



Polling Places and Times

O’Rahilly Building, Boole, Kane, Brookfield

Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th: **9am-5pm**

CUH

Monday 26th: **9am-1pm**

How to Vote

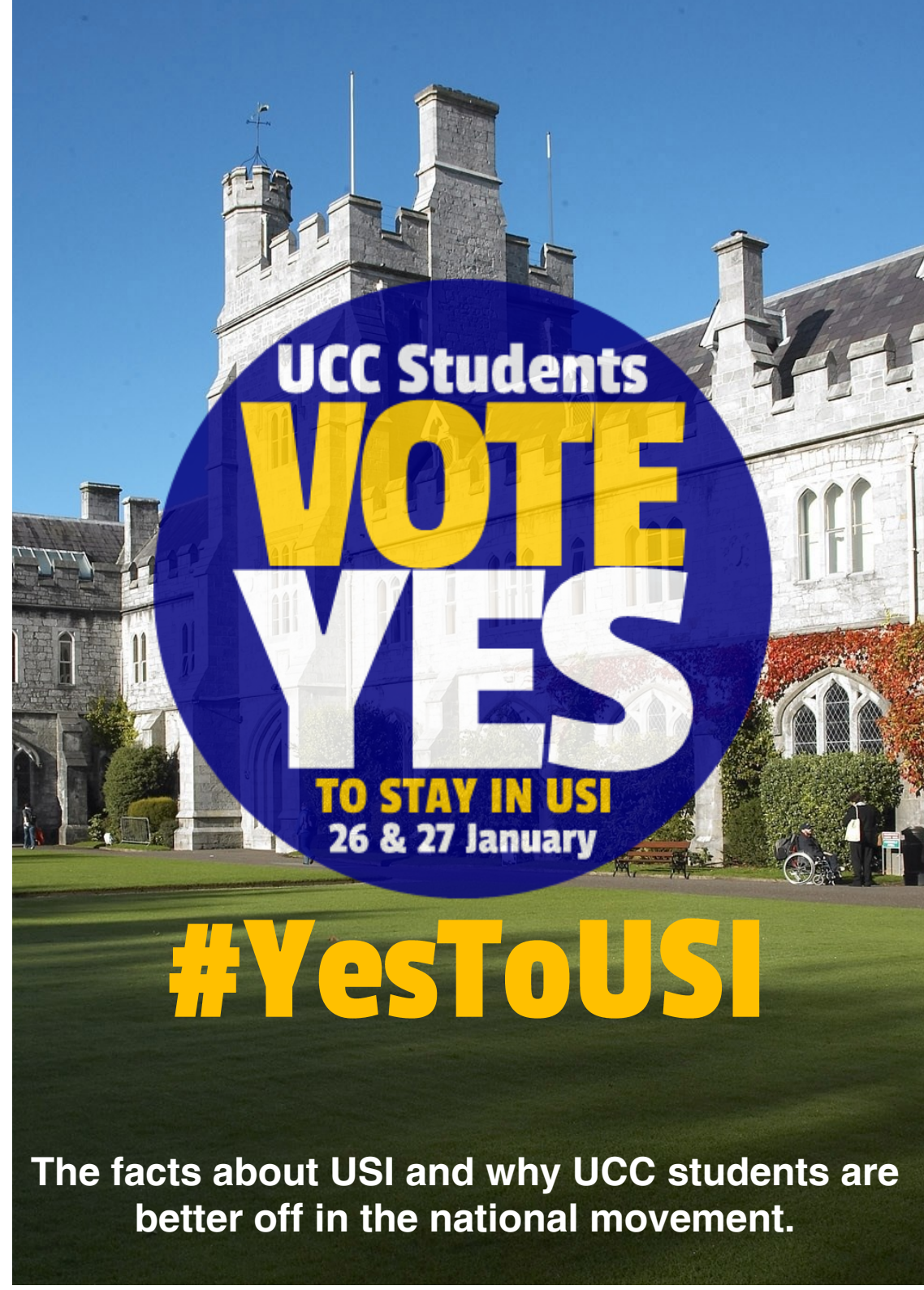
Voting in the referendum is simple. **You’ll need your student card.** On the ballot you’ll be asked the following question:

“Should UCC Students’ Union remain in membership of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) at a cost of €5 per student ?”

