

**Craig  
Mac  
Gabhann**

**do Leas-Uachtarán don  
Ghaeilge**



# Cé hé mise?

Haigh!

Is mise Craig Mac Gabhann agus táim ar bís le bheith ag rith don ról mar Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge san Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn (AMLÉ).



Is mac léinn mé ar an Máistreacht Gairmiúil san Oideachas faoi láthair ach bhain mé mo chéim amach sa Ghaeilge agus Stair in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad.

Chomh maith leis sin, táim i m'Oifigeach na Gaeilge ar Aontas na Mac Léinn Mhá Nuad. Bhí sé mar phribhiléid agam a bheith páirteach i nGluaiseacht na Mac Léinn le 6 bliana anuas ach mothaím go bhfuil i bhfad níos mó go bhféadfainn a dhéanamh chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Sa cháipéis seo, tabharfaidh mé níos mó eolais fúm féin agus faoi roinnt de na mór-smaointí atá agam don ról mar LU don Ghaeilge ar AMLÉ.

# Who am I?

## Haigh!

I'm Craig Mac Gabhann and I'm absolutely ecstatic to be running for the role of Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge in the Union of Students in Ireland (USI-AMLÉ).



I'm currently a student on the Professional Master of Education Programme in Maynooth, but I graduated with a degree in Nua-Ghaeilge and History in 2022.

I also have the privilege of serving as MSU's Oifigeach na Gaeilge for the past year. I've had the privilege of serving in the Student Movement for 6 years already, but I feel as if there's loads more I can do to promote the Irish language!

In this document, I will share a bit about myself and some of the main ideas I have for the role of LU don Ghaeilge in USI-AMLÉ.

# Mo Thaití

Tá roinnt oibre déanta agam le blianta beaga anuas chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn, mar bhall d'AMLMN agus mar bhall Chuallacht Cholmcille.

Mar Sheanadóir, bhunaigh mé Cácas na Gaeilge, grúpa Seanadóirí a chuir an Ghaeilge chun cinn in AMLMN. D'éirigh linn Cearta Teanga a bhunú sa tSeanad, chomh maith le sainorduithe a thabhairt don Oifigeach chun obair a dhéanamh maidir leis an Ardteist.

Bhí mé páirteach sa Chumann Gaelach in OMN, Cuallacht Cholmcille freisin. Bhí mé i m'lonadaí na Dara Bliana agus i mo Chisteoir le linn na Paindéime. D'éirigh linn imeachtaí a reachtáil agus spioraid phobal na Gaeilge a chothú le linn tréimhse a bhí deacair dúinn.

Mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge anois, chruthaigh mé acmhainní nua do Bhail an tSeanaid ionas go bhféadfaidís úsáid a bhaint as a gcuid Gaeilge, d'aistrigh mé Bunrecht an Aontais agus táim i mbun Straitéis don Aontas a chur le chéile faoi láthair.



# My Experience

I've been working for the last few years to promote the Irish language, both as a member of MSU-AML MN and as a member of Cuallacht Cholmcille, Maynooth's Irish language society.

As a Senator, I established Cácas na Gaeilge, a group of Senators focusing on the Irish language. As a group, we were successful in introducing and cementing language rights into the Union, as well as mandating the Oifigeach to work on issues such as the Leaving Cert.

I'm also active in Cuallacht Cholmcille, Maynooth's Irish language society. I've been 2nd Year Rep and Treasurer during the pandemic. During this difficult time, we managed to keep events running and keep the spirit of the Irish language alive through online events.

Now, as MSU-AML MN Oifigeach na Gaeilge, I've created resources to encourage the use of Gaeilge in the Student Senate, translated the constitution and I'm currently drafting an Irish language strategy for MSU-AML MN.



# Pointe 1: Ag briseadh an Ghaeilge amach ón mBosca



Uaireanta, bíonn sé de nós againn sa ghluaiseacht an Ghaeilge a chur i mbosca, mar rud éigin a sheasann ar a haonair. Feicimid é seo go minic nuair a bhíonn imeachtaí ar siúl dírithe ar an nGaeilge mar thopaic. Cé go bhfuil na comhránna seo tábhachtach freisin, is teanga í an Ghaeilge agus mar sin, is gá dúinn cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil sí bainteach le gach rud a dhéanaimid mar ghluaiseacht.

