

‘Vote Colin for Academic’.

A bit about me:

My name is Colin Doyle, and I am a fourth year Science Education Student from Westmeath.

Hailing from a tiny village in the midlands, I made the move to UL and haven't looked back since.

I am a nice 'aul lad to be fair, but you can be sure that I will do absolutely everything that I can to help others, persistence is key. UL has given me so many great experiences, and I feel that I can give back in some way, shape or form.

The last nearly four years have 100% been the best days of my life, so far (well let's forget about the chunk of time lost to Covid). I am hoping that for the next college year, we will see students back on campus, and for some, the return may be tougher than ever, especially for the current 1st year group who unfortunately haven't had a proper chance to get used to our unreal campus, or simply live their college lives. Because of this, I want to be able to lend a helping hand, especially in terms of all aspects academic.

The academic officers over the past number of years have worked tirelessly for you, the students of UL, and I would love to be able to step into this role.

I hope that my manifesto is achievable, and relatable to the needs of the students.

My Manifesto:

Continued support for UL Eist:

The last year has been incredibly tough for so many people, especially students. Eist is UL's very own counselling service provided to students here. With a mixture of Assistant psychologists and student counsellors, there is always someone to help. On average, Eist meets with between 1,000 – 1,300 students a year. It's important to ensure that for this essential service to continue, that we ensure UL provides the necessary funds to ensure the welfare of our fellow students and staff alike are looked after.

Better feedback:

Students should be entitled to better feedback on work completed (assignments, group work etc....). This feedback should be constructive and tailored to actually help you for your next assignment!

Student Information Workshops: Consent, Drug and Alcohol safety etc...

Continue the already good work carried by UL Support services in order to continue the raising of awareness surrounding these topics.

Uncapping of repeat exams:

Currently, if you have to have a repeat exam (not because of an I-Grade), your grade is automatically capped at a C3. This is accompanied by a repeat fee of, wait for it... €171.

Having your grade capped, this is not morally correct, and everyone deserves a second chance at getting the best grade possible for their repeat. Students are being let down!

Upgrading lecture hall seats and desks:

How many times have you walked into a lecture hall, tutorial room, only to see countless seats and desks that don't actually work properly? During my time in UL, I have seen the same seats and desks broken since I began. Surely this is something that a potential sabbatical officer shouldn't have to bring into a manifesto, but here we are.

If you don't have the space to take down notes, why should you?

Also, lets increase in number of left-handed desks on campus for all those Left-handed people out there!

Let's reduce as many barriers as possible to education, no matter how big or small they are.

Student Supports:

Increased academic supports for the upcoming year.

Now more than ever, students have been faced with exceptional circumstances in terms of learning.

Hopefully, the next academic term will see students return to our campus, but when this does, it will not be without changes.

Many incoming first year students will have studied online for over a year and a half and will find the transition to third level much harder. Coming to College/university is hard enough as it is, but it will be significantly harder now.

The same goes for our returning 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students. Hopefully, you will be getting back into lecture halls and tutorials. But I want to make sure that you will be supported at every level. I would like to see increased communication between students, class reps and course directors, course directors and module leaders, and module leaders and subject departments. It is crucial, that the return to in-person studied is fully supported to ensure student are able to re-integrate to university life.