

Policy name: **Trilingual Campus**

Date Presented: **26/04/23**

Lapse Date: **May 2025**

STUDENT COUNCIL NOTES:

Irish (Gaeilge) and Ulster Scots (Ullans) have both been significant and identifiable languages within the island of Ireland for hundreds of years.

Concentrated within the island of Ireland, Gaeilge and Ullans hold special historical significance in addition to being valued as an integral part of national identity, as recognized by Westminster government legislation, with official protection and recognition granted for both. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-acts-on-identity-and-language-legislation-for-northern-ireland>)

Grassroots arts ranging from weaving, painting, music, storytelling, dancing and poetry exists within these contingents and form an integral part of them.

Student Council notes the lack of Bilingual or Trilingual signage compared to other universities in Ireland.

STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:

Both the Irish language and Ulster Scots languages are key elements of our cultural identity and speakers of both these groupings are an integral part of the makeup and diversity of our university. Shared celebration of these cultures will be beneficial in helping students achieve a sense of belonging in UU; UUSU should strive in leading a fresh positive vision of how this can be achieved.

UUSU and Ulster University should strive to empower students, helping to connect them with likeminded individuals and allies through inclusive Irish and Ulster Scots events which can also aid in the education of these languages and traditions.

Such events UUSU might host or support, include however are not limited to; Gaeilge/Ullans Language Classes, Leid Week, Cèilidhs, Burns Night, St Patricks' Day, traditional Irish and Ulster Scots music sessions, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Workshops/conferences, poetry Recitals and art exhibitions (Exploring Ullans/Gaeilge relevance and history; content should be balanced and inclusive.)

STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:

UUSU should seek to celebrate and support events pertaining to the Ullans and Gaeilge communities to equally empower our minority National communities in a shared sense of belonging.

UUSU should work with USI to facilitate an Ulster Scots workshop/conference (as per USI's 2023 Ullans Policy mandate,) and Leid Week during semester 1 would be the natural time to host this. A similar Gaeilge workshop/conference should be hosted by UUSU over Seachtain na Gaeilge during the second semester.

UUSU should provide students with a safe space to explore and enjoy said affiliated culture and likewise celebrate speaking Gaeilge or Ullan's in that safe space; To fulfil this mandate, educational Charities with an Ulster Scots or Irish mission at their core should be invited to the Freshers Fayre to connect, engage and support interested individuals.

UUSU to introduce trilingual signage on all directional, facilitating and welcoming signs in the Students' Union to replace existing signage over time where practical, and to lobby the university to do likewise.

Furthermore, UUSU wall/window spaces should be used to display Ullans and Gaeilge poetry stanzas or famous quotes in a manner similar to Belfast's Cathedral Quarter area, and UUSU should lobby Ulster University to do alike.

UUSU should strive to represent Ullans and Gaeilge and their attributed cultures both locally and nationally, formulating policies and events to develop the usage, evolution and celebratory value of these; protecting the rights of those who desire to speak Ullans /Gaeilge and equally, those who presently choose not to.

Name of Proposer: *Student Executive*

Name of Seconder: *Afnan Anique*