



UCD STUDENTS' UNION

ANNUAL REPORT

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WELC

Introduction

This report details the activities undertaken by UCD Students' Union (UCDSU) in preparation for and during the 2022-23 Academic Year; a year set against the backdrop of a country still trying to return to a sense of "normality" following two years of public health restrictions. For too many within the UCD student body, a return to normal meant trying to embrace a holistic student experience in spite of challenges that were unresolved pre-COVID-19; namely that of the costs associated with getting through college and securing accommodation suitable for the pursuit of education.



OME

For UCDSU as an organisation, the main challenge was to return to basics by building back up aspects of the student experience that were established before the pandemic. As demonstrated throughout this report, this manifested in a marked uptick in engagement across all fronts. With so many students facing longer commutes, living in substandard or expensive accommodation, or simply trying to balance college with part-time work or placement, the embracing of college life that took place from the beginning of orientations last September is majorly to the credit of the student body. In particular, much credit must go to UCDSU's network of class representatives, volunteers and other valuable student leaders who dedicate their time to contributing to the student experience.

The last 12 months saw a notable rise in the number of class representatives elected and trained by UCDSU. This set the campus us nicely for a significant increase in the number of candidates and subsequently voter turnout during the annual Executive Elections. While there is still a lot of room for improvement in all areas of student democracy and in member participation, there is much progress to be proud of detailed in this report.

Outgoing President

I am immensely proud, and a bit nostalgic, to present to you the University College Dublin Students' Union Annual Report for the 2022–2023 Academic Year.

Throughout the last year, UCDSU has achieved significant milestones and undertaken major initiatives, each aimed at highlighting student issues at both local and national levels, enhancing the wider student experience, and fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus environment here in UCD. Together, we have worked tirelessly to address the needs and aspirations of our diverse 30,000+ members. It has been an honour to work on behalf of UCD students, and a sincere privilege to be surrounded by such talented, kind, and inspirational individuals.

It was an unforgettable experience to lead the Union alongside Martha, Robyn, Ciara, Míde, and Marc. We set out last summer determined to keep the momentum going and to build on the trojan work of our predecessors. Working in a Students' Union often requires that you master the art of passing the baton, and I am confident that my team and I have left the Union, and UCD as a whole, in better shape than we found it. I am hopeful that in establishing ourselves as a leading critical voice on student housing, our advocacy for better academic and welfare supports, our initiatives to combat food insecurity and improve student amenities, that we have managed that. These achievements are the result of the unwavering commitment and collaboration of the entire student body, our class representatives, campaign coordinators, ENTs reps, the Union Executive, our dedicated permanent staff, and our Board of Directors.

Undoubtedly, our journey was not without its challenges. We witnessed the ever-evolving landscape of society affecting students in multifaceted ways. From the soaring cost of living to mental health pressures, and the demand for equitable opportunities, we have stood together as advocates for positive change. The challenges we faced further strengthened our resolve to articulate our strong view that higher education is a public good, and that beyond equitable access to third-level, we must fight for a wider society that truly values students and young people.

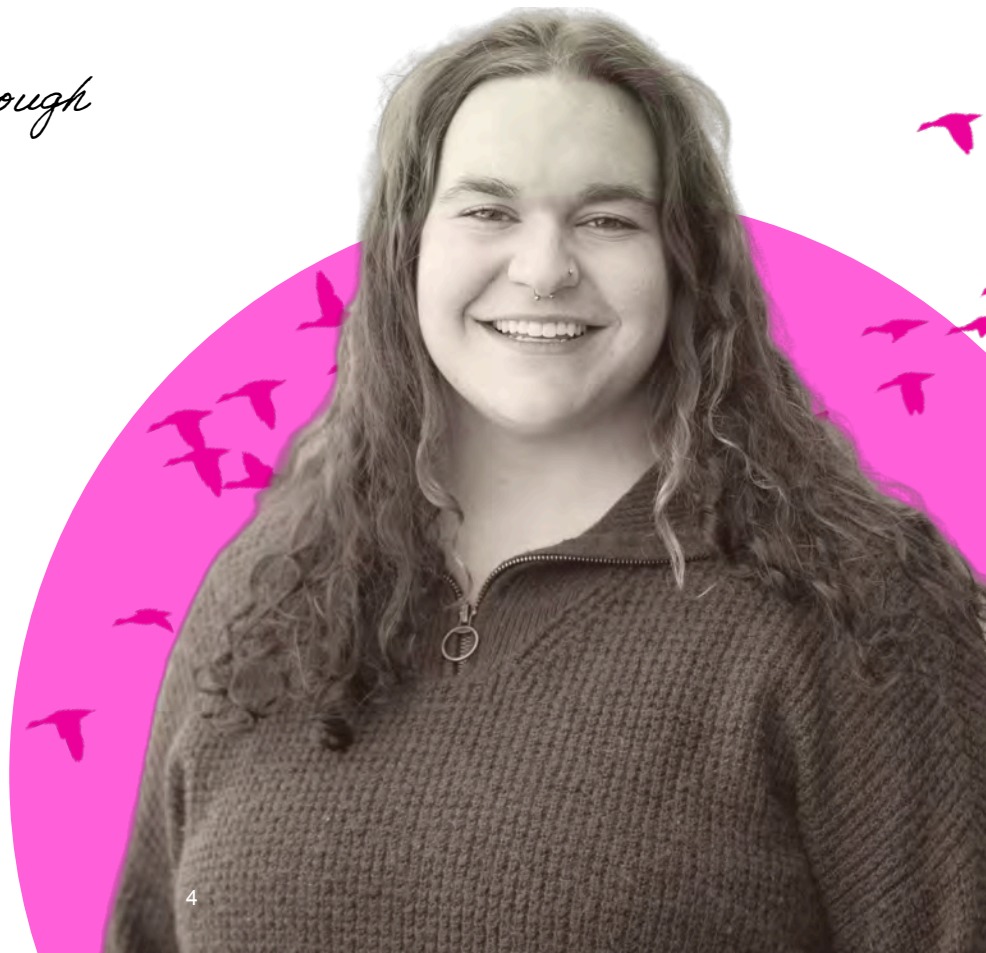
I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every student who actively participated in the UCDSU's initiatives, events, and campaigns. Every student that dropped in for advice, had their say in an election, and participated in our research. There's a reason we opted for slogans throughout the year like "We're Stronger Together" and "Union Starts With You." Your enthusiasm and engagement are the driving force behind each of our successes, and our strength as a union lies in our ability to organise and come together as a collective.

