

## Top tips for submitting an SAAI nomination!



The [SAAI Marking Scheme](http://usi.ie/awards/) can be found at [usi.ie/awards/](http://usi.ie/awards/) and details the criteria by which the SAAI Judging Panels will consider the nominations submitted. This document simply gives you some tips for submitting good nominations!

### Tips for successful nominations:

- **There is a word limit** - often nominations contain very short answers. These are very unlikely to make it to a shortlist as there is not sufficient information to judge the nominations. You do not need to use the entire word limit, but you will be more likely to get on to the shortlist if you include more information.
- **Provide evidence and give examples** - simply saying someone did “great work for students” isn’t enough. What was the work that they did? How did they approach it? What ideas to they bring? What challenges did they face? How did they help other students? What were the outcomes?
- **Focus on the question** - each question on the form represents a key ‘marking criteria’ for the judges, therefore focus on what the question is asking you. This will make it more likely to gain higher marks.
- **Add value** - don’t simply list things off in bullet points, detail the passion and commitment you believe the nominee(s) have for their work!

### Sample Answers

*(These are all answers that were shortlisted by judges in previous years - they have been anonymised)*

#### Example 1

This student has fully met their remit [in their elected role] and expanded upon this by introducing new campaigns to the SU that are now being treated as core union activities; such as [example 1], [example 2 ], and [example 3].

[They] brought additional funding to the groups with the greatest institutional barriers and has fought consistently to represent them. She has travelled across the UK, Ireland and

Europe to represent these students and has increased accessibility in the role of sabbatical officers in her own institution for officers with disabilities and those who are postgraduates, due to her own experience and struggles with the role.

She was the first sabbatical officer to promise to campaign on the full decriminalisation of abortion North and South of the border in her manifesto and has continued to bring other students along with her on this fight. While introducing new campaigns, she has also narrowed the focus on other campaigns to ensure the focus went towards giving minority students a voice and focusing on their empowerment and growth in skills, rather than making others simply aware of their existence.

### **Example 2**

The charity events the applicant has organised have had a huge impact on [college] and its campuses. The events have helped to bolster the volunteering and charitable culture of [college] as an institute.

Due to the hard work of the applicant, the [event] had over 50 attendees, more than the event has ever had before.

For the [charity fundraiser]; under the applicant's guidance, assistance and encouragement, [college] Societies raised over [€] – more than has ever been raised before for the event.

Thanks to excellent organisation, strong promotion and good teamwork, [community outreach event] hosted over 65 elderly people, which again is a record attendance for the event.

The [big fundraiser] has over 30 registered and will raise over [€] for the two charities in question, as all [registered fundraisers] are obligated to raise a minimum of €250 for charity.

Through the applicant's tenure as Chairperson of [society], there has been a marked improvement in the number of engaged volunteers in [college]. The StudentVolunteer.ie website, which is used by [college] to promote all volunteering events, has more than doubled in registered students [from the college] this year under the guidance of the applicant.

The work of the applicant has also reverberated through [college] Societies as a whole, inspiring other societies to engage in more charitable ventures. With the applicant's assistance and advice, there has been [a range of charitable events run by different societies across the college].

### **Example 3**

[Student] has good people skills and she is very approachable. Her presence and contribution at events has connected her with students on and off campus. As class representative for [course], she helped students through pushing assignments deadlines to

give students flexibility and reduce pressure of deadlines that collide with other modules. She also met with the lecturer to clear doubts that students had regarding the course. [Student] has encouraged and motivated students to attend events on campus for self development and has connected students with peers that can work together, having the advantage of a large network base on and off campus. [Student] has advocated for international students inclusion and engagement on campus and has contributed in strategic analysis workshop for improving student experience on campus. [Student] has organised events through [online platform] targeting students of different backgrounds in order to give them the opportunity to network and know more about different career opportunities in their field. For instance, she referred a medical student to [the online platform] for an idea the student was working on and motivated a colleague to apply for an internship. As an international student, [they] helped international students outside campus to look for accommodation and adapt to [the area], to help them get through their first week of college.

