



## Governing Authority Election 2025: Candidate Profile – Other academic staff



Dr Peter Owens  
School of Medicine

### Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

I bring 18 years of experience in the education sector, with 14 years dedicated to managing Core Facilities, specializing in Microscopy and Imaging. I have developed strong relationship and networking skills, collaborating with universities, EU consortia, and industry partners. My career journey is diverse, beginning with a degree and MSc in Applied Science, followed by roles in the pharmaceutical sector and IT industry, where I worked as a programmer for a multinational telecoms company.

I transitioned from telecoms back to academia, earning a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Galway in 2009. It was during my doctoral research that I discovered a passion for advanced microscopy. Since then, I have been instrumental in establishing and developing a light microscopy core facility. In my current role as CTO for the Technology Services Directorate, I am responsible for overseeing the key enabling technologies that drive and support our research efforts.

Outside of my professional life, I am an avid climber, mountaineer, and sailor. I have climbed extensively around the world and have crossed the Atlantic four times by sail.

### Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

I am committed to fostering an equitable workplace at the University of Galway. Since 2023, I have been an active member of the EDI Campus Committee and served for three years on the EDI Committee for the College of Medicine, advocating for the interests of technical staff. During this time, I co-founded the University Technical Officer Working Group, which was established to address the concerns of technical staff across the institution.

With a strong background in research, I currently serve as the CTO for the core facilities within the Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation. My role as a technical officer in a microscopy core facility has allowed me to collaborate with a diverse range of academic, administrative, and technical colleagues across all colleges. I am responsible for providing access to and



developing advanced technologies for researchers at our University. This has shaped my approach to be outward-facing, open, and fully collaborative—values I believe are essential for a member of Údarás na hOllscoile.

My vision is centered on ensuring Visibility, Recognition, Career Development, and Sustainability for technical roles at our University. It is crucial that technical staff have a voice at all levels, and being part of Údarás na hOllscoile represents an important step in this journey.

By giving me your vote, you are supporting equity and fairness for all staff at our University.

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

I possess the following competencies, which I believe are essential for membership on Údarás na hOllscoile:

- **Strategic Thinking and Vision:** I have a strong understanding of the broader social, economic, and political context in which the University operates.
- **Technology and Digital Literacy:** I understand the role of key enabling technologies in supporting our research mission and have a solid grasp of data management and IT systems
- **Accountability and Transparency:** I am committed to clear decision-making, taking responsibility for actions and outcomes, and upholding integrity, fairness, and ethical behavior in all decisions.
- **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion:** I understand the principles of EDI and recognize the importance of fostering a positive, inclusive organisational culture.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Communication:** I am capable of engaging and communicating effectively with diverse stakeholders, including staff, students, business partners, funding authorities, and others.
- **Innovation and Change Management:** I promote a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring the organization remains dynamic and responsive to change.
- **Ethical Judgment and Decision Making:** I possess strong critical thinking skills, enabling me to analyse complex issues, assess risks, and make informed, ethically sound decisions.
- **Global Awareness and Cultural Competence:** I can make decisions that consider local, national, and international contexts, and I have an understanding of cultural differences and diversity within our organization.