**Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir**

Irish Language and Culture Representative

**Aontas na Mac Léinn, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.**

Students Union, University College Cork.

**Réamhrá-Inroduction**

Haigh a chairde,is mise Nada Ní Chuirrín. Táim ag cur isteach ar an bpost mar Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir ar Aontas na Mac Léinn COC ‘20/21 agus tá bhur vóta ag teastáil uaim!

Táim i mbliain na céime faoi láthair agus tá mé ag déanamh staidéir ar an Ghaeilge agus ar an gCeol. Rugadh agus togadh le Gaeilge mé agus is i nGaeltacht Chonamara a chaith mé an chuid is mó de mo shaol go dtí gur bhog mé go Corcaigh trí bliain ó shin. Cé gur fhág mé an Ghaeltacht chun freastal ar an Ollscoil, níor fhág mé an Ghaeilge sa mbaile. Is cuid lárnach dem shaol í an Ghaeilge agus níl lá ar bith caite agam anseo i gCorcaigh nár úsáid mé í, bíodh sé sin i halla léachta nó ag labhairt le mo chairde.

Tá go leor smaointí agam chun ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr a chur chun cinn anseo san ollscoil agus mar sin tá bhur chunamh uaim!

Hi, my name is Nada Ní Chuirrín and I’m looking for your vote as I run for the position of Irish Language and Culture Representative for the Student’s Union UCC, ‘20/21.

I am studying Irish and music and I am currently in my final year. I was born and raised speaking Irish and spent most of my life living in the Conamara Gaeltacht until I moved to Cork three years ago. Even though I left the Gaeltacht to attend university, I didn’t leave my Irish at home. The Irish language is a central part of my life and not a day has gone by where I haven’t spoken it, be that in a lecture hall or speaking with my friends.

I have lots of ideas for the promotion of our language and our culture here in the university and with that I need your help!

**Taithí – Experience**

Dar liomsa gur mise an duine is feiliúnaí don bpost seo toisc an méid taithí saoil agus ghairmiúil atá agam leis an nGaeilge. Cheana féin, tá an-obair agus an-iarracht curtha isteach agam chun an Ghaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm i measc na mic léinn anseo san ollscoil.

* Mar atá luaite agam thuas, rugadh agus tógadh le Gaeilge mé agus is í an Ghaeilge an phríomhtheanga a bhíonn á labhairt agam sa mbaile le mo mhuintir agus dar ndóigh le mo chairde anseo san ollscoil.
* Tá an-chuid taithí agam a bheith ag obair le TG4, Radió na Gaeltachta agus Molscéal, rud a bheadh an-úsáideach agus mé ag iarradh an teanga agus an cultúr a chur i bhfeidhm i measc muintir na hollscoile.
* D’fhreastal mé ar meanscoil Gaeltachta agus is mac léinn le Gaeilge anois mé agus mar sin tuigim an tábhacht a bhaineann leis an taobh acadúil den teanga chomh maith leis an taobh sóisialta.
* Is ball de choiste na Cuallachta mé ón gcéad bhliain. Bhí mé mar Ionadaí na Céad Bliana 2017/18, mar Cathaoirleach anuraidh agus mar Oifigeach Oideachas i mbliana. Mar sin, is léir go bhfuil an-iarracht déanta agam chun an Ghaeilge a spreagadh san ollscoil ón uair gur thosnaigh mé ag déanamh staidéir anseo. Le linn mo thréimhse ar an gcoiste, d’éirigh linn an-chuid imeachtaí a eagrú ar mhaithe leis an dteanga a chur chun cinn, ar nós Seachtain na Gaeilge, turasanna bliaintiúil go dtí Oireachtas na Samhna, ceardlann fostaíochta, ciorcal comhrá seachtainiúil, aoí-chainteoirí agus araile.
* Comh maith leis an obair a bhíonn ar siúl agam leis an gCuallacht, i mbliana táim mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge ar TradSoc, áit in a mbíonn an deis agam an grá atá agam don cheol traidisiúnta agus don Ghaeilge a mheascadh le chéile.
* Is múinteoir ceoil agus damhsa mé agus is trí mheán na Gaeilge a bím ag múineadh den chuid is mó.
* Bím ag obair go géarr le Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge agus mé mar bhall den Choiste Gnó le dhá bhliain anuas.

I think that I am the most suitable candidate for this position due to the large amount of both life and professional experience I have with the Irish language. Already I have made a huge effort to promote the language amongst the students in the university.

* As I have mentioned above, I was born and raised with Irish with her being the main language spoken in my family home and amongst my friends here at the university.