Lastly, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the faculty and staff members who supported us in our endeavours and who believe in keeping students at the heart of university decision-making. As I step down from my term as President and hand over the baton, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future of UCD Students' Union, and indeed, the wider student movement. Under the steadfast leadership of Martha, along with the support of Union Council, an enthusiastic student body, and the wider community, I am confident that UCDSU will continue to flourish and make increasingly positive impacts for its members and wider society.

I greatly look forward to witnessing the Union's successes under the leadership of the 2023/24 team and beyond. Best wishes for the future and keep fighting the good fight!

All the best,

Molly Greenough



Incoming President

It is an honour to serve as the new UCD Students' Union President and to follow in the footsteps of the remarkable individuals who have previously walked in these shoes.

I want to take a moment to pay homage to the achievements of the previous year and acknowledge the significance of a collaborative transition. Under Molly's leadership, the team have left a lasting impact on the UCD community and the student policy landscape. My team already recognises the importance of continuity and we promise to uphold the collaborative spirit that defines UCDSU.

As we move forward, I would like to restate our unwavering commitment to being the voice of the student body. We are not just a Union; we are also a watchdog, dedicated to safeguarding the rights and interests of UCD students. We will strive to be vigilant, proactive, and responsive to the needs and concerns of our diverse community.

I am a big believer that fostering collaboration within our campus community is essential for achieving our collective goals. There is huge potential to work hand-in-hand with students, faculty, and staff members of UCD. By harnessing our collective talents and ideas, we can create a truly transformative and empowering college experience for everyone involved.

I invite each and every one of you, including the student body, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders, to dive into our comprehensive Annual Report. Within its pages, you will find an in-depth account of the Students' Union's activities, and achievements over the last twelve months.

Thank you for your trust, and I look forward to a year of growth, learning, and meaningful impact!

With warm regards,

Martha



ABOUT

UCD Students' Union

Founded in 1975, UCD Students' Union is the democratic, student-led vehicle through which UCD students have a say in the higher education system both on-campus and nationally, as well as in all other matters that affect their wellbeing and their livelihoods. A strong students' union also means that students can propose and advocate for improvements in various aspects of campus life, such as facilities, services, and extracurricular activities. This enhances the overall campus experience for everyone.

Locally, we work within the university's frameworks as the officially recognised representative of the 33,000+ registered UCD students on issues such as course content, exam regulations, disciplinary regulations and how the University spends its money. Nationally, the SU has a proud tradition of playing an active role in the societal change demanded to ensure that UCD students can live in a fair and just society.

UCDSU advocates for a higher education system and student experience that is accessible for all, regardless of status or background.

UCDSU CLG

As per Article 5 of the UCD Students' Union Constitution, the CLG exists to ensure prudent financial management and oversight of the Union. It is composed of an Independent Chairperson, the UCDSU President and a number of directors. The current membership of the UCDSU CLG Board is: Bridget O'Donoghue, Conor Anderson, Elaine Russell, Joanna Siewierska, Leanne Caulfield (Chair), Matthew Rose-Nel, Orla Barry, Molly Greenough and Martha Ni Riada (Ex-Officio as current SU President).

UCDSU Executive Council 2022-2023

Full Time Officers

President - Molly Greenough
Welfare Officer - Míde Nic Fhionnlaóich
Education Officer - Martha Ní Riada
Entertainments Officer - Ciara Moroney
Campaigns & Engagement Officer - Robyn O'Keeffe
Graduate Officer - Marc Matouc

College Officers

Caillum Hedderman
Róisín Alff
Hannah Tilly
Sarah McGrath
Robin Jowett
James Kennelly
Jack Finnegan

Oifigeach na Gaeilge / Irish Language Officer

Shane McAuley

by the numbers 2022 - 2023



70%

increase to almost 10%
of the student electorate

Uptick in voter turnout -
1,744 in 2022; 2,960 in 2023



54%

increase in Class

Reps elected

(123 in 21/22 and
189 in 22/23)

3000 tickets

We sold some 3,000 party tickets throughout the year, from Drag Shows to Dominos Ball to Monster Ball to UCD End of Year Ball

