

# | Manifesto - Deputy President, TU Dublin Blanchardstown Campus |

**Candidate: Louise Kavanagh B00016888@mytudublin.ie**

A chairde,

My name is Louise Kavanagh, a final year Creative Digital Media student and I am running for the position of Deputy President in the Blanchardstown Campus by-election.

With so many students studying from home, it was great to see the turn out during the recent elections. Thank you to all those who shared their valuable time with me and expressed their concerns, feedback, and suggestions. I hear you, I appreciate your contribution, and I would be honoured to represent you this coming year and make these changes for the better, together.

## **Experience**

I am deeply passionate about supporting others. In 2017, I was honoured with the "The Spirit of ITB Award" for my commitment and passion for the students of ITB. I have been a class rep, peer mentor, and advocate for students by sharing my experience as a mature student from a disadvantaged area. I also represented students during the TU4Dublin research workshops, of which I am proud.

Over the past few years, I have worked as Special Needs Assistant, studied Early Childhood Care and Education, and trained to become an adult educator. These experiences have inspired me to learn more about personal growth, diversity, inclusion, and I am currently employed part-time as a student support worker on campus.

I have experienced several levels of leadership development, both in my role as a trainer and as a special needs assistant. Through my excellent communication skills, can-do attitude, critical thinking abilities, empathy for others, and self-awareness, I will support Blanchardstown's students and help them achieve success in their education.

## **Main Goals**

- **Bring events back to Blanch!**
  - **In partnership with university stakeholders, develop a comprehensive student induction experience and will push for review into support for students with learning agreements**
  - **Revamped recruitment and boarding process for class reps**
  - **Better sustainable practices around the TU Dublin campuses**
  - **Promote the use of inclusive, person-focused language**
  - **Pop-up Gaeltacht's and multi-cultural events to celebrate the diverse student population**
1. Events will be planned well in advance, in partnership with every campus to ensure accessibility for everyone. Mystery tour, local events, and big-ticket events with the entire TU Dublin Campus.
  2. In partnership with relevant stakeholders on campus, I work on developing a better student induction experience. This will allow us to build foundations for the first years, reduce dropouts in the first half and improve the experience of the community.
  3. Explore ways in which we can offer better access to education for students with learning requirements. By creating a framework that sets guidelines for everyone, we can ensure that

every student, academic and support staff has clear expectations and processes to achieve each semester's learning goals.

4. Class representatives will undergo a revamped recruitment and boarding process in the first 6-8 weeks of returning to campus. We will hold a campus-wide campaign to encourage students to join, along with training that offers transferrable skills and that integrates the STLR (Student Transformative Learner Record) to enhance the students transcript.
5. More efforts will be made on sustainable practices around the TU Dublin campuses. More involvement in community initiatives - tidy towns, local men's sheds, canal, and river clean ups, while working with green campuses to integrate more green processes into our campuses.
6. In partnership with the university, we will regularly review policy language, bring in more experts to talk to students and promote the use of inclusive, person-focused language with awareness campaigns. The on-campus counselling team and trained student representatives will provide students with a space to ask questions and learn about different topics.
7. I want to bring more opportunities to speak the Irish language on campus. Hosting pop-up Gaeltacht's, language classes for all levels and promoting traditional Irish arts through events around campus.
8. Blanchardstown has one of the highest representations of Black and mixed-race Irish students. I will ensure that everyone has the space to celebrate their identity, and to highlight the stigma and successes that people face daily. As the organisation *Black and Irish* tagline says, "One Island, Many Voices"<sup>1</sup>

If you elect me to be your next deputy president, you will have a team of strong women representing you, supporting you, and ensuring that you get the experience on campus that COVID-19 stole from you the past few years.

Creating change together!

Is Mise Le Meas,

Louise Kavanagh

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blackandirish.com/>