

About me

My name is Ava Tuohy, and I am running to be your Graduate Officer for 2026/27. I completed my **BSc in Education Studies** at Marino Institute of Education in 2024, and I am now in my last year of a **H.Dip in Psychology here at Trinity**.

I have been a **full-time postgraduate student at Trinity for the past two years**. I hold a choral scholarship with TCD Chapel Choir, and for the past year, I have served on the Chapel Choir committee as Public Relations Officer. I served as **class representative** for my undergraduate cohort at Marino, where I also worked as a student library assistant. I am **registered with the Irish Teaching Council**, and I work ad hoc as a substitute teacher while completing my postgraduate studies.

I have often been **frustrated by the lack of representation and services for postgrads**. I welcome the introduction of the sabbatical Graduate Officer role, and I believe that greater postgraduate engagement with the SU will benefit the entire college community.

A New Voice for Postgrads

Since the derecognition of the Graduate Student's Union by the College Board in 2022, postgraduates, who make up approximately one-third of the student body, have been left with very little representation within an already strained Student's Union. By addressing postgraduate-specific issues on campus, my goal is to establish the Graduate Officer role as one that **reassures all taught and research postgraduate students that their union is fighting for them**, and that they have an elected official **who understands their experience and struggles** too. My strategy is to **give intense focus to specific, solvable day-to-day issues** that impact the postgrad experience; issues that, once addressed, will benefit all postgrad students on campus for years to come.

As you will see, basic facilities for postgrads are lacking. Issues have arisen with no representation to fight back, until now!

The 1937 Reading Room

The 1937 Reading Room serves as a much-needed 24/7 focused study space and kitchen for postgraduate students. However, the space has several maintenance and accessibility issues. These issues include (but are not limited to) problems with the **heating, a lack of working plug sockets, and bathrooms affected by foul odours and mould**. The building is also completely **inaccessible to wheelchair users**.

Before being elected in 2021, **Provost Linda Doyle promised in her manifesto to "invest in and upgrade the 1937 Postgraduate Reading Room."** This investment has yet to be

seen today, almost 5 years on. As Postgraduate Officer, I will press the College Board to act on its promises regarding the 1937 reading room, as it is a crucial space for our community.

The Postgraduate Common Room, House 7

The Postgraduate Common Room is a relaxing social space where postgrads can eat, chat, unwind, and use its kitchen facilities. The Postgraduate Common Room and the 1937 Reading Room are the only two dedicated spaces for postgrads on campus. Yet, the Common Room is currently available for private bookings by individual postgrads and select groups such as the CSC and Trinity Publications. **When the Common Room is fully booked, postgrads is left without a dedicated social space on campus.**

I will work to make the Common Room freely available for its intended use as a relaxed space for postgrads, with any necessary bookings limited to off-peak times only, such as weekends. I will also work to address the accessibility issues with the Common Room, as **there is currently no stair lift available in the building** and the Common Room is located on the first floor.

Postgraduate Workers

PhD researchers have to live on stipends below the minimum wage, often resorting to extra part-time work on top of already-packed schedules to make ends meet. I find this completely unacceptable. I will work with the union to fight for the rights of all postgraduate workers. **I will be dedicated to campaigns for a guaranteed living wage, sick leave, parental leave, and fair, respectful treatment in the workplace.** I plan to raise awareness of these demands on campus and organise direct action when necessary.

Welfare Supports

I will work with the union to make practical **welfare supports and resources, such as vouchers for groceries and day-to-day essentials**, available to mitigate against the cost-of-living crisis for all postgraduate students. I plan to collaborate with the **Postgraduate Advisory Service** to compile a guide to welfare supports available to postgrads.

Palestine Solidarity

I am a member of TCD BDS and Teachers for Palestine. I have participated in several pro-Palestine demonstrations and protests this year. I will elevate the postgraduate student voice in support of Palestine and I will work alongside TCD BDS in their campaigns for Trinity to cut all ties with Israel.

I will support campaigns for Israel's suspension from the Horizon EU research funding program, which currently sends 1.1 billion euro to Israeli universities and companies. **I will work to give more Palestinians the opportunity to study at Trinity through the Sanctuary Scholarship program**, with a particular emphasis on postgraduate students who have had their education interrupted by Israel's genocide. I will also campaign to end Trinity's Coke brand-only product policy and I will assist in creating a human rights based procurement policy for Trinity.

Disability

As a disabled postgraduate student, I am familiar with the frustration of having to fight for recognition of LENS reports across all classes, labs, and placements. I will fight to ensure that LENS reports are recognised and respected by all teaching and supervision staff who work with postgrads. **I will also campaign for the expansion of LENS services to pregnant and breastfeeding students.** Campus accessibility is of extremely high importance to me and **I will work to address the accessibility issues with postgraduate spaces** as mentioned above.

