



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



Dr Tiernan Henry  
School of Natural Sciences

### Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

I'm a lecturer in Earth and Ocean Sciences (in the School of Natural Sciences - SNS). I graduated from TCD with a BA (Mod) in Natural Sciences, then completed an MSc in Hydrogeology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I taught hydrology & hydrogeology at UCG in the Department of Engineering Hydrology (both long gone!) before moving to consultancy where I worked in surface and groundwater management.

In 2003 I joined the Department of Earth & Ocean Sciences as a lecturer in environmental geology and I completed my PhD (focused on groundwater in east Galway) in 2014. I've completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Academic Practice and at some point hope to get back to completing a teaching related MA .

My research is largely funded by SFI and current projects relate to managing water in peatlands, storage and movement of deep groundwater, and characterising Ireland's potential geothermal resources.

I'm a member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), the International Mine Water Association (IMWA), the Royal Irish Academy Multidisciplinary Geography & Geosciences Committee. I'm the head of Earth and Life Sciences in SNS, and the Deputy Head of SNS. I also curate and host the Vinyl Hours programme at Galway International Arts Festival.

### Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

While the university has grown in recent years and has a large and vibrant student population, and a dedicated and skilled workforce, there has been some blurring of the lines in relation to what it is the university's role and mission should be. This place is a large and complex institution, but that does not mean that the mission should be complex: fundamentally, our focus should be on teaching and research.

All of the units in the university should also have that focus, accepting that there are constraints, regulations and rules for each, but if we lose sight of that key mission, then the impacts can be wide-ranging.



It's really important that the teaching and research message is at the heart of everything the university does, and I want to bring that message to the governing authority and to represent the interests of the academic community (below professor level!) at the authority too.

If we are focused on teaching and research and if all of the units and sections have that focus too, then the university will be a better place for student experience and engagement, and our reputation as a workplace and as a centre of learning and research excellence can only grow. I've experience of strategic development at unit level and at the school and college level, as well as similar experience outside the university (I was on the board and chair of the Galway International Arts Festival for a number of years). I think I can bring my experiences and skills to the authority and I would like to represent our community and reflect our experiences there.

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

I have experience in the education sector, in industry and in the cultural and arts sector. I've been teaching at university level for more than 25 years and I've supervised seven PhD students and a number of research and taught MSc students. I'm currently supervising two PhD students, and I work with and have worked with a number of Post Doctoral Researchers. I have PG teaching qualifications (through CELT) and am involved in student recruitment, supervision and support.

I have been awarded more than €5 million in funding since 2005 as lead, and in collaboration with researchers at University of Galway, UCD, QUB, Teagasc, Geological Survey Ireland, EPA, and Ohio State University.

The university list a number of desirable requirements for members of the authority and I have have experience in some of those areas: leading complex cross-functional projects, fundraising and development, digital learning, innovation, management of complex issues and topics. I like working in the university and the teams I'm part of are very supportive and work well together, and I like tackling strategic planning issues as well as working to find solutions to local and immediate issues and problems.