

Adam Clarke – Manifesto

Greetings! My name is Adam Clarke, I'm the current post-grad officer of ITCSU, the former President of CCSU, and all going well, the incoming VP for Post-graduate affairs of USI! Please take a moment to have a gander at my manifesto and see what you think. I appreciate that Post-Graduate affairs are something of a unique beast so if you'd like to contact me to discuss anything further feel free to reach out to me at supostgrads@itcarlow.ie

- Events with increased online accessibility.
 - o As a post-graduate, it can be difficult to find the time outside of coursework to engage in any form of social life relating to postgraduates. That's why events like the postgraduate symposium are a necessity for postgraduate students to be able to network and share their experiences. However speaking from my own experience, you can have every desire to attend, but you're a postgrad who's had to move back home, can't afford a car because of the fees you've paid, and your Ma isn't willing to drive the half hour it takes to get you to the bus stop because she's already done her shopping the day before and it'd be a wasted trip otherwise. DAMMIT LINDA I AM TRYING TO HAVE A SOCIAL LIFE!
But in all seriousness, I believe creating increased opportunities for engagement in an online format will allow postgrads who are in restricted circumstances to become more involved in the student movement without adding to any additional difficulties they may be currently struggling with.

- Funding preparation time for part-time educators.
 - o Whether you're pursuing a research or taught Masters, or a PhD, it is becoming increasingly likely that you'll engage with part-time tutors and lecturers in some capacity, or even act in the role to a degree.
As it currently stands, part-time educators aren't paid for their preparation time. This creates scenarios where part-time educators don't have time to prepare materials for their classes, creating a very negative experience for their students, who themselves can be post-grad students trying to learn in an already tight schedule. I believe this completely unacceptable for all parties, and both educator and student suffer as a result.
If elected, I intend to co-ordinate with the Campaigns officer to advocate for payment for preparation time for all part-time educators, an initiative that I believe will improve the experience for post-grad experience for students as both educators and learners.

- Expanding the Post-Graduate Network
 - o Speaking from experience, the post-graduate experience can often be an isolating one. Given the almost constant workload, it can be very difficult to devote time to anything else, particularly when a student has the additional burdens of work and family.

If elected, I intend to work to help Students Unions around the country improve engagement with Post-Grad students, be it through electing post-grad officers at the local level, establishing working groups, or working to increase representation for post-grad students on the campus level through relevant bodies.