Amount raised
for chosen RAG Charities

€10k

- Threshold and
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

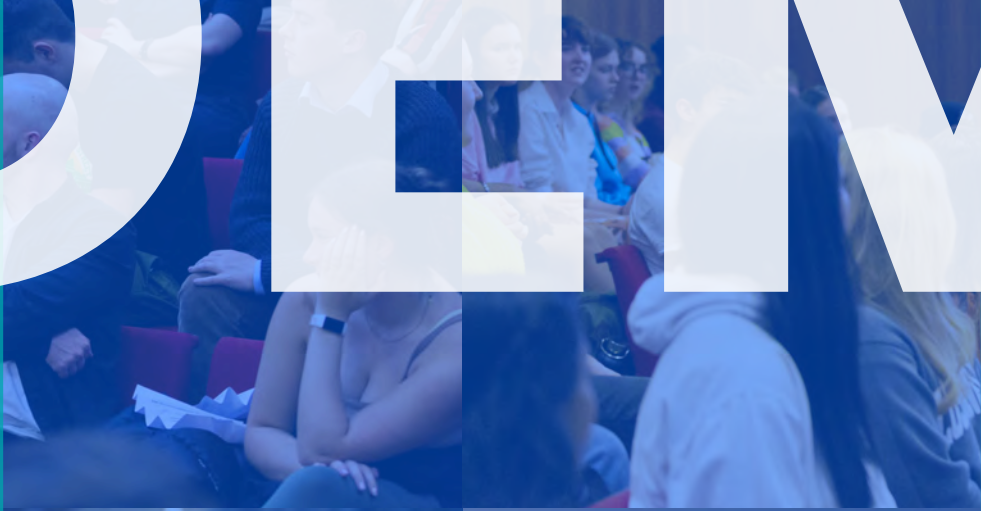
4,078

RESPONDENTS
to all surveys ran

8,000

new followers
across our social media
platforms, with our post reach
stretching to over 5m users

DEEM



OCCUR



ACCY



DEMOCRACY

We believe in fostering an inclusive campus environment where every student has the opportunity to participate, engage, and shape their university experience. This commitment to the student voice is at the heart of UCDSU, and we are dedicated to empowering diverse student voices within the UCD community. As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the progress we have made in fostering accountability both within our own ranks as well as across UCD. We remain committed to upholding these principles and continually seek to strengthen student representation, engagement, and participation.

Class Reps

Our network of trained UCDSU Class Representatives is central to the functioning of the Students' Union, serving as a vital link between the union and the student body. It provides a structured mechanism for students to voice their concerns, provide feedback, and actively participate in the shaping of their degrees, as well as the degrees of the students of tomorrow. It is only through our Class Reps that we get valuable insights into the needs and experiences of students. As we continue to build democracy both within our organisation and the wider UCD community, the strengthening of the UCDSU class rep system will promote transparency, accountability, and student engagement.

During 2022–2023, we increased the number of Reps elected by 54%, going from 123 in 2021–2022 to 189. We tailored our annual programme of training based on the direct feedback of Class Reps from the previous year. Further improvements are envisioned over the next year as we build consciousness among all university stakeholders about the role the student voice can and should play in university governance. Our class reps know this themselves and believe that there is no substitute for a students' union-trained class rep.

Union Council

Union Council serves as a representative body that brings together class representatives from UCD's various academic programmes, as well as other student leaders who contribute to SU campaigns and events. Through the active participation of its members, Union Council plays a central role in shaping the direction, policies, and advocacy efforts of UCDSU. Members of Council are also tasked with holding the elected officers accountable for their performance.

As I enter my 4th session as chairperson of UCDSU council, the growth in council has been remarkable. The 2020/21 session saw members come together in difficult times to continue the good work of UCDSU during lockdown. After a difficult transition period from online only to in-person councils during the 2021/22 session, there was a lot of student activism generated through council. Council also became more accessible by continuing to all attendance through Zoom which has seen numbers at council increase.

In 2022/23, there were many new members elected to council for the first time. This new generation of council members remain collaborative and have held passionate & informed debates on issues in UCD and nationally putting forward motions on constitutional referendums, the World Cup, LGBTQ+ rights, UCDSU drug policy, housing, the national student movement, and more. This council remained collaborative while once again finding its voice in terms of debate on the council floor.

As we look forward to the 2023/24 session of UCDSU council, I am confident that this collaborative culture of healthy and motivated debate among members will continue to grow. While challenges remain in recapturing the activist spirit of councils past, this new group are more collaborative than any I have known while maintaining a high quality of healthy debate; even seeing fit to challenge the chairs decisions at times (unsuccessfully, of course). But then I was never a stranger to keeping a chair on their toes, so all signs are good.

Niall Torris Chairperson,
UCDSU Council

Constitutional Review

The UCDSU Constitution serves as a guiding document that outlines the framework, principles, and rules that govern us. Its role is to provide clarity on the union's purpose, structure, and decision-making processes. This ensures transparency, accountability, and fairness. Regular review of the constitution is essential and allows for necessary updates to reflect the evolving needs, priorities, and aspirations of the student body.

In 2022, the SU commenced a period of research, peer comparison and interviews with current and past Officers to get a sense of how fit for purpose the current version of the document is. In November 2022, Terms of Reference were passed by Union Council to establish the Constitutional Review Group which would eventually make a set of recommendations back to Union Council.

A referendum to adopt a new Constitution was held alongside the annual Executive Elections and while there was overwhelming support for it, the number of votes did not reach the threshold of 12.5% as set out in the current constitution. The process at least helped to develop a greater understanding of the Constitution among members of Union Council, as well as a greater sense of ownership. It is hoped that changes identified as part of the review, along with other changes deemed necessary by the SU's various stakeholders, can be presented for a further vote some time during the next academic year, should students wish to do so.

UCDSU Constitutional Review Group members: Emily Bollard (Independent Chair), Molly Greenough, Miranda Bauer, Matt Morin, Ryan Corley, Ciara Moroney, Nick Haynes, Martha Ní Riada, Aisling Maloney, Robin Jowett.

