

Sara Dowling for

# USI VICE PRESIDENT OF POSTGRAD AFFAIRS

Greater alignment with Alumni programmes and incentives, focus on Professional Postgrads working within companies/organisations, greater level of care taken to understanding Postgrad experience, enhancement of National Postgrad community, aims to facilitate engagement events/ research seminars and relevant Postgrad activities.

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**CREATIVE,  
HARDWORKING  
COLLABORATOR.**





## Focus and Inclusivity

FROM UNION TO INSTITUTE TO STUDENT

Postgrads NEED to be included more in the decisions made for and about them, enhancing their course and personal satisfaction. It is simply not good enough to dismiss PG's due to our workloads/demands - Unions must appreciate the value of planning ahead, including Postgrads in meetings both locally and nationally which directly affect their experience.

An area to investigate is the impact of accurate Alumni representation - and to what degree this impacts Postgrads engagement. A particular target will be on professional Postgraduates working within organisations /corporations/companies, part/fulltime to complete their Postgrad degree - often operating at a distance from the student body with additional issues to face external to academia.

## Relevance and Research

INSTITUTE TO INSTITUTE COLLABORATION

Unions and Institutes must understand that Postgraduates DO want to be included in the community aspects of academic life - however there needs to be a professional recognition of the need to speak with those we can relate to. One of many suggestions to improve the national Postgrad community is developing several PG orientated seminars, interconnecting Institutes, combining platforms for Postgrad research/projects with relevant social activities, through seminars, expos, talks, thesis presentations, and integration initiatives.

## RELATABILITY, COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY

Get in touch:  
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Proof of the pudding?  
[www.sarajodowling.com](http://www.sarajodowling.com)

## INCLUSION, INNOVATION, ACCOMMODATION

## Greater Level of Care

LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

Postgrads need to be cared for and understood on a different level to undergrads - our priorities are complex, and our schedules juggle different areas of work, play, family and professional demands. For any Student Union or Institute not to accommodate this is creating a more vulnerable student group that feels isolated, and under-appreciated. My aim here is SIMPLE - to touch base with and communicate more with Postgrads through Student Unions across the country - reassuring support.

## COMMUNICATION, CONVERSATION AND CONSIDERATION