

Dear all,

I want to preface this email by emphasising that this is a last resort.

There has been an overwhelming increase in students reaching out to the Students' Union for help because they cannot find somewhere to live in Dublin for the upcoming academic year, i.e. next Monday.

I, and the TCDSU Accommodation Advisory Team, continue to put out information to support students in finding safe accommodation — including through the provision of an online DIGs portal — but there is only so much we can do when there is next to no accommodation available in the city. We now see an alarmingly high number of students looking to drop-out, defer, commute long distances or arrive in Dublin homeless.

This is a crisis that has been building for many years over time, but it has reached a head. I therefore ask the College to offer students the opportunity to engage in hybrid learning if they cannot physically attend — ensuring that they have the option of in-person or online teaching. The Trinity Covid-19 contingency plan notes the need for hybrid learning in instances where students contract Covid. This must be urgently expanded to accommodate the hundreds, if not thousands, of students facing the choice of abandoning their Trinity education or facing homelessness during their studies.

We understand that hybrid learning isn't the solution to the housing crisis. It will result in many students being isolated from the Trinity experience and excluded from the vibrant life on campus. However, the College has a duty of care to its students, and they need immediate support to continue their studies.

Trinity College must engage on a local and national level to bring down rents and increase the availability of safe, secure student accommodation. Learning is impossible if you don't have a roof over your head. Equally, quality teaching is impossible if you don't have a roof over your head. The housing crisis is far-reaching and impacts students as well as all staff members.

I look forward to working with you all on supporting our students here at Trinity.

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On behalf of the Trinity College Dublin Students' Union Sabbatical Team,

Gabrielle Fullam, President
Zöe Cummins, Education Officer
Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

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Chloe