UCDSU Executive Elections 2023

Under the tagline 'Union Starts With You', the annual elections took place alongside two referendum votes and one 'preferendum' vote in April 2023. Almost 3,000 students took part in the elections, representing around 10% of the overall student body. While this is not at a level that is acceptable to UCDSU, it represents a jump of almost 70% on the previous year. The 2023 vote was run on a hybrid basis, meaning that regardless of whether students were on-campus, studying remotely, on placement or studying abroad, they could vote to shape the future direction of the union. Students returned strong 'YES' votes on referendums to adapt a new constitution and to rejoin the Union of Students in Ireland but these votes did not reach the threshold required in order to be deemed valid.

Finally, in a preferendum, which acts as a non-binding vote on a policy matter, students indicated that UCDSU ought to follow a policy of decriminalising all drugs and legalising cannabis. Whether or not to do so will be the decision of UCDSU Union Council in 2023-2024.





UCDSU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2022-2023

Full Time Officers

President

Martha Ní Riada

Welfare Officer

Jill Nelis

Education Officer

Sarah McGrath

Entertainments Officer

Neo O'Herlihy

Campaigns & Engagement Officer

Miranda Bauer

Graduate Officer

Marc Matouc

Oifigeach na Gaeilge / Irish Language Officer

Aoibheann Brentnall

College Officers

Aisling Moloney

Cillian Murphy

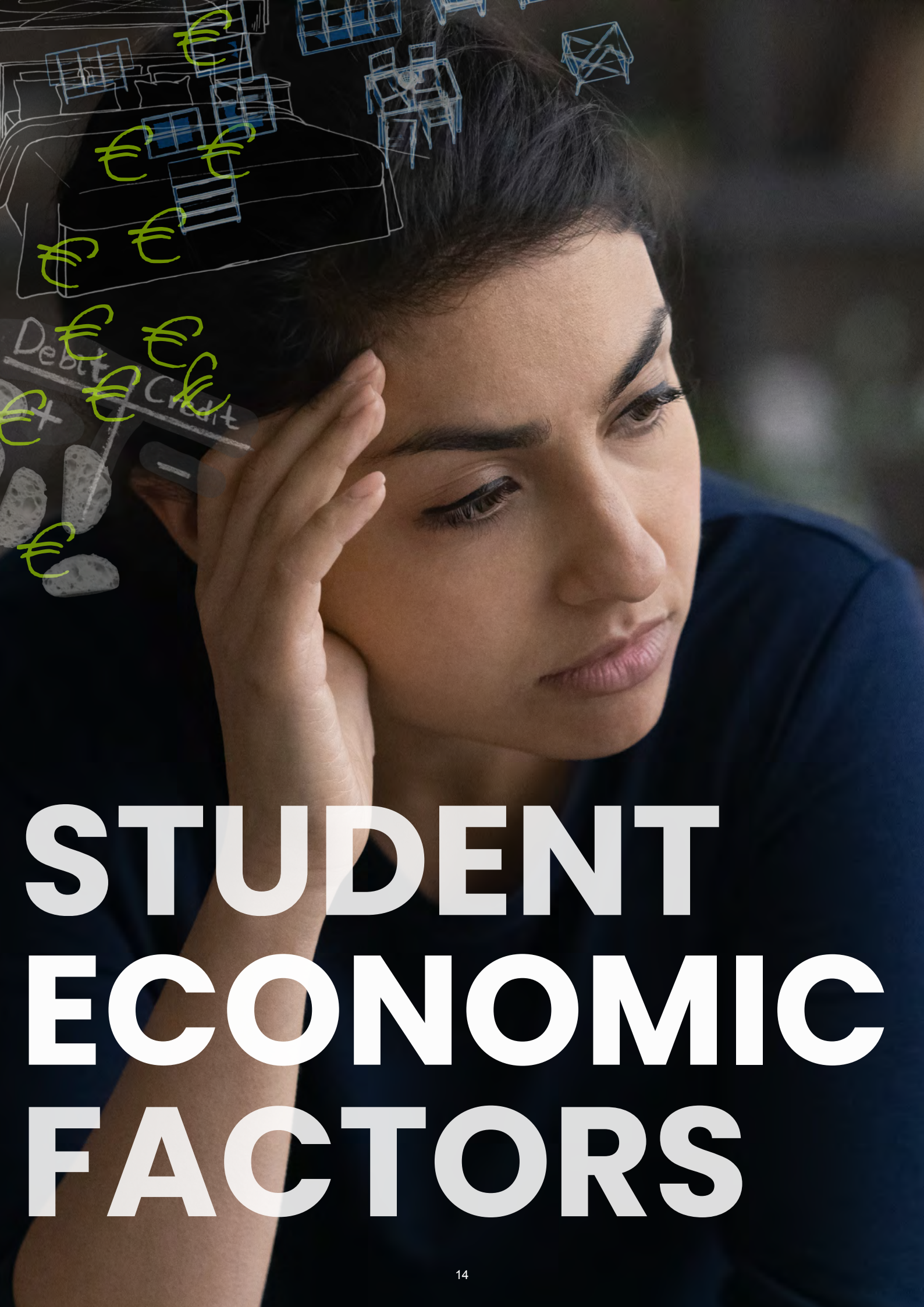
Louise Campbell

Tsz Ching Pang

Erin Hoare

Tara Toyne

Tia Cullen



STUDENT ECONOMIC FACTORS

ACCOMMODATION

The acute shortage of affordable and suitable accommodation for students now rivals the cost of tuition as the most significant barrier for students. As a result, 2022-2023 was another year that UCDSU Officers understood the need to communicate the consequences of the shortage to university management and policymakers alike, driven by a common view that inequality must be driven out of higher education and tackled at the societal level too.

