



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Appointment of members to Údarás na hOllscoile 2025-2029



University
of Galway.ie



University of Galway

Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for the following position:

External Member, Governing Authority

About University of Galway

University of Galway has been inspiring minds since 1845. Ours is one of the oldest and largest universities in Ireland. Beginning with just 68 students, our campus community now numbers over 22,000 students and staff, and our 135,000 alumni are located in over 170 countries across the world. From humble beginnings, today we are counted among the Top 300 universities in the world according to the most prestigious rankings, positioning us in the top 2% globally.

University of Galway is an international university with global ambition, but with deep roots in our region and nationally. Our location on the very edge of Europe gives us a unique perspective. Our university is at the heart of a distinct and vibrant region, renowned for its unique culture, creative industries, medical technologies, marine ecology and economy, and our innovation. We work in partnership with business, industry and government to provide the graduates, skills, knowledge and innovation that drive entrepreneurialism, employment and growth in our region.

We are now seeking to appoint an External member to join the University's Governing Authority for the next four years. This is an opportunity for a dynamic, experienced board member to shape the future of University of Galway and, working at a national level, to make an impact on the strategic direction of the Higher Education sector in a new era of enhanced governance and accountability.

Údarás na hOllscoile, University of Galway's Governing Authority

Údarás na hOllscoile is the Governing Authority of University of Galway. The role of the Governing Authority is to provide strategic direction and leadership to the University to enable it to succeed in its mission of education and research within the realities of the complex external environment in which leading Universities operate. These include compliance and regulatory obligations, access to competitive research funding, innovation in academic provision, global strategic partnerships and maintaining financial resilience.

Period of Appointment

The term of office of the External member will be for four years from 01 February 2025 to 31 January 2029. The appointee will be eligible for reappointment for a second term, subject to



the approval of Údarás na hOllscoile and the Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

Time commitment

The overall time commitment required for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of an external member is expected to vary between three to four days per month. This will include preparation for, and attendance at, Governing Authority meetings, meetings with sub-Committee Chairs, meetings with the President and Secretary to the Governing Authority, and other members of the University Management Team, as well as a small number of engagements including ceremonial events and external events.

Remuneration & Expenses

This is a non-remunerated role, but reasonable expenses incurred in connection with attending relevant meetings will be reimbursed in line with civil service rates.

Requirements of the Role:

Essential Requirements:

Successful nominees will require corporate governance experience, including previous board experience. Additionally, it is envisaged that the successful appointee will Chair the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Resources sub-Committee of the Governing Authority. Accordingly, **prior experience of Human Resources and/or leadership of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is sought.**

The following essential requirements are sought in the successful nominee:

Governance:

- Corporate Governance understanding and expertise
- Prior Board experience (serving as a Board Chair, Non-executive Director, Executive Director)
- Some experience of Risk Management

Strategy:

- Experience of setting strategic direction and developing Strategic Plans
- Experience of overseeing Strategic implementation and monitoring
- Stakeholder engagement and management

Executive/Management and Organisational Experience:

- Executive leadership/senior management
- Experience of Performance Management at Executive/Board level



- Leadership of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives
- Experience of Culture and organisational dynamics
- Experience of Human Resource Management at a senior level

Financial:

- Some experience of financial management, including budget preparation and review
- Understanding of financial reports and proposals

Sectoral Experience:

Experience in any of the following sectors is relevant:

- Public sector
- Education sector
- Industry and commercial sector
- Charity, not-for-profit sector
- Regional Development experience

Desirable Requirements:

Experience in the following domains is desirable but not essential in all members of the Board:

- Experience of leading complex cross-functional projects to completion
- Legal, compliance, regulatory experience
- Experience of leading complex negotiations to a successful conclusion
- Public affairs, Marketing and PR
- Knowledge of broad public policy direction
- Crisis management

Diversity

Recognising the increasing diversity of the University community and the diversity of our region, greater diversity of experience and background is desirable in the membership of the Governing Authority. Diversity of gender (a gender quota of 40% will apply), age profile, ethnicity and experience will be actively sought in the membership, including through the addition of external members to sub-Committees.

