



Governing Authority Election 2025: Candidate Profile – Professorial cohort



Professor Siobhan Mullally
School of Law

Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

I have more than 30 years of experience in higher education and working with UN bodies in Ireland, UK, Pakistan, India, USA, Italy, France and Australia. I was a Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission 2014-2019 and am a former Fulbright scholar. I currently serve as UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Since 2017, I hold the position of Established Professor of Human Rights law and am Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Prior to this, I held a full Professorship of Law at University College Cork, where I was Deputy Head of the College of Business and Law, Chair of the University Equality Committee, Vice Chair of the University Athena Swan Self Assessment Team, and was founding co-Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights. I served as Chairperson of the Irish Refugee Council and as President of the Council of Europe group of experts on action against human trafficking. I am a graduate of the European University Institute (Florence), London School of Economics and University College Cork. I am a member of the RIA and represent Ireland on the High Council of the European University Institute.

Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

I am deeply committed to ensuring that the University of Galway is an inclusive, fair, and accountable institution, working for the public good, and demonstrating the highest standards of professional integrity in all aspects of the University's governance and management. It is essential that the University strategy is effective in expanding access to higher education and widening participation, recognising that education is a public good, essential to democracy. I believe that the Governing body plays an important role in ensuring a working environment that values and supports all staff in achieving their full potential, as teachers, researchers and colleagues. Continuing to strengthen the international and national reputation of the University is critically important. Through partnerships and collaborations, we can reinforce our connections to, and role in, achieving a more just and equitable society.

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



Having served on the College Executive of the College of Business and Law at UCC, on the School of Law Exec at University of Galway, and as Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, I have the competencies to ensure the highest standards of governance for the University. In my role as Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, and as a member of the High Council (Governing Body) of the European University Institute, I have more than 20 years of experience of ensuring that the highest standards of corporate governance requirements are met. Within the non-profit sector, I chaired Ireland's leading refugee rights NGO, the Irish Refugee Council, and was a member of the Board of Directors of NASC, the migrant and refugee rights centre, reporting to major philanthropic funders and ensuring compliance with national regulatory requirements.

I have extensive experience of working on international projects and for international organisations, and leading on EDI initiatives. As a United Nations Special Rapporteur I work with UN bodies, and states and civil society globally, and have experience of working with the Council of Europe and with EU fundamental rights and equality bodies. As an academic unit Director, I have experience of performance management, human resource management, and of ensuring respectful working environments.

On teaching and learning, I am deeply committed to supporting students and widening participation. I have developed new programmes in human rights law, gender and law, at Masters level, and at undergraduate levels. I have supervised 25 PhDs to completion. I have led major EU and IRC funded research programmes, and have published internationally.

I believe I have the personal attributes required to ensuring a respectful working environment. I am internationally and nationally engaged in public service and in prioritising the needs of our students.