With the Government on its summer holidays, the new team wanted to interject on behalf of the countless worried students and their families in whatever way it could. The team decided to launch a 'Digs Drive', issuing a direct plea to homeowners to consider making their spare room available to students. Our outreach fetched an extra 400 beds for UCD students but perhaps more impactful was the ability of the team to go out on to the streets of Dublin and talk to homeowners about the crisis and the extent to which education is increasingly at risk. The team had major success in taking over the news cycle for almost a week.

Following on from a successful launch in 2021-2022, we launched our second annual survey on student accommodation in December of 2022. We garnered 1,553 responses; up from just shy of 1,000 the previous year. With two years of data to work with, we put together a landmark report on the impact of the housing crisis on UCD students, their pursuit of education and notions of the student experience.

Launched in May 2023, this report was issued to every member of the Oireachtas and formed the basis of the elected officers' pre-budget lobbying efforts. These lobbying efforts were a product of both the outgoing and the incoming Sabbatical teams.

In partnership with Threshold, one of our chosen RAG charities, we ran a highly successful press event which gave a platform to students from various backgrounds to share their experience trying to secure suitable and affordable housing that can support their studies. Among the learnings of the report are:

- Just how hard it is for students to compete with working professionals in the private rental sector.
- How many UCD students pay even more for a bed than working professionals do, while paying significantly more to rent than the national student average.
- How a growing number of students are taking up digs-style arrangements that potentially leave them even more vulnerable.
- The emergence of a two-tier student experience, with a holistic college lifestyle beyond the reach of a growing number.

Understanding that the student strand of the housing crisis is part of a much bigger problem, the team also supported the Home For Good campaign to rebalance the Irish Constitution in order to protect the right to decent, affordable and secure housing for all. UCDSU has become a critical voice and a sector leader on articulating the pressing need for policy shifts that are genuinely student-friendly.



STUDENT FINANCE

In line with UCDSU Council's long-held policy to campaign for fully exchequer funded education, our Officers used every media opportunity they could to pressure the Government to deliver on the ambitions set out in the 'Funding the Future' proposal set out by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. While some money was put back in to students' pockets by way of a cut to the student contribution charge and some changes to grant levels and eligibility, there is still a long way to go to remove financial barriers to accessing higher education.

Students naturally feel the pinch of the wider cost of living crisis and on this basis, UCDSU remained an active member of the Cost of Living Coalition during 2022-2023 and also took part in the campaign to call on the Government to abolish sub-minimum wage rates.

CAMPAIGNS & OUTREACH

Voter Registration

In November 2022, the new online rolling register of electors was launched. In what was our our first voter registration drive since before the pandemic, we registered over 1,000 UCD students to vote as part of our on-campus drives and signposted many more to the new online rolling register.



Pride Week and Pride Parade

As part of Pride Week we hosted LGBTQ+ panel discussions with, among others, Sara Phillips from TENI.

Students also raised awareness on the issues faced by LGBTQ+ students and drove home the need for political action on the matter, and the role students have in building and supporting national movements against homophobia and transphobia

UCDSU and UCD LGBTQ+ held an on-campus Pride March on Wednesday 12 April, following a week that saw both organisations have posters torn down.



The event was led on the UCDSU side by LGBTQ+ Campaigns Coordinator for 2022-2023 Eoghan Ryder.

This drew a large turnout of both staff and students, all of whom were determined to show solidarity and reinforce the message that belonging is at the heart of UCD.

It drew attention to the issues facing LGBTQ+ students, and resulted in discussion on homophobia on campus among students and between students and staff on University Boards.

What is BDS?

Palestine Solidarity

For the last few years, UCDSU has had a policy of supporting the plight of the Palestinian people. This year, our approach was to give students an understanding of the key aspects of their oppression, the history of the Nakba and the global Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement. Our live Q&A with Senator Francis Black stood out as a highlight and received 1,000's of views; informing students about the status of the Occupied Territories Bill and why Ireland should be leading out on supporting Palestinian statehood.

Postgraduate and Workers Rights

Front and centre during 2022-2023 has been the admirable push by Postgraduate researchers for the proper recognition and protections that come with 'worker' status. During the last year, UCDSU has been proud to advocate for this in partnership with the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation.

UCDSU also continues to promote the benefits of trade union membership to UCD students and once again ran a Trade Union Week to give students a positive first impression of a number of trade unions, before students graduate and enter the workplace.





Green Week

UCDSU, in collaboration with UCD Students for Sensible Drug Policy, had Green Week in mid-April. This week took place to highlight the importance of climate action and to show the Union's support for the work carried out by Students for Sensible Drugs Policy. The week of events consisted of a movie screening followed by a Panel Discussion on the rights of People Who Use Drugs (PWUD). UCDSU was also present at the St. Stephen's Green 4/20 event and held a Clothes Swap event in conjunction with UCD Fair Fashion. The week finished with a UCD Woodland walk and clean-up around campus.

