Ulster University Students’ Union Policy

# 1. Policy Title

UUSU Irish Language Policy / Beartas na Gaeilge

# 2. Purpose

This policy exists to embed the Irish Language as a visible, accessible, and celebrated part of student life at Ulster University. Aiming to provide specific commitments to respect and normalise Irish in UUSU’s communications, signage, and events. Furthermore, to provide translation structures to ensure sustainability and accuracy, whilst promoting equality, respect, and inclusion of Irish speakers and learners.

# 3. Definitions (if needed, delete where necessary)

1. Gaeilge – Irish Language.
2. Bilingual Practice – Irish and English text provided side by side.
3. Tiomanta don Ghaeilge – a cross-campus student group established to champion the Irish language within UUSU, paid to provide translation services, consultation and scrutiny towards UUSU.

# 4. Policy Principles / Commitments

1. Visibility: To ensure Irish is present in everyday Union communications, UUSU owned signage, and events where possible.
2. Accessibility: To provide resources, training, and translation support for learners, speakers, and staff.
3. Sustainability: To resource and find structures that make Irish use consistent and reliable.
4. Inclusivity: To promote Irish in a welcoming way that encourages both fluent speakers, learners, and passive engagers, in a way which all of our membership feel comfortable.
5. Partnership: To collaborate with students, societies, NUS-USI, AMLE, and external cultural bodies.

# 5. Objectives

1. Increase the visibility of Irish across UUSU platforms and premises.
2. Establish a translation service to support accuracy, professionalism and sustainability.
3. Foster an inclusive bilingual culture through events, campaigns, and training.

# 6. Actions

1. Social Media & Communications: Every other UUSU post will include an Irish caption or subtitles. Campaign videos and reels will incorporate bilingual subtitles where feasible.
2. Translation Service: UUSU will create a structured Irish language translation service, either by:
3. Establishing a small paid student translation committee, OR
4. Retaining a professional translator on a contractual basis.
5. Signage: Introduce bilingual (English and Irish) signage within all UUSU spaces and lobby The Executive to implement and fund an Irish Language Commissioner.
6. Events & Campaigns: UUSU will embed Irish into events such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, Freshers’ Fayres, and awareness weeks, and support each Cumann Gaelach and Coiste Tiomanta don Ghaeilge.
7. Training & Resources: Officers, staff, and volunteers will be offered Irish language awareness sessions and glossaries of key Union terminology.
8. Visibility Projects: Wall and window spaces in UUSU spaces will be used to display Irish poetry, quotations, and artwork.

# 7. Roles & Responsibilities

This policy is guided by strategic direction, operational planning, and the allocation of funding. It will be overseen by the UUSU President, with support from the leads of the Irish Language Campaign.

# 8. Partnerships and Stakeholders

1. Cumann Gaelach societies on each campus.
2. Tiomanta don Ghaeilge (cross-campus group).
3. NUS-USI and AMLE.
4. Conradh na Gaeilge and other cultural and/or educational charities.

# 9. Monitoring & Evaluation

1. Quarterly reviews of UUSU Social Media bilingual content at UUSU Management Committee
2. Quarterly progression report presented at UUSU Irish Language Working Group

# 10. Reporting & Transparency

This policy will be reported to:

1. Student Council
2. Student Executive
3. UUSU Irish Language Working Group
4. Tiomanta don Ghaeilge (cross-campus coiste)
5. Trustee Board

# 11. Associated Policies / Documents

[Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/45/contents/enacted)

[Language Strategy 2018-2023](https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Documents/Language-Strategy#irishlanguage)