Mar sin, is gá dúinn féachaint ar gach uile rud a dhéanaimid agus smaoineamh an bhféadfaimis é seo, nó cuid den rud seo a dhéanamh i nGaeilge. Mar shampla, cén fáth nár chóir dúinn cuid de thraenáil bándearg a dhéanamh as Gaeilge le hAerach, Aiteach, Gaelach? Cén fáth nár chóir dúinn duine le Gaeilge ó na ceardchumann chun labhairt le mic léinn ar shochrúchán?

## Mar sin, dá mbeinn tofa mar LU don Ghaeilge:

- Oibreoidh mé le baill eile den Choiste Gnó chun súil Gaelach a chaitheamh ar imeachtaí/feachtais a bheidh ar siúl acu agus níos mó a dhéanamh ná graificí feachtais a chur le chéile (ach beidh sin déanta chomh maith!).

# Point 1:

## Breaking Irish out of the Box



Sometimes, we have a habit of putting Irish into its own box, away from other matters. We see this a lot with events that simply focus on the language itself.

The fact of the matter is, Irish IS a language. That means that anything we do through English, can also be done through Irish.

So, we need to look at every aspect of the work we do as a movement and think, could we do this or some part of this through Irish? For example, at Pink training, why not have a session or two with the Irish speaking LGBTQ+ Group, Aerach Aiteach Gaelach? Why not get an Oifigeach na Gaeilge from the trade unions to speak to placement students?

### Therefore, if I am elected as LU don Ghaeilge:

- I will work with the other members of the Coiste Gnó to throw an Irish language lens onto events/campaigns and encourage them to think about how Irish can be included in a more meaningful way than simply putting the graphics into Irish (which will also be done!).

# Pointe 2:

## Cearta Teanga

Is cuid lárnach de ról an Leas-Uachtaráin ná go ndéanfaidh siad iarracht an teanga agus na cearta a bhaineann leis an teanga a chur chun cinn ar fud an oileáin. Ach, le buanna ollmhóra bainte amach againn, is gá dúinn díriú ar na cearta a chuirimid i bhfeidhm inár ngluaiseacht féin agus cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil eolas ag ár mbaill futhú.



### Mar sin, dá mbeinn tofa mar LU don Ghaeilge:

- Tabharfaidh mé tacaíocht do bhalleagraíochtaí chun Ceartha Teanga a chur i bhfeidhm ina n-Aontais féin.
- Déanfaidh mé feachtas bunaithe ar na Ceartha Teanga atá againn ag an bpointe seo ionas gur féidir le daoine úsáid a bhaint astu ina saol laethiúil.
- Uasdátóidh mé na hacmhainní atá ar fáil ag AMLÉ go dtí seo maidir le Ceartha Teanga ionas go n-aithníonn na hathruithe a tharla ó thuaidh agus ó dheas.



# Point 2: Cearta Teanga-Language Rights

A Central part of the role of Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge is making effort to progress language rights and promote the language across the island. Now that we have had major wins, we need to reassess the direction and ensure that we are implementing the language rights within our own movement while also ensuring that our members know about the rights they have to use Irish.



## Therefore, If I am elected as LU don Ghaeilge:

- I will support Member Organisations to implement Language Rights into their own unions.
- I will aim to undertake a campaign on Language Rights that we currently have. This will allow students to be aware of their rights and use them when they can.
- I will update the resources USI have produced surrounding Language Rights in order to ensure they take into account the developments both North and South.

# Pointe 3:

## Feiceáileacht



Tá dualgas orainn go léir mar dhaoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu in Éirinn, cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil an Ghaeilge feiceálach inár sochaí agus ár n-eagraíochtaí. Is linne ar fad í an teanga agus mar sin, is gá dúinn tacú le daoine eile an teanga a úsáid agus cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil an teanga le feiceáil agus le cloisteáil inár ngluaiseacht.