EDU

CAAT

ION

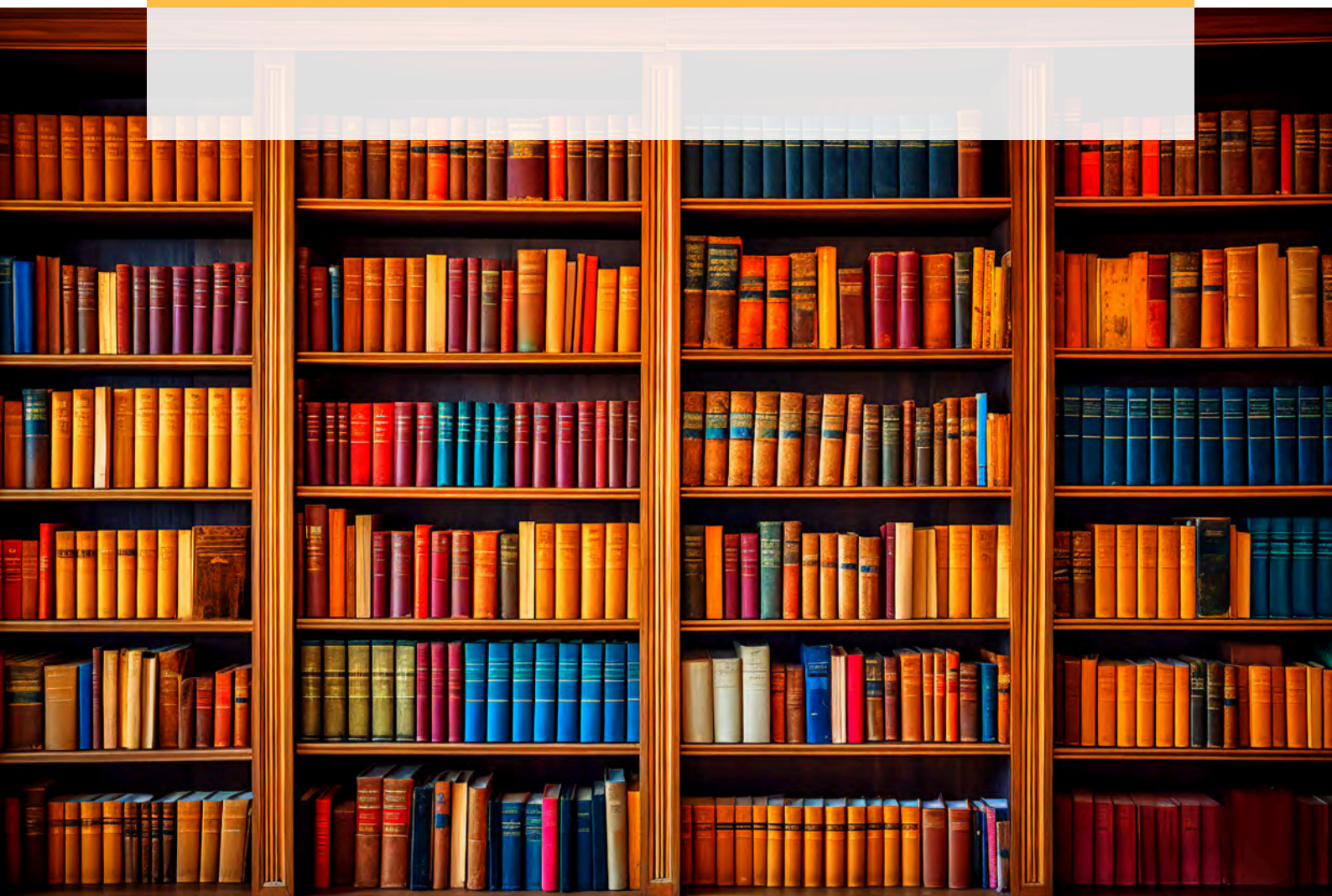


Availability of eBooks

UCDSU and UCD's librarians issued a joint condemnation of the abrupt removal of over 1,300 eBooks by Wiley Publishers from its collection just days before the start of the academic term, including texts which many lecturers had already set as core texts. Following a campaign which garnered coverage in the Irish Examiner, Wiley eventually reversed the decision. Librarians from across the country applauded the leadership of UCDSU's Education Officer in speaking out in the nick of time.

Abolition of Library Fees

After fines overdue books were rolled back in public libraries, UCD's libraries consulted with UCDSU and decided to do a pilot in the University. This is testament to the benefit of working in collaboration with the University where possible in order to identify ways to reduce costs associated with getting through college.



GET ON THE



UCDSU

BUS

Exam and Assessment Support

In addition to the advice and peer-to-peer support provided by the team in and around the exam and assessment period, we organised and managed our bi-annual UCD Exam Bus service, providing students with a much appreciated direct transport link between Belfield and The RDS. Busses ran for each day of exams, ensuring that students arrived at the exam centre well ahead of time and without the stress of navigating public transport.

Occupancy rates for Christmas and Summer exams were above 90% across all services, showing that the link was very much in demand.

Did you know that **UCD** is the **most expensive** University in Ireland to resit more than one exam?

Repeat and Resit Fees

As a result of years of campaigning from UCDSU, we successfully advocated for the abolition of re-sit exams for all students. Students in UCD had previously been charged a re-sit fee in order to reattempt a failed exam. The fee was reduced from €230 in 2018 following a campaign from the then UCDSU team, in what is a shining example of the importance of working towards continuity between Sabbatical terms.



WELFARE



UCD STUDENTS' UNION

THE GREAT DONATE >

IS BACK

The Great Donate

One of the best ways that the Union continues to contribute towards sustainability on campus is through The Great Donate. Twice a year, UCDSU give students the opportunity to leave housing goods and kitchen appliances behind for those who may have a need for them. It has grown in popularity and value to the extent now that there might be a need for a second container just to handle the demand for the opportunity to take or leave something.



SHAG Week

UCDSU launched its annual SHAG (Sexual Health and Guidance) Week, which aims to destigmatise and encourage consensual and safe approaches to sex, both among students and young people and in wider society as a whole. This was the first time that SHAG Week took place completely free of public health restrictions since before the COVID-19 pandemic for most students in what was arguably the most significant SHAG Week for many years. This is evidenced by a worrying rise in the prevalence of STDs in wider society.

We organised a full week of events, workshops and discussions and also used the week to call on policymakers to move towards access to secular inclusive sex education at Second Level. Students tested their knowledge in a Sexy Quiz on Monday evening, tried their luck on a rodeo penis on Tuesday and partook in a workshop with a specific LGBTQ+ focus on the Thursday evening.