Please vote ‘Yes’ to the question.

There is no additional cost involved to you. The figure is the same as for last year.

#YesToUSI



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF USI

Thank you for taking this flyer about USI, our national student movement. I'm proud to be a UCC graduate and to have the opportunity to show how the Union of Students in Ireland benefits all students across Ireland and right here in UCC.

USI is stronger today than for many years, because we've united more students than ever before. Just this past year, DCU in Dublin and CIT decided to join us again. Students are taken seriously when they work together—and we are taken seriously today.

UCC is strong in our national movement—and our movement is strong because you're part of it.

Please vote YES, so we can keep winning for our members.



WHAT IS USI?

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is the national representative body for students in further and higher education.

Founded in 1959, USI currently represents over 354,000 students in over forty colleges across Ireland. Throughout its history USI has evolved continuously to reflect the changing needs of students deliver for them and bring about a better Ireland.

Today, USI is recognised by Government, Institutions and Industry as being the voice of students at a national level and having a key part in shaping the future of Higher Education in Ireland.

Through lobbying and campaigning on issues from equity of access, such as fees and grants, to mental health and same sex marriages, USI works tirelessly to provide students with a better standard of living and to effect change in society.

USI is your union, fighting for the things students care about



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

Just the Facts

About the Union of Students In Ireland

MYTH: USI is not transparent

FACT: USI publishes accounts every year to USI Congress. Our campaigns and spending are overseen and controlled by a finance committee with four independent members and two Students' Union Presidents and our campaigns and budget are decided by the National Council, with representatives from every member college.

MYTH: USI hasn't achieved anything of value.

FACT: If you're on a grant, USI's campaigns in 2013 and 2014 prevented it from being cut. We secured over €3.3m in additional student assistance funding since 2013. We formed the first alcohol awareness campaign entirely independent from the drinks industry.

We successfully lobbied for €25M to be restored to higher education institutions in the last budget.

We found homes for more than 400 students nationally in the housing crisis in 2014.

We registered more than 20,000 students to vote in the incoming national referendums.

MYTH: Everything USI does is decided in Dublin—it's undemocratic and UCC students get no say.

FACT: USI officers are elected at USI Congress by students. UCCSU has one of the biggest votes. Congress is made up of delegates from all member unions.

MYTH: USI only cares about full-time undergraduate students.

FACT: USI is recognised by the government and Higher Education Authority to represent all students from Higher Certificate (Level 6) up to PhD. We're fighting to bring back the Postgraduate Grant and protect the Back to Education Allowance. We run an annual Mature Students Convention.

MYTH: USI only works on increases on fees. It does nothing for students.

FACT: USI works on a range of issues, from education policy to student feedback, mental health to sexual wellbeing. We provide the most up-to-date and referenced information on student welfare. We undertake research on student attitudes and we lobby elected representatives on every aspect of student life.

The fact is, UCC students are better off in USI.

USI is working for UCC. Vote Yes.

€5 might not get you lunch
gets you a lot from USI

- ✓ National Representation
- ✓ Defending Students' Rights
- ✓ Protecting Student Supports
- ✓ Discounted Training
- ✓ Accommodation Rights
- ✓ Free SIPTU Advice
- ✓ Marriage Equality campaign
- ✓ Feachtais na Gaeilge
- ✓ 3000 SHAG Packs
- ✓ 1500 Mental Health Packs
- ✓ 3000 Freshers Packs
- ✓ Discounts and Offers

#YesToUSI

VOTE YES TO THE FIGHT AGAINST FEE INCREASES AND CUTS TO STUDENT SUPPORTS

We believe that education should be open and accessible to all in society, regardless of financial, social or any other kind of standing.

