

STUDENT COUNCIL NOTES:

UUSU has passed a Trilingual Campus Policy, which promotes both the Irish Language (Gaeilge) and Ulster Scots (Ullans).

Our Cumainn Gaelacha (Irish Language societies) within the University have organised demonstrations and protests to highlight their desire for recognition and visibility of the Irish Language.

A new Irish Language Group, Tiomanta don Ghaeilge, will be set up to combine students passionate about the Irish Language across the campuses of Ulster to create one Unified voice.

On the 6th of December 2022 the Identity and Language Act was passed in Westminster, which made provisions for an Irish Language Commissioner to be appointed and granted the Irish Language legal status as an official language of NI for the first time in its history, repealing what remained of the Penal Laws. (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/45/contents/enacted>)

NUS-USI has also passed policy on the Irish Language. (https://www.nus-usi.org/irish_language)

STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:

The Irish Language is spoken by, and is culturally and historically relevant to, many Students in Ulster University and there has been significant work done by Student Council in this area.

While the Language and Identity in Northern Ireland Act (2022) goes further than ever before for Irish Speakers, there is still more work to be done and UUSU as a progressive force for change should be integral in driving that work forward.

Having Tiomanta Don Ghaeilge in place would help with putting through the actions of other Irish Language policies that were passed.

The passion and great work done by our Irish Language Activists and Cumainn Gaelacha is strengthened by the existence of the Tiomanta Don Ghaeilge group, particularly due to Ulster's multi-campus model.

STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:

The group 'Tiomanta Don Ghaeilge' to exist as long as this policy exists, the Terms of Reference of which will be available as an attachment to this policy. The group each year should be led by the relevant UUSU Equality Counsellors.

That the actions of the group and of Cumann Gaelach societies be supported by UUSU where applicable. That UUSU will also support the Irish language campaigns of NUS-USI.

Name of Proposer: *Student Executive*

Policy renewed on 27th November 2024

