from MU. The amount due to MU at the year end was €14,781 (2023 - *due from MU* €20,893).

21. Approval of financial statements

The board of Trustees approved these financial statements for issue on 18/12/2025



MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

20²³₂₄