In the face of several austerity budgets, USI has built a coalition to protect the Maintenance Grant and Back to Education Allowance. We've protected the grant for two years—benefiting over half of all students in UCC who depend on some sort of financial assistance during the college year.



Vote YES to show that you and UCCSU will be part of the battle.

VOTE YES TO A MORE EQUAL IRELAND

Students are shaping the Ireland of the future.

We have pride in every student and campaign for students with disabilities, international students and mature students. We campaign to raise awareness of your rights as citizens. We're keen to highlight and enhance the role of women in leadership.

Vote Yes for a strong national movement fighting for every student.

VOTE YES FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The big decisions on education are taken nationally.

USI is recognised by Government, industry and institutional and civil society as the sole voice of students on a national level. The voice of the student is recognised as key to the success of our education system. USI sits on:

- The Higher Education Authority
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland
- National Forum on Teaching and Learning

Because you're in USI, UCC Students' Union has direct access to the Minister for Education, the Department of Education and Skills and the Higher Education Authority,

Vote YES for a stronger UCCSU.

VOTE YES TO LGBT RIGHTS

For decades, USI has been leading national campaigns for LGBT rights. We fought and won to decriminalise homosexuality and contraception. Today, USI works in partnership with other organisations such as LGBT Noise, BeLonGTo and Marriage Equality for:

- **Marriage Equality**
- **An end to the MSM Blood Ban**
- **An end to discrimination against gay and lesbian teachers**

Every year USI runs the largest and most successful LGBT training event in Europe. We empower LGBT students from around Ireland to work and win for their rights.

We're serious about winning Marriage Equality—in 2014 our voter registration campaign with UCCSU signed up more than 4,000 students at UCC to vote.

Vote yes to be part of the national student LGBT rights campaign

VOTE YES FOR TRAINING AND SUPPORT

USI provides year round support to affiliated Students' Unions, through direct advice and discounted training for student officers.

Students' Union Training (SUT) is the primary training for Students' Union officers. We provide training modules to ensure local SU officers can do the job on the first day of the first semester.

USI organises training events throughout the year for students and officers. USI Activist Academy is a two-day event aimed at student activists that provides training on campaigning, media skills and public relations.

The Mature Student Convention is a networking opportunity for mature students. The convention provides training on time management, budgeting, mental health, and on how their issues can be best represented.

Vote yes for training, support and networking for all students



VOTÁIL TÁ—FEACHTAIS NA GAELIGE

The Union of Students in Ireland provides significant resources to support the promotion, and development of the Irish language in all third level institutions across the Island of Ireland.



Every year, in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge, Societies Training for Cumann Gaelach is organised, a fortnight before the largest annual Irish Language festival, Oireachtas na Gaeilge. The Vice President for the Irish Language works throughout the year, with stakeholders of USI, and Irish Language Societies to promote the Language, through events, all year around. In short, the VP Gaeilge supports the development of the language for all members of the Union.

VOTE YES TO PROTECT POSTGRADUATES

USI moved quickly when the Government removed practically all funding supports to Postgraduate students and replaced them with bank loans with an extortionate interest rate of 10.8% APR.

USI lobbied and negotiated a new rate, of 5.6% APR. We want it to be reduced, and we're lobbying for the reinstatement of a full maintenance grant at Postgraduate level.

Vote yes to support postgraduate students

UCCSU INVOLVEMENT IN USI

UCC has been continuously in membership since the mid 1990s, and, as one of the largest members, has had one of the strongest voices in USI Congress

Every six weeks, your Students' Union team meets with other Students' Unions across the country at USI National Council. It is here that your elected representatives hold USI national officers to account.

VOTE YES TO A LOUDER STUDENT VOICE

USI and members registered more than 20,000 students nationally in November 2014. We'll have a decisive impact on the forthcoming referendum on Marriage Equality and going in to the next general election in 2016.