### Mar sin, dá mbeinn tofa mar LU don Ghaeilge:

- Tá sé an-tábhachtach go bhfuilimid ag caint le mic léinn faoin nGaeilge agus ag tabhairt tacaíocht do gach uile mac léinn chun an teanga a úsáid, cúpla focal nó comhrá líofa! Mar sin, déanfaidh mé mo dhícheall chun seó bóthair a dhéanamh chun tús a chur leis an gcomhrá le mic léinn bunaithe ar théama (b'fhéidir Cearta Teanga)
- Ceann de na chéad rud a chuardaítear chun níos mó eolais a fháil amach fúinn sa lá atá inniu ná ár suíomh idirlín. Mar sin, tá sé an-tábhachtach go léirimid gur eagraíocht dátheangach muid. Níl aon leagan Gaeilge den suíomh idirlín ag AMLÉ go fóill, cé go bhfuil ceann ag an Aontas náisiúnta eile (ANDIÉ). Is gá dúinn é sin a athrú!

# Point 3:

## Visibility



Each and every one of us who lives in Ireland has a responsibility to ensure that the Irish language is visible in our society and in our organisations. The Irish language belongs to ALL of us. As such, we need to encourage others to use their language (no matter their ability) and to ensure that the language can be seen and heard in our movement.

### As such, if I am elected as LU don Ghaeilge:

- It's really important to chat to people about Irish and aim to change the attitude towards the language. We need to support members of our movement to use the language, whether they have a cúpla focal or they're líofa! As such, I would love to engage in a Seó Bóthair to encourage the conversation with students. This could possibly be based on a theme (e.g. Cearta Teanga, Employment etc).
- One of the first things students and the general public do to find out about who we are and what we stand for is our website. Therefore, it is really important to show that we are a bilingual movement which encourages the use of Irish. There is currently no Irish language version of the USI Website, despite the fact that the other national Union, the ISSU has one. We need to change this!

# Pointe 4:

## Oideachas, Traenáil agus Inrochtanas

Tá suim an-láidir ag daoine sa Ghaeilge, más rud é go ndearna siad staidéir uirthi nó nach ndearna. Mar ghluaiseacht, tá sé fíorthábhachtach go bhfuilimid in ann an suim sin a spreagadh agus an tacaíocht a thabhairt do dhaoine chun leanúint ar aghaidh leis. Tá dualgas orainn cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil Oifigigh na Gaeilge in ann tacú leis an teanga inár mballeagraíochtaí agus feachtasaíocht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal náisiúnta don teanga.



### Mar sin, dá mbeinn tofa mar LU don Ghaeilge:

- Cuirfidh mé bunachar le hacmhainní breise ar fáil do dhaoine atá ag iarraidh an teanga a fhoghlaim/a athfhoghlaim, bunaithe ar an leibhéal a bhfuil siad faoi láthair.
- Déanfaidh mé mo dhícheall chun traenáil breise a chur ar fáil d'Oifigigh nach raibh tofa/nach raibh in ann freastal ar Traenáil na gCumann agus na n-Oifigigh.
- Leanfaidh mé ar aghaidh ag tacú leis an bhfeachtas #Gaeilge4All. a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge sa chóras oideachais.

# Pointe 4:

## Education, Training and Accessibility

Irish is something which captures the interest of people, whether they have had the opportunity to study it at school or not. As a movement, it's really important that we can encourage that interest and support our members to follow it. We have a responsibility to ensure that Oifigigh na Gaeilge are able to support the language in our MO's and campaign for the language nationally.



### Therefore, If I am elected as LU don Ghaeilge:

- I will compile a database of resources available to people who wish to learn the language/re-learn the language based on the level at which they are starting from.
- I will aim to hold extra trainings for Oifigigh na Gaeilge who were not elected or were unable to attend Traenáil na gCumann agus na n-Oifigh.
- I will continue to support the national #Gaeilge4All campaign relating to Irish in the education system.

# Craig Mac Gabhann

do Leas-Uachtarán don  
Gaeilge

Déan Teagmháil liom!

Contact me!



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