

ABOUT ME

 @aashna4science

My name is Aashna Khurana and I am a first year biology student. I am an international student, and I moved to Dublin from India last year. I have been involved with the student union as a class representative for the past year, being actively involved with the student life, the student union and the teaching faculty. I am passionate about building a strong community for science students in UCD, improving university life and representing the school in the SU and in committees.

I love reading, playing basketball and travelling to new places and connecting with new people. I love animals, and want to adopt a dog.

I am excited to run for Science College Officer and make a difference in the coming year. My reason for running is that students face and struggle with issues on a daily basis in UCD, especially when they start out. I want to make sure every student has the support, resources and facilities they need to have an extraordinary experience while studying at UCD.

I am looking forward to working towards the betterment of students and making sure we have a strong community, where we support each other and work together to achieve our goals and career aspirations.



VOTE #1

AASHNA KHURANA

FOR UCDSU SCIENCE

COLLEGE OFFICER

AASHNA FOR

ADVANCEMENT



Engagement and Opportunity

I will increase engagement in the school of science, by engaging with people with diverse backgrounds and giving them various opportunities for networking, volunteering and research. Having more mixers, along with formal events with alumni and companies will be greatly beneficial for students to develop adequate skills for graduation. As an international student, I feel it is necessary for students to network, learn new skills, something which I did not really notice occurring this year in the school of science. Students need guidance throughout their university life about different opportunities that may help them. Having the necessary skills is relevant for future career goals, and I would like to collaborate with the school of science and the career's network to have workshops for students to be able to develop the required skills. Introducing guest speakers, skills workshops, social events will be incredibly helpful, along with organizing study groups, coffee mornings and mixers between different courses in science. I would also like to prepare a document with resources for students to look at, so that they don't struggle too much when looking for opportunities. I had a hard time this year finding opportunities for myself, and I would like to ensure future students do not go through the same hardship. The document will outline support and advice which will help many students in their time at UCD.

Integration & Fair Representation of all science students

Sustainability and computer science students, though in the school of science, are still considered a separate branch. I would like to make sure that all students are integrated into the school of science. I would like to have more events and mixers, throughout the year, this will help students feel more comfortable, represented and heard and will help create a safe space for students.

Student Support and Academic Resources

Every student in UCD deserves the support they require, along with a quality education. I would like to lobby to get access to more resource material, with more notes, in the form of videos/books, having more exam supports and question paper comparison for solutions, more model sample papers and an increase in library resources with the help of module coordinators, have the library stock up the required textbooks and reading material and work with the library to ensure student needs are met. Advertising the second hand book sale held by the science society and getting more feedback on assignments. I would also like to implement the SU policy of lecture recordings and/or online videos and having hybrid mode for classes and advocating for better student support.

Student Facilities

I want to introduce more seating and studying spaces in the science buildings, to make it a better space for studying and socializing, to help create a better community space. I would also like to advocate for resting capsules, as many students commute long hours, it will help them rest and feel more refreshed afterwards. Students deserve a space that will be useful to them for long periods of time. I would also like to advocate for more plug sockets inside lecture halls and in the science hub.

Cost of Living

Students cannot afford to eat out everyday, with the cost of living so expensive right now, especially with the UCD restaurants being expensive. I would like to introduce more microwaves in the science building, so people can easily heat up their food during lunch time.

Empowering

Class Representatives

Class Representatives are a vital part of the Student Union in bringing about positive change. Having them lead with getting solutions to various issues like extension on assignments and lab report deadlines, speaking to the teaching faculty, organising day trips and night outs. I believe that class representatives need assistance on how they can help students, and helping them by conducting workshops and organising hangouts outside the college councils will help class reps feel more at ease, help and support each other and exchange useful stories so that they can assist other reps in similar situations.

Advocating for a Reading Week

I would like to advocate for a reading week. While there are many limitations on this, due to professors not allowing for an entire week off for a break and missing practicals, this is a recurring issue that the teaching faculty needs to be aware of. Students need break(s) in the duration of the trimester. Otherwise, they reach burnout and there is a lot of pressure on students, which can sometimes affect their health. I would like to start by advocating for Fridays off, to get a long weekend, as many science students have only one or no classes that day. It will help ease pressure off of students in the long run.