Fúm féin

Is mise Ava Tuohy, agus táim ag seasamh don phost Oifigeach Iarchéime do 2026/27. Bhain mé amach céim BSc in Education Studies i gColáiste Mhuire (Marino) in 2024, agus táim anois sa bhliain dheireanach de H.Dip sa tSíceolaíocht anseo i gColáiste na Tríonóide.

Tá mé i mo mhac léinn iarchéime lánaimseartha i gColáiste na Tríonóide le dhá bhliain anuas. Tá scoláireacht chór agam le Cór Shéipéal TCD, agus don bhliain seo caite bhí mé ar choiste an chórais sin mar Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí. Bhí mé i mo ionadaí ranga do mo chomhortha fochéime i Marino, áit ar oibrigh mé freisin mar chúntóir i leabharlann na mac léinn. Tá mé cláraithe leis an gComhairle Mhúinteoireachta in Éirinn, agus oibrím ó am go chéile mar mhúinteoir ionaid agus mé ag críochnú mo chuid staidéir iarchéime.

Go minic, bíim frustrachas orm mar gheall ar an easpa ionadaíochta agus seirbhísí do mhic léinn iarchéime. Cuirim fáilte mhór roimh thabhairt isteach ról sabóideach an Oifigigh Iarchéime, agus creidim go rachaidh rannpháirtíocht níos mó iarchéimithe leis an SU chun leasa phobal iomlán na hollscoile.

Guth Nua do Mhic Léinn Iarchéime

Ó cuireadh deireadh le haitheantas Aontas na Mac Léinn Iarchéime ag Bord na hOllscoile in 2022, fágadh mic léinn iarchéime – a dhéanann suas thart ar aon trian den daonra mac léinn – le fíorbheagán ionadaíochta in Aontas Mac Léinn atá faoi bhrú cheana féin. Trí dhul i ngleic le saincheisteanna ar leith do mhic léinn iarchéime ar an gcampas, is é mo sprioc an ról Oifigigh Iarchéime a bhunú mar ról a thugann dearbhú do gach mac léinn iarchéime teagaisc agus taighde go bhfuil a n-aontas ag troid ar a son, agus go bhfuil oifigeach tofa acu a thuigeann a dtaithe agus a gcuid streachailtí freisin. Is é mo straitéis ná díriú go dian ar shaincheisteanna laethúla sonracha agus indéanta a mbíonn tionchar acu ar thaithe na n-iarchéimithe; saincheisteanna a rachaidh chun leasa gach mac léinn iarchéime ar an gcampas sna blianta atá romhainn.

Mar a fheicfidh sibh, tá easpa mór ar áiseanna bunúsacha do mhic léinn iarchéime. Tá fadhbanna tagtha chun cinn gan ionadaíocht le dul i ngleic leo – go dtí seo!

Seomra Léitheoireachta 1937

Soláthraíonn Seomra Léitheoireachta 1937 spás staidéir 24/7 atá fíor-riachtanach do mhic léinn iarchéime, chomh maith le cistin. Mar sin féin, mar is gnách le go leor foirgneamh níos sine ar an gcampas, tá roinnt fadhbanna cothabhála agus inrochtaineachta ag baint leis an spás. Áirítear orthu seo (ach níl siad teoranta dóibh) fadhbanna leis an téamh, easpa soicéid phlugála atá ag feidhmiú, agus leithris a bhfuil drochbholadh agus múnla iontu. Tá an foirgneamh go hiomlán dorochtana d'úsáideoirí cathaoireacha rothaí freisin.

Sula toghadh í in 2021, gheall an Provost Linda Doyle ina forógra go ndéanadh sí “infheistíocht agus uasghrádú ar Sheomra Léitheoireachta Iarchéime 1937.” Ní fhacthas an

infheistíocht sin go fóill, beagnach cúig bliana ina dhiaidh sin. Mar Oifigeach Iarchéime, cuirfidh mé brú ar Bhord na hOllscoile gníomhú ar a gcuid gealltanais maidir leis an Seomra Léitheoireachta 1937, mar is spás ríthábhachtach é dár bpobal.

An Seomra Coiteann Iarchéime, Teach 7

Is spás sóisialta suaimhneach é an Seomra Coiteann Iarchéime inar féidir le mic léinn iarchéime ithe, comhrá a dhéanamh, scíth a ligean agus úsáid a bhaint as áiseanna na cistine. Is iad an Seomra Coiteann Iarchéime agus Seomra Léitheoireachta 1937 an t-aon dá spás atá tiomnaithe go sonrach do mhic léinn iarchéime ar an gcampus. Mar sin féin, tá an Seomra Coiteann ar fáil faoi láthair le haghaidh áirithintí príobháideacha ag mic léinn aonair agus ag grúpaí roghnaithe cosúil leis an CSC agus Trinity Publications. Nuair a bhíonn an Seomra Coiteann lán-áirithinte, fágfar pobal na n-iarchéimithe gan aon spás sóisialta tiomnaithe ar an gcampus.

