

Governing Authority Election 2025: Candidate Profile – Professorial Cohort



Professor Chaosheng Zhang
School of Geography, Archaeology & Irish Studies

Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

Prof. Zhang is a Professor of Geography at University of Galway, where he teaches Geographic Information Systems (GIS) courses. He is also director of International Network on Environment and Health. With expertise in both GIS and environmental geochemistry, his research focuses on the spatial analysis of environmental variables, particularly metals and nutrients in soils. Prof. Zhang has conducted research in multiple countries, including China, Sweden, the USA, Australia, Jamaica, and Ireland. He is also the chair and organizer of several internationally recognized conferences in the fields of environment, health, and GIS.

Over the years, Prof. Zhang has received numerous prestigious awards, including the National Conference Ambassador Award from Fáilte Ireland in 2018, the Galway City Mayor's Award in "Arts, Culture, Heritage & Cúrsaí Gaeilge" in 2021, and the "Distinguished Service Award" from the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) in 2021. Prof. Zhang is the chair of the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), the chair of the International Board of the International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (ISEG). He is also the past president of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH). In addition, he holds associate editorships with the Journal of Geochemical Exploration and Environmental Geochemistry and Health.

Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

"If elected as a representative of University of Galway in the Governing Authority, I will advocate for a strong focus on excellence in research and teaching, in alignment with government policies. I will also champion the development of core values such as excellence, respect, openness, and sustainability.

Our primary objective as a university is to achieve excellence in both research and teaching. This goal must be recognized and reinforced at every level of the university system.



The reputation of the university is built upon our success in these areas, which in turn depends on adequate resources and the active, positive contributions of all staff, especially early career researchers, and students, who deserve respect, support and protection.

The principles of academic freedom and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) must be upheld and protected, to ensure a supportive environment where all staff and students are empowered to engage positively and contribute to our ongoing pursuit of excellence in research and teaching.

Specifically, the following aspects are central to my priorities:

- Supporting the University's strategy and initiatives to achieve research excellence.
- Advocating for initiatives and actions that promote teaching excellence.
- Protecting academic freedom and safeguarding the University's reputation.
- Advancing the development of internationalization efforts.
- Supporting the effective implementation of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives.

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

I am an academic with the following competencies:

- Expertise aligned to University's Strategic Priorities (Research and Teaching Excellence).
- Experience of working on international projects or for international organisations.
- Sectoral Experience in Education sector.
- Teaching and learning: Leadership of Teaching and Learning expertise; Professional knowledge of student experience.
- Research and Innovation: Leadership of Academic research; Knowledge of research funding landscape.