[Student] has great connections with staff, lecturers and students on campus where they benefited by making friends and gaining recognition, which is difficult being an international student. She has helped her lecturers through inviting them for being a keynote speaker and has helped colleagues through creating awareness of the events. She has shared her culture and pushed people to fight for and go for volunteering opportunities in the developing countries that will benefit them.

#### **Sampla 4**

Is feachtas bliaintúil Ghaeilge í Éigse a mhaireann seachtain i mhí an Feabhra. Aidhm den fheachtas ná an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i mbealaí difrúla timpeall. Bhí réimse leathan d'imeachtaí dírithe ar an-chuid rudaí a raibh agus nach raibh bainteach le saol na Gaeilge. Rinneadh sin ionas go mbeadh seans ag daoine díreach a chuid Ghaeilge a úsáid agus iad i mbun gníomhaíochta spreagúil agus spráúil. Cuireadh breis agus 20 imeachtaí ar siúil ar fud an Choláiste i rith na seachtaine; ina measc bhí Bricfeastaí Gaelacha, Oíche Ghrinn in éineacht le CÓBÁC, RAVEaerobics, Céilithe, Yóga Murder Mystery, Dúshlán mór na seachtaine, gig mór leis an mbanna ceoil IMLÉ, imeachtaí i gcomhair baill foirne an Choláiste agus an-chuid eile.

Bhí éifeacht ollmhór ag an bhfeachtas i mbliana toisc go raibh tacaíocht ollmhór againn ón Aontas. Tosaíodh an obair ar fad ina threo i mhí na Nollag 2016 agus baillaíodh grúpa (Oibrithe Deonacha na hÉigse) le chéile nach as an gcoiste iad. Rinneadar na postaeir, lipéidí, billeogaí agus gach píosa fógraíochta de. Mar aon le sin chonacthas, timpeall an Champais, go luath i 2017 go raibh Éigse ag teacht agus cruthaíodh 'hype' mór mar gheall ar sin.

Úsáideadh 'twibbons' agus a leithid chomh maith. Bhí an rath air toisc go raibh fhios ag gach duine ar Champas go raibh an tseachtain ar siúil agus go raibh muid fáilteach roimh éinne theastaigh uathu teacht ag imeachtaí. Mealladh réimse leathan daoine i threo na himeachtaí nár fiú labhair an Ghaeilge cheana féin agus go raibh ag iarraidh díreach craic a bheith acu ag déanamh rud randamach tré mhean na Gaeilge. Scríobhadh ailt faoin bhfeachtas sa dhá

nuachtáin ar Champas, rud a thaispeáin go raibh suim ag daoine ins na himeachtaí agus na rudaí a bhí ag tarlúint. Baineadh ár sprioc amach i.e: an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus a scaipeadh ar fud an Champais i mbealach neamhfhoirmúlta agus spraíúil, agus baineadh amach é i mbealach profisiúnta agus eagraithe. Ghlac daoine ó gach cuid den choláiste páirt ann idir dáлтаí idirnáisiúnta, dáлтаí eolaíochta agus baill foirne agus bhí an-rath air

## **Sampla 5**

Chruthaíomar an suaitheantas seo chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar bhreithlá 120 bliain na Cuallachta, ar an oidhreacht a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge san ollscoil, agus go háirithe chun ómós a thabhairt do na daoine a tháinig romhainn. Réitigh siad an bealach dúinn, le linn tréimhse nuair nach raibh sé chomh héasca grá don teanga a léiriú nó úsáid a bhaint aisti sa chliarscoil. Bhí sé mar aidhm againn ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta ó 1898 ar aghaidh. Bíonn sé mar aidhm againn, mar a bhí ag an dream fadó, an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san ollscoil agus imeachtaí sóisialta a eagrú trí Ghaeilge do na mic léinn. Fiú go bhfuil cúrsaí athruithe ó shin, feidhmíonn an suaitheantas mar bhealach chun an sprioc céanna atá eadrainn mar Ghaeilgeoirí a cheiliúradh agus a chomóradh, sé sin grá don Ghaeilge, toilteanas chun í a labhairt agus a choiméad beo agus bríomhar.