

RE-ELECT

#JESS2IMPRESS

JESSICA PEREZ

FOR TU DUBLIN SU
POSTGRADUATE
OFFICER



**Hi, I'm Jess, & I want to represent you, the postgraduate students of TU Dublin.
Vote for me in the upcoming election!**

As postgraduate officer, I can give you a voice in the Governing Body, Academic Council, Graduate Research Board, Research Programme Committee, Union Student of Ireland Postgraduate Working Group, & Student Council. I am passionate about improving the lives & college experience of postgraduate students & aim to focus on the following three key areas:



BUILD THE POSTGRAD COMMUNITY

Being a postgrad can be a solitary experience, I want to continue to build a community of students to socialize & support each other. I aim to organize PG events & improve the communication channels between the SU, the students & the University.



POSTGRAD WELFARE & MENTAL HEALTH

Being a postgrad can be very stressful, & a disproportionate number of PG students suffer from mental health issues as a result. I want to continue encouraging the discussion in this area, to normalize it so students understand that it is okay to not be okay.

I aim to promote the welfare & mental health supports available in TU Dublin so students know where to get help when they need it.



RAISE THE POSTGRAD VOICE

You have a voice & it needs to be heard. Postgraduate taught (PGT) students have the ability to be part of the amazing TUDSU class representative system that allows PGT students to raise their voice & concerns. However, many of these positions are unfilled. I aim to increase the number of PGT class reps & ensure that the PGT voice is heard.

Postgraduate research (PGR) students are not part of a class, & due to this, can't be in the class representative system. I aim to create a PGR representative group that can avail of the benefits of the class rep system and ensure the PGR voice is heard.

ELECTION MANIFESTO

WHO'S JESS?

I'm originally from the state of Arkansas in the US & received my BSc & MS in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Arkansas. I'm currently a fourth-year postgraduate researcher doing my PhD in Biomedical Engineering in the School of Mechanical and Design Engineering under the supervision of Dr. Claire Brougham. I'm also a member of the Tissue Engineering Research Group (TERG) at RCSI University of Medicine & Health Sciences under the supervision of Prof. Fergal O'Brien.

I'm currently the Postgraduate Officer (PGO) in the TU Dublin Students' Union (TUDSU). I have very much enjoyed my experience as PGO & working with the amazing team & staff in TUDSU.

MY EXPERIENCE

Before becoming the TUDSU PGO, I helped the RCSI Postgraduate Student Union organize events for RCSI postgraduates. Not only did this give me experience in coordinating events, it also made me passionate about improving the college experience of postgraduate students.

As the current PGO, that passion only grew as I saw the need to improve the lives & experience of TU Dublin postgraduate (PG) students. I organized social events such as pizza parties & hikes to allow postgraduates to meet one another. I also encouraged the participation of postgraduate students in the amazing postgraduate support group organized by the TU Dublin Student Counseling Service, Grad Connect.

As PGO, I am also a postgraduate representative in various boards & committees which include Governing Body, Academic Council, Graduate Research Board, Research Programme Committee, Design + Construct Working Group, Union Student of Ireland Postgraduate Working Group, & TU Dublin Student Council. I raised the concerns that postgraduates have both at the TU Dublin level & national level. Apart from my duties as PGO, I am also one of the postgraduate representatives in the Research & Innovation Academy.

MY KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

As PGO, I'll plan to work closely with the TUDSU President, all full-time & part-time officers, & the TUDSU staff so that PGs have an amazing experience in TU Dublin. My key areas of focus this year are (1) building the postgraduate community, (2) postgraduate welfare & mental health, & (3) raising the postgraduate voice.

ELECTION MANIFESTO

(1) BUILD THE POSTGRADUATE COMMUNITY

Being a postgrad can be a solitary experience, I want to continue to build a community of students to socialize & support each other. I aim to organize PG events & improve the communication channels between the SU, the students & the University.

I plan to work closely with the VP for Events & Engagement to organize postgraduate events. Though we are all students & can attend TUDSU events, postgraduate students are different than undergraduate students. Occasionally, we need events of our own to engage with other postgraduate students. I'll also work with the VP for Communications and Media to elevate the presence of PG students in TU Dublin.

I also plan to work with PGR students in all campuses in bringing students together in their local areas. There are people that we work by in a daily basis, & we barely interact with them in a social environment. I hope that by having local representatives, we can grow a community in where we spend so much of our time working on our postgraduate studies.

(2) POSTGRADUATE WELFARE & MENTAL HEALTH

Being a postgrad can be very stressful, & a disproportionate number of PG students suffer from mental health issues as a result. I want to encourage discussion in this area, to normalize it so students understand that it is okay to not be okay. I aim to promote the welfare & mental health supports available in TU Dublin so students know where to get help when they need it.

I plan to work with the VP for Welfare and Equality to bring awareness of mental health issues that postgrads face & provide programs for them to find help. I also plan to do a postgraduate mental health awareness day during World Mental Health Month in October.

In addition, I will continue to promote Grad Connect, a postgraduate support group that is run by the TU Dublin Counselling Student Services. As a regular attendee, I have seen how much it helps postgraduates to talk about challenging aspects in our studies like stress management, self-care, time management, & work/life balance.

ELECTION MANIFESTO

(3) RAISE THE POSTGRADUATE VOICE

You have a voice & it needs to be heard.

Postgraduate taught (PGT) students have the ability to be part of the amazing TUDSU class representative system that allows PGT students to raise their voice and concerns; however, many of these positions are unfilled. I aim to increase the number of PGT class reps & ensure that the PGT voice is heard.

I plan to work with the VP for Academic Affairs and Campus VPs to ramp up the voice of PGT students. I plan to create a record with the information of all PGT coordinators & PGT orientations to ensure that we reach out to all PGTs from now on.

Postgraduate research (PGR) students are not part of a class, & due to this, can't be in the class representative system. I aim to create a PGR representative group that can avail of the benefits of the class rep system & ensure the PGR voice is heard.

I plan to work with the Graduate Research School alongside TUDSU to facilitate the elections of already existing PGR student representatives spots that aren't all usually filled in the Graduate Research Board & Research Programme Committee. I'll also do an election for local reps, a rep for those who work remotely, and a rep for part-time PGRs to create a community that can bring their concerns to me as PGO.

Additionally, I'll establish a TUDSU PGR student representative group, similar to class reps, which will consist of all these elected members to ensure that all the PGR representatives on campus get support in their respective positions.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Vote Jess, once again, for your next Postgraduate Officer!!

#Jess2Impress

Polling dates 28th - 30th of March 2023