Personal Attributes

The following personal attributes are desirable in the membership of the board:



- Team-player and sense of collegiality
- Performance-oriented
- Analytical and Evidence-based
- Common sense and Sound Judgement
- Sense of duty of care to Stakeholders
- Engagement Style (Balanced, Challenging, Collegiate, Dynamic, Quiet/ Reserved)
- Thinking Style (Creative/Innovative, Reflective/Measured, Solution-focused, Strategic)
- Quality of listening, respect for other member contributions and viewpoints and ability to move to a consensus
- Positive approach to challenge and debate
- Strong disposition under pressure and in crisis management scenarios
- High level/quality of preparation for meetings
- Strong work ethic/ willing to devote time and energy
- Behaviours, Culture, Ethics and Values system
- Openness to Learning/Improving Culture

How to apply:

Údarás na hOllscoile has appointed a Nominations Committee to identify suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the position of External member, in line with the Role Specification and the Competency Framework set out for the role.

Nominees should submit an up-to-date curriculum vitae and a cover letter outlining how their skills and experience meet the requirements of the position to the Office of the Secretary for Governance & Academic Affairs by email at: govandacademicaaffairs@universityofgalway.ie by **29th of November 2024**.

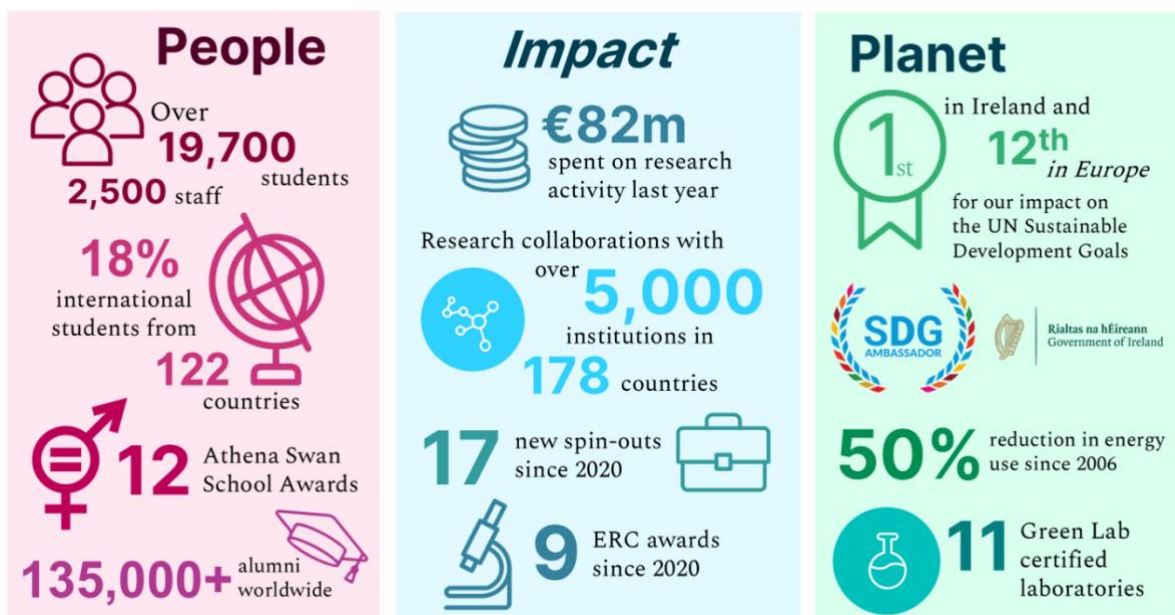
Enquiries may be made directly to Caroline Loughnane, Secretary for Governance & Academic Affairs (govandacademicaaffairs@universityofgalway.ie)



Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

PROFILE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University at a Glance:



Údarás na hOllscoile

Údarás na hOllscoile, the University’s Governing Authority, is responsible for managing and controlling all of the affairs of the University. As the University’s Governing Authority, Údarás na hOllscoile provides overall strategic direction for the University. It is not involved in the day-to-day management of the University, but it oversees the overall governance of the University and the work of the University Management Team, led by the President. It comprises an external chairperson and a total of 19 members with a diverse range of expertise and experience, in line with the provisions of the Universities Act 1997 as amended by the Higher Education Authority Act 2022.

The University Management Team

The University Management Team (UMT) is responsible for the executive day-to-day management of the University. UMT is led by the President who is the Head and Chief Officer of the University. Our current Interim University President, Professor Peter McHugh, was appointed in 2024. You can read more about him at: www.universityofgalway.ie/president



Acting under the President, the members of the University Management Team (UMT) each have specific leadership responsibilities for delivery of the University's objectives in education, research and management of the organisation. You can see the full UMT membership in the organisational chart above.