Period Poverty

Making period products available is a key aspect of tackling gender inequality at UCD. Students at UCD can now avail of free and sustainable period products after we launched a new initiative in partnership with UCD. Products are already available in both gender-neutral and gendered bathrooms across the University.

The initiative is a result of a collaboration between the Students' Union and cohorts such as the library and estates teams. UCDSU has been giving out free period products to students for a long time, but having them available at the SU offices only meant that many people who needed them might not have them in their time and place of need; namely in bathrooms across campus and at times of the day where the union offices could be closed.

PERIOD PRODUCTION COLLECTION & 100KM ON EXERCISE BIKES

#smashshame
#onepacketmakesadifference

*2nd of March all day
on the concourse
in aid of Homeless Period Ireland*



ACTIVE* CONSENT

Active*Consent and Bystander Training

Bystander intervention training was made available to all students in UCD this year, not just incoming first year students. Further to this, all 1st year students received Active Consent training as part of their core modules for the first time. This work is the result of several years of effort, from successive sabbatical teams and key supporters within the University. This training has placed students in a better position to identify and take action against sexual violence on campus, as well as building towards a university landscape which is actively hostile to sexual predation.

The continued efforts of Union Officers have also resulted in a commitment on part of UCD to look into the possibility of making staff EDI training mandatory.



ENTE RTAI NIME NITS



Orientation and Freshers' Week

With students returning for the first full year back on campus post-pandemic, it was a revitalising experience to bring unrestricted Freshers' events to the student body once more.

Over the course of the week, we held our Freshers' Market with big brands bringing in freebies for students, alongside our UCDSU-branded tote bags with a proud swan on the front. We launched our 'Tower Tuesdays' night especially for UCD students, ran in partnership with Tramline nightclub. On Wednesday, students were treated to a visit to Harcourt St. and Copper Face Jacks to show the first years a true Dublin stalwart. Thursday saw UCDSU partnering with the UCD Cinema and Student Centre for an Irish Film Festival Day. A selection of Irish films was screened in the newly refurbished UCD Cinema. A panel discussion featuring Rob Strong (The Commitments) took place in the Clubhouse Bar.

Oktoberfest

We worked in tandem with the German Society, the UCD Clubhouse Bar, and the Student Centre to roll out UCD Oktoberfest in Astra Hall. Tuesday saw "Disktoberfest", a night filled with classic dance music in the setting of Bavarian decorations. The Oomparty Band played a ticketed night on Wednesday and to round up the week, we put on a drag show in Astra Hall hosted by Regina George.



Monster Ball

On 20 October, we held a fancy dress event in Astra Hall called the Monster Ball, in collaboration with Monster Energy. From the Derry Girls to GAA players, there was a wide variety of costumes which made the competition a tough call for the Sabbatical team.





Christmas Day

A staple in UCD student life, College Christmas Day is a time when students can enjoy a mini-Christmas Day with their college friends before the busy exam period in December.

To help kickstart the Christmas spirit, we organised a Christmas Market with companies, subsections of UCD, societies and musicians; all banding together to create a magical Christmas atmosphere on campus.

Jingle Ball

On 30 November, we headed to the Grand Social for the Jingle Ball! This was a night of cheesy Christmas hits and lots of festive spirit. This event was highly anticipated and sold out in under an hour of launch.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Spearheaded by our Oifigeach na Gaeilge Shane and Entertainments Officer Ciara, we rolled our own version of 'Seachtain na Gaeilge'. This featured a week of celebration of Ireland's native language. Events throughout the week included Irish-speaking circles, a traditional Irish session, a folklore tour, a screening of an Cailín Ciúin, Drag as Gaeilge and an Irish debating competition, as well as many more events to support the week. A key challenge for UCDSU over the next 12 months is to explore ways in which we can weave the Irish language even more into our events and outreach.



The DOMINO'S Ball

March 2nd
Carnegie Court Hotel

UCD **SU** Early Bird Tickets €40
General Tickets €45

UCD FOOD SOCIETY

Domino's Ball

What has been an annual tradition in UCDSU for the last number of years, the Union once again teamed up with Domino's to bring the Domino's Ball back for another year! The tropical-themed night took place on Thursday 2nd March at the Carnegie Court Hotel in Swords where students could get dressed up to the nines, eat some Domino's pizza and dance the night away! The partnership with Domino's and UCD Food Society has stood for many years and the Union hopes to keep this tradition alive into the future.

SUSTAINABLE FASHION SHOWCASE

Become a stylist for our showcase to win €500!

Google Form in bio for sign ups!

Capital Credit Union UCD **SU**

Sustainable Fashion Show

On 18th April, UCD Students' Union held its inaugural UCDSU Sustainable Fashion Show along with a Vintage Clothing Fair. This event was generously sponsored by Capital Credit Union. Student fashionistas took a look around the vintage clothing stores and the showcase of sustainable fashion, cheering on the seven stylists engaged in the competition. With Aisling Bonner of Spin 1038 MC'ing the event and a judging panel ready to pick the prize winner, the stage was set for a catwalk of the freshest and most innovative student creativity. All stylists were vying for a €500 cash prize.