* I have lots of experience working with Irish language media organisations including TG4, Radió na Gaeltachta and Molscéal, something I believe will be very useful in my efforts to promote the language and culture around campus.
* I attended a Gaeltacht secondary school and am now studying Irish at university level, therefore I fully understand the importance of the academic aspect of the language as well as the social aspect.
* I have served as a member of the An Chuallacht committee since first year. Starting out as first year rep. 2017/18, as Chairperson last year and now currently serving as Education Officer. As a result of this, it is clear that I have made quite an effort to promote and encourage the Irish language around campus from the very beginning of my time here in UCC. Throughout my time on the committee we have successfully organised numerous events to promote the language amongst students such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, anual trips to Oireachtas na Samhna, employment workshops, guest speakers, weekly conversational groups and much more.
* As well as the work I have done with An Chuallacht, I am currently serving as Irish Officer on UCC TradSoc. This has given me the opportunity to combine both my love for the Irish Language and traditional music.
* I am a music and dance teacher and I prodominantly teach through the medium of Irish.
* I work closely with the Department of Modern Irish and have served as a student representative on the Board of Management (Coiste Gnó) for two years.

**Smaointí agus Aidhmeanna-Ideas and Aims**

* Mar atá déanta agam le trí bliain anuas, d’oibreoinn leis an gCuallacht, TradSoc agus an Cumann Drámaíochta chun imeachtaí cultúrtha agus Gaelach a chur ar fáil a bheadh taitneamhach agus feiliúnach do chuile mhac léinn. Chomh maith le sin, toisc go bhfuil beagnach chuile mhac léinn bainteach le cumann nó club éigin, ba bhreá liom nasc níos láidre a cruthú leis na gclubanna agus cumainn éagsúla chun an Ghaeilge a spreagadh. Is dóigh liomsa go mbeadh sé seo an-rathúil chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ar champas.
* Ba bhreá liom dá mbeadh níos mó béime curtha ar an nGaeilge agus ar an gcultúr i rith Seachain na nGiobal, Seachtain na bhFreisear srl. Rinneadh iarracht é seo a neartú cúpla bliain ó shin ach fós féin is dóigh liom gur féidir i bhfad níos mó a dhéanamh. D’fhéadadh é seo a dhéanamh ar bhealach chomh simplí ar nós fógraíocht a dhéanamh i nGaeilge comh maith leis an mBéarla.
* Is dóigh liom gur ceart dúinn leas níos mó a bhaint as an Hub nua, álainn, a thógadh i mbliana chun imeachtaí a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge agus leis an gcultúir a chur ar siúl, go háirithe toisc nach bhfuil áit ar champas, a bhíonn oscailte i gcónaí, do mhic léinn amháin chun an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Déanfainn iarracht labhairt le hIonad na Gaeilge Labhartha agus Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge chun an Seomra Caidrimh a chur ar fáil do mhic léinn i bhfad níos minice freisin.
* Cé go mbíonn turasanna deireadh seachtaine chun na Gaeltachta ar fáil do lucht na céad bliana, ní mar an gcéanna a bhíonn sé do mhuintir na dara agus triú bliana. Is dóigh liomsa go mbeadh sé an-tairbheach an deis seo a thabhairt do chuile mhac léinn, go háirithe maidir leis na scrúduithe cainte a bhíonn ar siúl ag deireadh na bliana. Déanfainn é seo a phlé le hIonad na Gaeilge Labhartha freisin.
* As I have done for the last three years, I would work closely with An Chuallacht, TradSoc and An Cumann Drámaíocht to put on events connecting to the Irish language that would be enjoyable and open to all students. As well as this, almost every student is involved in a club or society on campus, therefore I would like to create a stronger link with these in order to promote and encourage the use of the Irish language in all aspects of student life.
* I would like there to be more of an emphasis placed on the language and on the culture during R&G Week, Freshers Week etc. Efforts were made to implement this a few years ago, however, I think we can do more. Simple things such as bilingual advertising would make a huge difference.
* I feel that more advantage could be taken of the lovely new student Hub built this year to host Irish language and cultural events, especially since there is no area specifically allocated for students on campus to converse through Irish. I would also make an effort to discuss with the Centre for Spoken Irish and the Department of Modern Irish the possibility of making the Seomra Caidrimh available to students to meet and speak Irish much more frequently.
* Although there are weekend trips to the Gaeltacht available to first year Irish language students, this is not the case for second and third years. I think it woud be very beneficial to expand the availability of these trips, especially in relation to the oral examinations at the end of the year. I intend to discuss this with the relevant departments.

Thar aon rud eile, is é an rud is tábhachtaí domsa ná go mbeadh daoine bródúil as an Ghaeilge agus an cultúr. Mar Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir, déanfaidh mé mo sheacht ndícheall an Ghaeilge agus an cultúr a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn timpeall na hollscoile.

Above all else, what is most important to me is that people are proud of the Irish language and of their culture. As Irish Language and Cultural Officer, I will do my very best to encourage and promote the language and culture throughout the university.

Beir Bua!