Find out more about the University's Governance and Management structures at: www.universityofgalway.ie/governance/the-kube-the-governance-hub

Colleges and Schools

The University has four Colleges:

- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies
- College of Business, Public Policy and Law
- College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
- College of Science and Engineering

Each of the Colleges is led by an Executive Dean. Within each College, decisions are taken by College Boards, chaired by the Executive Dean, and including the Heads of each School in the College.

For more information on Colleges, Schools and Disciplines, visit: www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools



College

College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies

College of Business, Public Policy and Law

College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

College of Science and Engineering

Schools

School of Political Science & Sociology
School of Psychology
School of Education
School of Geography, Archaeology & Irish Studies
School of English and Creative Arts
School of History and Philosophy
School of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge

J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics
School of Law
Shannon College of Hotel Management

School of Health Sciences
School of Medicine
School of Nursing and Midwifery

School of Biological and Chemical Sciences
School of Computer Science
School of Engineering
School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
School of Natural Sciences



Shared vision, shaped by values

Strategic Plan 2020–2025



Strategic Plan 2020-2025

In January 2020, following widespread consultation, the University published *Shared Vision, Shaped by Values*, the University's strategic plan for the period 2020-2025. It is structured around four core values debated and defined by the University community: Respect, Openness, Sustainability and Excellence. Over 50 Flagship Actions for implementing the strategy are articulated under each value. A further section entitled 'Building for the Future' articulated the University's plans for campus development in the years ahead.

- **Strategic Plan:** You can read the strategic plan at: www.universityofgalway.ie/strategy2025

We are currently at the final stages of developing our next Strategic Plan 2025-2030, building on our core values, and with a renewed focus on **our core mission of teaching, learning, research and innovation that are both excellent and impactful**. The Governing Authority will play a leadership role in setting the strategic direction for the years ahead.

Academic Programmes

The University provides teaching through four Colleges and 18 Schools up to PhD level, for primary and postgraduate Degrees and for a wide variety of Diplomas, Certificates and, more recently, Micro-credentials. 68 separate programmes of study are offered for undergraduate students, with over 190 taught programmes at postgraduate level and over 90 structured



postgraduate research programmes. The University also provides a programme of Adult Learning and Professional Development and conducts a number of Summer Schools.

The University has displayed considerable dynamism in the development of programmes to meet the evolving needs of society. Supported by funding from the Human Capital Initiative, our *Designing Futures* programme is transforming how our students learn and develop skills, through success coaching, transdisciplinary modules and our IdeasLab and Empathy Lab programmes. The University is also playing a key role in the delivery of the HCI Multicampus *Micro-credentials* project, which aims to develop a series of micro-credentials across the IUA Universities, and which will provide upskilling and reskilling opportunities to those in employment and those seeking to enhance their employability. Meanwhile, through our membership of the *ENLIGHT network* of European universities, we are developing greater opportunities for student mobility and cross-border collaboration on academic programmes and research.

Student Body

The total student body, including part-time learners, comprises over 20,000 students, over 25% of whom are studying at postgraduate level. In 2023/24, over 18% of our students were from outside the island of Ireland, coming to study in Galway from over 120 different countries worldwide. Through the Global Galway project, we are seeking to grow our international diversity further through a greater focus on international recruitment, mobility and partnerships.

Research

University of Galway is a globally focused research-led university. We recognise that research areas are neither standalone nor static. The problems of the world are not solved from just one perspective. With our knowledge of global challenges, national policy and regional needs our research areas enable an interdisciplinarity approach and impact.

Our research community achieved over €100m funding through the EU's Horizon 2020 programme and is now firmly focused on the new Horizon Europe programme 2021-2027.

In 2023, we made a record €82m annual spend in research, across a breadth of research areas. Engaging with our partners locally, nationally and worldwide, we invite ambition in research that underpins the following areas:

- Enhancing policy and society
- Enriching creativity and culture
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Realising potential through data and enabling technologies
- Sustaining our planet and people

These areas are aligned to the work of our Research Institutes, including:



- Data Science Institute
- Ryan Institute for advancing sustainability and innovation
- Institute for Lifecourse and Society
- Institute for Clinical Trials
- Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation
- Institute for Creativity

For more information on our research institutes, centres and units, visit:

www.universityofgalway.ie/our-research/listings/research-centres-institutes-and-units.html

Staff

The University employs approximately 2,500 staff, including full-time and part-time, which includes approximately 1,000 academic staff.

Finances

The University is its own financial authority and has an annual income of over €350m, including contract research income of over €70m. The sources of income are Student Fees (approx. 40%), State Grants and Pension funding (approx. 30%), Research Income (20%) and Miscellaneous (10%).