UCDSU Presents

UCD BALL

27th APRIL | THE ACADEMY

Main Room
MALAKI
JEN PAYNE
MARTY GUILFOYLE

The Green Room
SWIFTOGEDDON

Academy 2
UCD DJ TECHNO BUNKER

featuring Headliner DJ (to be announced)

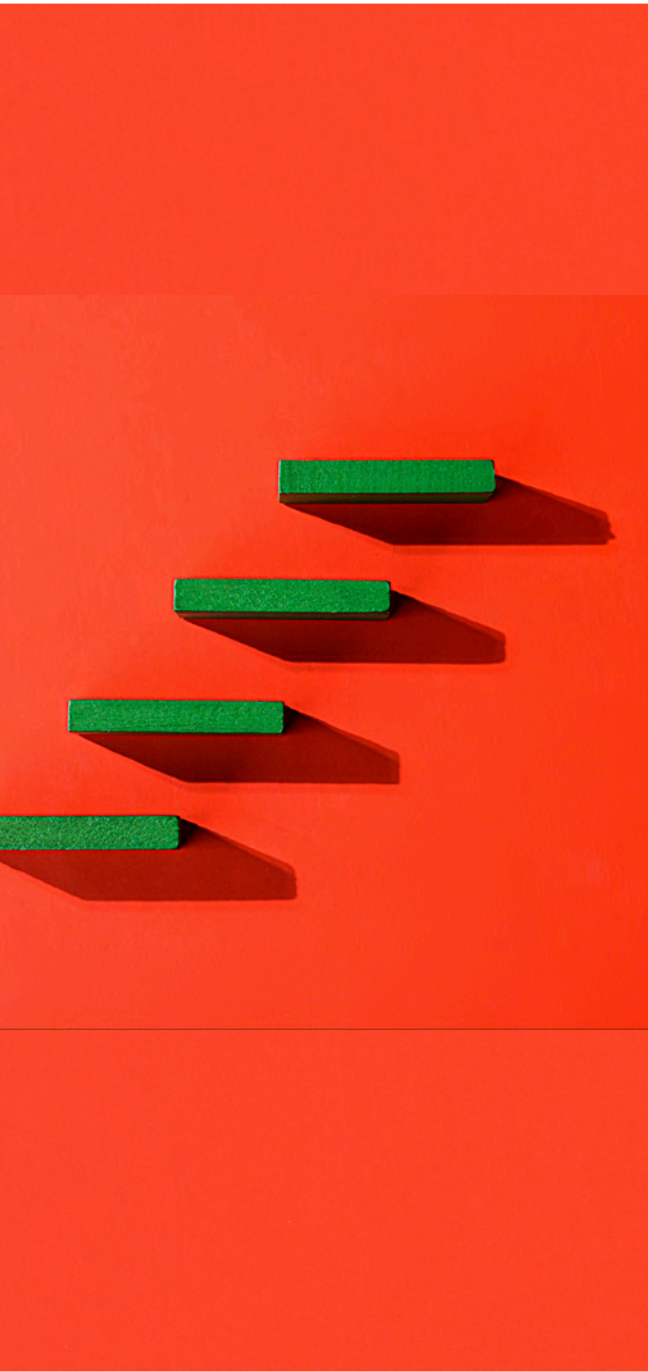
Mix Richards | Waknamee | Big Lou | Kjinn | Technaut

UCD **SU**

UCD Ball

After a ten-year hiatus, the UCD Ball made its much-anticipated return much to the delight of the UCD students. After months of planning to make sure it was the best night possible for everyone, the night was a major hit amongst the students. With headliners Malaki, Jen Payne and Marty Guilfoyle taking the main stage, this party stretched right down through the 3-floored venue. In the Green room were the UCD DJ Collective who had their Techno Bunker which played right until the very end. In The Academy 2, Swiftoggedon made their return to Ireland playing Taylor Swift all through the night with what seemed to be a constant crowd.

GRAD



Graduate Wine and Cheese Night

This event allowed new Graduate students to find their way around campus with Graduate Officer Marc. They received a complimentary glass of wine while got to know one another. Prior to the mixing, they were brought on a tour of the Belfield campus, ending with a wine and cheese night in the O'Neill Lounge above The Clubhouse. This was a very popular event that saw students who were new to the campus get a chance to mix before the beginning of classes.

UATE

SMURFIT COMMUNITY SURVEY



What you said



Smurfit Community Survey

The first ever UCDSU Smurfit Community Survey was launched in February, spearheaded by our Graduate Officer Marc. The survey came about as a result of feedback the union received about the overall student experience at Smurfit. Reps at Smurfit told Marc that there was definitely scope for improvement and that strides could be made to harness a better culture and provide for better student-orientated spaces, amenities and opportunities.

The survey was also rolled out to staff (who made up around 10% of the respondents) in order to fuel discussions at the UCD community level. We learned that roughly of Smurfit-based students have to attend mandatory lectures in Belfield, while most of them travel to Belfield for essential university opportunities and amenities they can't find at Smurfit. We look forward to working closely with all Smurfit stakeholders with a view to making strides in 2023-2024.

MATURE STUDENT SURVEY

Mature Student Survey

Following the success of the Smurfit Community Survey, Marc took the initiative and led out on a Mature Student Survey, in conjunction with the UCD Mature Student Society. Results of this survey are set to be revealed in Q4 2023.

In **January** we launched **RAG Week** alongside the students' **chosen charities**



Threshold, which helps prevent homelessness by providing free and confidential advice to people in housing difficulty and by campaigning for a fairer housing system



The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC), an independent, non-profit organisation that aims to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of sexual violence in all its forms.

RAG

2023

RAISE AND GIVE

Students got to experience events such as a Campus-wide Buskathon, a charity skydive, a Derry Girls 90's night in the Grand Social and many more events throughout the week. Led by Entertainments Officer Ciara, RAG efforts continued for the duration of term and students were also encouraged to come forward with their own ideas to raise funds for the two chosen charities.



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UCD STUDENTS' UNION
ANNUAL REPORT

