

## Governing Authority Election 2025: Candidate Profile – Professional support staff



Dr Dinali Wijeratne  
Research Office

### Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

Dinali Wijeratne PhD, MBA, B.Com (Hons)

Dr. Dinali Wijeratne, Senior Research Support Officer in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation at the University of Galway, is running for election to Údarás na hOllscoile (Governing Authority) representing the Professional Services Staff constituency. With over 18 years of experience in academia, research, and research management, as well as a strong commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Dinali has held significant roles, including Co-Chair of the University's International Staff Network and a member of the Strategy 2025-2030 Planning Group. Her expertise in managing EU, World Bank, and nationally funded projects has provided valuable leadership and project management skills.

Dinali excels in governance, compliance, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning, aligning closely with the university's priorities. Her research addresses critical societal issues such as gender and race equity, housing, ageing, precarious employment, and inclusive education, reflecting her dedication to amplifying the voices of disadvantaged groups. Dinali aims to embed EDI as a core principle in university strategies and advocate for open dialogue on systemic inequities. Through her lived experiences and commitment to meaningful representation, Dinali seeks your support to drive positive change within our community.

### Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

Dear Colleagues and friends,

My name is Dinali Wijeratne, and I am running for election to the Údarás na hOllscoile (Governing Authority) representing the Professional Services Staff constituency. I would greatly appreciate your support in this endeavor.

The central theme of my candidacy is to champion respect for diversity, amplify the voices of all members of our university community, and ensure meaningful representation for disadvantaged and minority groups.



In my roles as Co-Chair of the University's International Staff Network, member of the Strategy 2025-2030 Planning Group, member of University Women's Network (UWN), the Race Equality Committee, and former Board member of national and secondary schools in Galway, I have worked consistently to advance Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives. My experiences, along with my journey as a former PhD student of our university have shaped my understanding of the challenges within our diverse university community.

My research focuses on societal issues such as housing and migration, racial and gender equity, ageing, precarious work and digitalization in the workplace, and inclusive teaching and learning. Managing EU, World Bank and nationally-funded projects has enhanced my leadership skills. Over 18 years, I have witnessed progress in EDI, such as achieving the Athena Swan Bronze Award. However, systemic inequalities still hinder equitable opportunities for many.

As a member of Údarás, I will:

- Support open dialogue on structural inequities affecting staff and students.
- Advocate for embedding EDI as a core principle in the university's goals.
- Promote the university's role in addressing climate change, sustainability, and societal well-being.

It would be an honour to represent you and work toward an inclusive and equitable university. I appreciate your support and your vote.

Sincerely,

Dinali Wijeratne

A Chomhghleacaithe, A chara,

Dinali Wijeratne is ainm dom, agus tá mé san iomaíocht i dtoghchán Údarás na hOllscoile (Údarás Rialaithe) do thoghlach Foirne na Seirbhísí Gairmiúla. Táim ag scríobh chugat chun do thacaíocht a iarraidh le do thoil.

Is é an téama lárnach i m'fheachtas mar iarrthóir ná meas ar an éagsúlacht a chothú, guth a thabhairt do gach ball den ollscoil, agus ionadaíocht dháiríre a chinntiú do ghrúpaí atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste agus do mhionlaigh.

Seo a leanas liosta de mo chuid rólanna ar choistí san Ollscoil agus taobh amuigh di: Comh-Chathaoirleach ar Líonra Idirnáisiúnta Foirne na hOllscoile, Ball den Ghrúpa Pleanála Straitéise 2025-2030, Ball de Líonra Ban na hOllscoile (UWN), Ball den Choiste um Chomhionannas Cine, agus iarchomhalta Boird na scoileanna náisiúnta agus meánscoileanna i nGaillimh. Ar na coistí éagsúla seo d'oibrigh mé go seasta chun tionscnaimh Chomhionannais, Éagsúlachta agus Cuimsithe (EDI) a chur chun cinn. Mhúnláigh mo thaithí féin agus mo thuras mar iar-mhac léinn PhD de chuid na hollscoile seo mo thuiscint ar na dúshláin laistigh dár bpobal ilghnéitheach ollscoile.

Díríonn mo chuid taighde ar cheisteanna móra na sochaí, mar thithíocht agus imirce, cothromas ciníoch agus inscne, aosú, obair neamhbhuana agus digitiú san ionad oibre, agus teagasc agus foghlaim chuimsitheach. Chuir bainistíocht ar thionscadail AE, an Bhainc Dhomhanda agus atá maoinithe go náisiúnta go mór le mo chuid scileanna ceannaireachta.



Thar 18 mbliana anuas, tá dul chun cinn feicthe agam san EDI, amhail Gradam Cré-umha Athena Swan a bhaint amach. Mar sin féin, cuireann neamhionannais sistéamacha bac ar dheiseanna cothroma do go leor.

Mar bhall den Údarás, seo a leanas na spriocanna atá agam:

- Tacóidh mé le plé oscailte ar an éagothromas struchtúrtha a chuireann as don fhoireann agus do na mic léinn.
- Beidh mé i m'urlabhraí ar son EDI a chur i bhfeidhm mar chroíphrionsabal i spriocanna na hollscoile.
- Ról na hollscoile maidir le dul i ngleic le hathrú aeráide, inbhuanaitheacht agus folláine na sochaí a chur chun cinn.

Ba mhór an onóir domsa ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar do son agus oibriú i dtreo ollscoil uilechuimsitheach, chothrom. Is mór agam do thacaíocht agus do vóta.

Le meas,

Dinali Wijeratne PhD, MBA, B.Com (Onóracha)

Oifigeach Tacaíocht Taighde Sinsearach

Oifig an Leas-Uachtaráin um Thaighde & Nuálíocht, Ollscoil Na Gaillimhe

### **Candidate Outline of Relevant Competencies / Cur síos an Iarrthóra ar Inniúlachtaí Ábhartha**

Dr. Dinali Wijeratne possesses a diverse array of competencies that enhance her effectiveness in academic and professional settings.

1. Leadership and Project Management: With over 18 years of experience managing complex national, EU, and World Bank-funded projects, Dr. Wijeratne demonstrates exceptional leadership skills. Her ability to coordinate multi-disciplinary teams while aligning project deliverables with strategic objectives exemplifies her strong team-player mentality and sense of duty to stakeholders.

2. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Advocacy: As Co-Chair of the University's International Staff Network and a member of the Race Equality Committee, Dr. Wijeratne actively drives EDI initiatives. Her commitment to fostering an inclusive environment is evident in her development of programs focused on enhancing diversity within the academic community.

3. Research Expertise: Dr. Wijeratne's research tackles critical societal issues, including housing and migration, racial and gender equity, ageing, precarious work and digitalization, and inclusive education. Her capacity to synthesize complex information has informed publications and presentations, demonstrating her analytical, evidence-based approach to problem-solving.

4. Strategic Planning and Governance: As a member of the Strategy 2025-2030 Planning Group, Dr. Wijeratne engages in strategic oversight and policy development. Her understanding of governance frameworks enables effective navigation of institutional structures while advocating for the integration of EDI principles.



5. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement: Dr. Wijeratne excels in fostering collaborative relationships across departments and with external partners, such as participation in EU projects like COST Actions. Her balanced engagement style reflects her capacity for thoughtful debate and consensus building.

In summary, Dr. Wijeratne's competencies in leadership, research, strategic planning, EDI advocacy, and communication, coupled with her personal attributes, position her as a valuable asset to the university's governing authority.

Dr. Dinali Wijeratne  
Senior Research Support Officer