The University and the Irish language

The University's commitment to the Irish language was first set out in the University College Galway Act 1929 and this was reiterated in the University College Galway (Amendment) Act 2006, which states that one of the principal aims of the university is "the provision of education ... through the medium of the Irish language".

The University's Strategy 2020-2025 goes even further and commits to developing and implementing an ambitious and future-focused strategy for the Irish language, in partnership with national stakeholders and Gaeltacht communities, based on our values of respect and sustainability. In 2021, the University published its first Irish Language Strategy and appointed its first Irish Language Officer.

Irish language programmes are delivered primarily through the Discipline of Irish and through Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, our Irish language academy, which has three centres located in the Gaeltacht.



Our Region

Our regional footprint includes five Medical Academies, three Gaeltacht centres, off-campus research sites in Connemara and the Burren, and a satellite campus in Shannon College, Co. Clare.

Access: To facilitate access for socio-economically disadvantaged and non-traditional groups, the University, led by our Access Office, has established a range of Access and Foundation pathways for school-leavers and adults. In recent years we have grown the share of students from under-represented groups to over 24% of the student body. As a University of Sanctuary, we are actively engaged in supporting students from refugee and Traveller backgrounds to study in Galway.

Regional Enterprise

The University, led by our Innovation Office, has a longstanding involvement in the promotion of indigenous enterprise and collaboration with local industry. Since 2020, 17 new spin-outs have been created, most notably through the University's internationally renowned BioInnovate programme. In the past ten years, over 100 businesses have been supported through our Business Innovation Centre, 1,500 jobs have been created through client companies and €480 million funding raised by client companies to develop and scale up.



We are a leading player in the West Regional Enterprise Plan and we are actively contributing to its seven strategic objectives to grow enterprise and entrepreneurship, specifically in the Life Sciences, Renewable Energy, Ag Tech, Creative and Tourism sectors.

The University contributes to the regional and national skills strategy by providing a range of flexible programmes, which meet current and future workforce development needs. And we are developing the next generation of entrepreneurs through our innovative IdeasLab and Empathy Lab programmes, in collaboration with industry partners.

Our Campus

The main University Campus, with an area of some 105 hectares in the heart of the city of Galway, is attractively situated on the west bank of the River Corrib, and stretches from Nuns' Island in the south to the Sports Grounds in Dangan to the north. Other teaching and research facilities are located outside the city in An Cheathrú Rua, Carna and Mace Head in Connemara, in Carron and Finnevara in Co. Clare, and in Gaoth Dobhair in Co. Donegal. The University's medical students and researchers benefit from on-the-ground Medical Academies located in hospitals throughout the region from Portiuncula University Hospital in Co. Galway to Letterkenny University Hospital in Co. Donegal.

Building for the Future

The University is in the process of finalising its masterplan for the years ahead, which will include the Nuns' Island creative and innovation district in Galway city centre. Recent years have seen some significant additions to campus, including:

- Clinical Simulation Facility: completed in 2022
- Dunlin Village on-campus student accommodation (674 beds): completed in 2022

The following construction projects have been commenced or approved in recent years:

- Learning Commons (new Library): construction commenced in 2024
- Water Sports Centre: planning permission approved in 2023
- New Law School: design for planning in progress
- New Medical School: funded to planning stage
- New Pharmacy School: funded to planning stage

Sustainability

Sustainability is one of the University's core values and our vision is to be a leader in the transition to a sustainable future. We are committed to the SDGs at an institutional level on multiple levels:



- As a signatory to the SDG Accord, we have committed ‘to align all major efforts with the SDG targets and indicators, including through our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities’ and to ‘share our learning’.
- Our Climate Action and Sustainability Policy formalises our commitment ‘to lead the transition to a sustainable future by embedding the SDGs into all our major efforts’.
- Our Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025, which is mapped to the SDGs, sets out our vision across the campus and beyond.

In the past three years we have been ranked First in Ireland and Top 50 worldwide in the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings for our progress on the SDGs. In 2023, we established a new Sustainability Office to lead the implementation of our Sustainability Strategy and to embed sustainability across our curriculum and operations.

Through the work of the University’s Sustainability Office, the Community and University Sustainability Partnership, colleagues in Buildings and Estates and other university operations, and our Student Societies, we have advanced understanding and action on the urgent need for sustainability, using a Learn – Live – Lead model. Since 2006, we have achieved over 50% reduction in energy usage, exceeding our targets. In 2021, we established our carbon footprint, and we are actively working towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.