Oibreoidh mé chun an Seomra Coiteann a dhéanamh ar fáil saor in aisce dá úsáid bhunaidh mar spás suaimhneach do mhic léinn iarchéime, agus go mbeadh aon áirithintí riachtanacha teoranta d'amanna neamhbhuaise amháin, mar shampla ag an deireadh seachtaine.

Oibreoidh mé freisin chun dul i ngleic leis na fadhbanna inrochtaineachta sa Seomra Coiteann, mar níl aon ardaitheoir staighre sa bhfoirgneamh faoi láthair agus tá an seomra ar an gcéad urlár.

Oibrithe Iarchéime

Caithfidh taighdeoirí PhD maireachtáil ar stipinní atá faoi bhun an íosphá, agus is minic a bhíonn orthu obair pháirtaimseartha bhreise a dhéanamh ar bharr sceidil atá lán cheana féin chun an dá cheann a dhéanamh. Feicim é seo mar rud go hiomlán do-ghlactha. Oibreoidh mé leis an aontas chun troid ar son chearta gach oibrí iarchéime. Beidh mé tiomanta do fheachtais ar son pá maireachtála ráthaithe, saoire bhreitheachta, saoire tuismitheoirí, agus cóir chothrom, mheasúil san ionad oibre. Tá sé ar intinn agam feachtas a ardú ar na héilimh seo ar an gcampus agus gníomh díreach a eagrú nuair is gá.

Tacaíochtaí Leasa

Oibreoidh mé leis an aontas chun tacaíochtaí agus acmhainní leasa praiticiúla, cosúil le dearbháin do ghrósaera agus riachtanais laethúla, a chur ar fáil chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim chostais maireachtála do gach mac léinn iarchéime. Déanfaidh mé iarracht freisin táirgí sláintíochta saor in aisce a chur ar fáil i leithris an tSeomra Choiteann Iarchéime agus Sheomra Léitheoireachta 1937. Tá sé ar intinn agam comhoibriú leis an tSeirbhís Chomhairleach Iarchéime chun treoir a chur le chéile maidir leis na tacaíochtaí leasa atá ar fáil do mhic léinn iarchéime.

DIÚTHPHÁIRTÍOCHT leis an bPalaistín

Is ball mé de TCD BDS agus Múinteoirí ar shon na Palaistíne. Ghlac mé páirt i roinnt taispeántas agus agóidí ar son na Palaistíne i mbliana. Ardóidh mé guth na mac léinn iarchéime i dtacaíocht leis an bPalaistín agus oibreoidh mé taobh le TCD BDS ina bhfeachtais chun go ngearrfaidh Coláiste na Tríonóide gach ceangal le hIosrael. Tacóidh mé le feachtais chun Iosrael a chur ar fionraí ón gclár maoinithe taighde Horizon EU, a sheolann 1.1 billiún euro faoi láthair chuig ollscoileanna agus comhlachtaí Iosraelacha. Oibreoidh mé chun níos mó deiseanna a thabhairt do Phalaistínigh staidéar a dhéanamh i gColáiste na Tríonóide tríd an gclár Scoláireachta Tearmainn, le béim ar leith ar mhic léinn iarchéime a bhfuil a gcuid oideachais curtha as a riocht ag cinédhíothú Iosrael. Déanfaidh mé feachtas freisin chun deireadh a chur le polasaí “branda amháin Coke” i gColáiste na Tríonóide agus cabhróidh mé le polasaí soláthair bunaithe ar chearta an duine a chruthú don ollscoil.

Míchumas

Mar mhac léinn iarchéime faoi mhíchumas, tá cur amach agam ar an bhfrustrachas a bhaineann le bheith ag troid chun go n-aithneofar tuarascálacha LENS i ngach rang, saotharlann agus socrúchán. Troidfidh mé lena chinntiú go n-aithníonn agus go n-urramaíonn gach ball foirne teagaisc agus maoirseachta a oibríonn le mic léinn iarchéime tuarascálacha LENS. Déanfaidh mé feachtas freisin chun seirbhísí LENS a leathnú chuig mic léinn atá ag iompar clainne nó ag beathú cíche. Tá inrochtaineacht an champais thar a bheith tábhachtach dom agus oibreoidh mé chun dul i ngleic leis na fadhbanna inrochtaineachta i spásanna iarchéime, mar a luadh thuas.