

My name is Clodagh Roche. I am a student in TU Blanchardstown Campus currently undertaking a degree in Social Studies. I will be running for the position of Blanchardstown VP for Welfare and Equality.

For the past four years I have held numerous positions which I feel have permitted me to work in areas of importance and which have given me the experience and knowledge in student support.

My experiences to date have been a Class Representative for two years, representing the students and acting as liaison between the students and the university faculty and lecturers. This has given me great experience in being a support and an advocate for students throughout the year, and to campaign and be a voice on their behalf. Some issues we have encountered have been mandatory attendance, CORU regulations having an impact on our studies, and of course the unprecedented times with COVID-19, which saw students having an escalation in needing support from the Class Representatives. I have also worked closely with Lecturers during the year, to bring any student issues to their attention and to work together to resolve them for the benefit of the student body, and to give fairer assessments that will give students the knowledge and experience they will need in the workforce, alongside an assessment schedule.

Most importantly I have raised issues for students with impairments, disabilities, learning difficulties, students who need supports whilst earning their degrees, and raised issues to be resolved, so the university can be inclusive to those who need any supports.

I have also been a student representative at Course Department and Board meetings, where I have respectfully represented students in lieu of complaints and vowed for resolution. When student issues arise, a strong voice is required to communicate assertively and work towards a seamless outcome. There have been many instances where I have worked tirelessly for the students in Blanchardstown. I was part of the National Student Representative Working Group for CORU, which worked with USI, and I was also a student representative of TU Blanchardstown who met with CORU to have the Social Studies in Social Care Course recognised and approved.

My work in TU Blanchardstown also has seen me as a Student Councillor for three years, where I have raised student concerns at council meetings, and worked for positive conclusions.

Other areas supporting students have been meeting and greeting new students at Orienteering, at open evenings representing TU Blanchardstown, and working with Library services to help new students set up their Moodle accounts. I have also given presentations to students online for various talks. I set up the Mature Students Society in Blanchardstown, and ran events and structured support

classes through the NLN. Support is a paramount part of showing students that they have the means to achieve, and I was also involved in the Peer-Mentoring programme at TU Blanchardstown.

I have also been involved on the Welfare Team, which worked on behalf of students in main areas of concern such as student accommodation, homelessness, grants systems, social welfare payments, travel to university, safer services, campus support services, LGBTQAI+ rights, disability rights, and other issues that have arisen.

My work in this area continued with acting as a student advocate for the past four years on the TU Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, where I raise any concerns that students bring to my attention, whilst working with the SU and Faculty, and seek ways to resolve student dilemmas and issues, and to make the Campus a better place for all students and more accessible and inclusive.

This year I am working in the Students Union for Events, and whilst we have had a trying time with lockdowns and restrictions, we are still looking for ways to support students and provide events when we can.

I am also the current AHEAD / USI Disability Advisor which has continued my crucial and meaningful work in the areas of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. I raise relevant matters of contention that require change, and the actions to bring about positive change for students in Ireland.

I feel that my experience and work in these areas, shows that I am a person who works hard for all the students in TU Blanchardstown. I have successfully managed to bring resolution to a lot of issues that have been brought to my attention, and I continuously work and advocate on behalf of students to ensure their voice is heard. I work together and alongside the Student Union, University Staff, and Lecturers, to ensure students' rights are maintained and respected.

Welfare is about having healthy students in body and mind, to be able to achieve a qualification in a setting that is accessible, inclusive, accepting of you as a person, where you can have fun, make new friends, be able to study and have support in your learning.

Equality is where we are all on an equal footing, however some people will need equitable standards to be raised to reach a level of equality. I know too well what this is about, and I strive to raise these standards.

I hope to be the person that will be your VP for Welfare and Equality. I am the right person for the job.

Remember The Roche Approach is the Right Approach.

VOTE ROCHE #1