

TU Dublin SU Policy: Fair pay for work

TU Dublin Students' Union values the role work placement has on a student's educational journey. Work placement provides opportunity to gain practical experience, increasing their employability and broadening their understanding of their field.

The Union also values the work done by students in their workplace environment and recognise that value is added to the workplace, with students bringing fresh ideas and perspectives, increasing the overall work capacity, and enriching the workplace environment. Often work placement helps employers recruit those that are a particularly good fit.

Work placement is aligned with the vision of the students' union as it plays an important role in students reaching their potential academically, socially and professionally. The students' union also has a responsibility to advance and defend the rights of students. While students are on placement, their voices can be difficult to capture, and when they return, it is too late to improve conditions for them specifically, but it is important to progress toward improving conditions overall going forward.

Full time education comes with financial challenges, with reduced capacity to work due to time spent engaging with learning, as well as specific costs incurred in pursuing education. The ongoing housing and cost of living crises exacerbate the financial pressure put on students. In some cases the period of placement is one of increased financial stability, but in others it is one of serious financial strain, with further reduced capacity to take on part time work and extra costs such as transport or accommodation closer to placement. Unfortunately, this causes this to be when some students are forced to drop out or defer to earn the money to undertake placement.

TU Dublin Students' Union will advance the cause of seeking fair pay for work done by all students. All financial barriers including but not limited to travel costs, the need to secure additional accommodation and general expenses expected to be incurred by students must be flagged with students with sufficient notice. Wherever possible, placements with payment should be preferred by the university and the Union shall advocate to this effect. The Union will ensure that every opportunity to promote better practices in this area by the college is taken, and that all officers are cognisant of this pressing issue for students.

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