

About me:

My name is Brídín Ní Fhearraigh-Joyce (she/her) and I'm running to be the next Editor of The University Times. For queries, recommendations and ideas about how the newspaper can better serve students, I welcome communication sent to nifhearb@tcd.ie.

I grew up between Dublin (Firhouse) and Mayo (Ballyvary). I am a fluent Irish speaker and a final-year English student.

What Makes Me Qualified?

I work as the Deputy News Editor of The University Times, the Head Copyeditor of the student environmental magazine Evergreen, and I'm a Campus Brand Ambassador for HotPress Magazine. In 2023, I wrote 30 articles and edited over 100 pieces.

Working for *The University Times* and *Trinity News*, I have broken stories on student housing issues, actions in solidarity with Palestine, disability rights, the Trinity Access Programme, and far-right protests. When working for TN2, I published anonymous pieces detailing students' firsthand experiences with sensitive topics, on subjects including sex work and rape culture. For Gay Community News, I have written about trans rights, pinkwashing, and LGBTQ+ nightlife.

In my third year, I served as Editor-in-Chief of TN2, a Trinity Publications arts and culture magazine, where I led a team of forty student editors. I was also responsible for organising the magazine's budget of over €8,000, social events, and social media strategy.

I have encouraged numerous student journalists to apply for categories at the SMEDIA awards. I have also been nominated and shortlisted for five Student Media Awards. These categories were for 'Best Collaborative Journalism', 'Best Design' and 'Best Magazine' (for TN2), 'Best Science and Tech Article', 'Best Short Story', and 'Best Feature Article'.

Better Coverage

As editor, I will establish two Irish language editors. I will have one section of the paper written in the Irish language for each issue. As a native Irish speaker, I will have the ability to personally edit Irish language articles, and write articles in Irish. I will also ensure that each editorial will be translated into Irish.

Additionally, I will increase the number of STEM students working in the newspaper. This will be done by running events in the Hamilton building and asking STEM course coordinators of

TCD to share opportunities to get involved in *UT* for STEM students. I will hire a Science and Technology editor, and a STEM research editor to report on emerging STEM developments in TCD, and also create roles for multiple climate science editors.

I will also reinstate *The University Times* journalism school in collaboration with the Trinity Access Programme. Workshops on writing, news, and research will be conducted by students involved in *The University Times* for secondary students from DEIS schools.

I will also seek to increase sports coverage and create sections for business, health, and politics. Within the sports section, I will aim to expand coverage of women's sports and sports for disabled people.

Other roles that I wish to include in the paper: an international editor, who will cover global issues, a Dublin editor, who will cover news happening in the city, and an Erasmus editor, who will cover aspects of the Erasmus experience.

If elected Editor, I will organise a photojournalism team to capture breaking news and make the visuals of the paper more eye-catching. I will also seek to hire designated designers of the paper to improve the visual language of *UT*'s online and print interface.

New Voices

A bigger staff team allows for more engagement with student issues and more diversity.

To increase the representation of ethnic minorities within *The University Times*, I will reach out to the International Student's Society and ethnic societies to ask if they will advertise opportunities within *The University Times* amongst their society mailing lists. I will also add two positions on the paper for the roles of Ethnic Minority Editors, so that issues that affect BIPOC students will be written about by those with lived experience of those issues.

I will also emphasise the social aspect of the newspaper. I want to make *UT* a place where students can make friends. A community-run and student funded newspaper has to be fun!

I will host socials on campus with refreshments, free-of-charge daytime non-alcoholic socials, and arrange socials in local establishments that run promotional drink deals. This will help make the paper more accessible for those commuting, who may have caring responsibilities, or are living on a tight budget. I will encourage student societies, plus ones, and students working with other publications to attend.

I will make every effort possible to grow the team, and make job expectations, getting involved, and writers and editors onboarding experience more transparent. When hiring staff for the upcoming year, I will provide each staff member with an editor document which will outline what is expected in their role.

More Equality

To make the paper less hierarchical and more transparent, I will also run pitching workshops, design workshops, and news writing workshops. These workshops will be open to all students. Running frequent workshops will also demystify the newspaper for freshers and new writers.

I will invite speakers from the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and alumni of *The University Times* to give talks to students about editorial ethics, careers in journalism, sourcing stories, and how to approach the changing media landscape of journalism.

I will organise an open forum called 'UT Talks' during the semester for students to learn more about the newspaper, express their ideas, and give recommendations for the newspaper to make it more accountable and relevant to the student body.

I will make UT less hierarchical. With the exception of news, the editorial guidance for students' work will serve as suggestions, rather than mandatory changes. This will allow the authorial voice of student writers to be centred in each piece.

Professionalism, welfare, and human resources are core tenets of my campaign. I will also introduce a formal process for *UT's* staff and TCD students to express grievances with the editor and newspaper, and implement a team for dealing with problems that arise with articles published, staff issues, and ethics.

As Editor, I will make every effort to keep *The University Times* in good repute. If elected, I will undertake a course in media law and ethics. I will break down my notes for staff on *The University Times*, and source a media expert to provide ethics and defamation training for staff.