

Candidates for the position of
Open Seat Councillor (Coleraine)



Candidates who have completed a manifesto and included a photo are listed in no particular order. When voting, give your preference to your preferred candidates starting with 1, 2, 3 etc.



Ben Sharkey

"Just do it! Don't let your dreams be dreams. Yesterday you said tomorrow. So just DO IT!" - Shia LeBeouf

In this election, I want to be voice for any concerns **you** have in the university. I'll take any problems, that I see, to the council myself, but it's impossible for me to be everywhere, and see everything, on my own, which is why **I'm a candidate that will encourage any students to come find me** on Facebook, at my '**Ben Sharkey**' profile or my page, cleverly named '**Ben Sharkey Page**' (not trying to plug myself), and I'll try to **address your issues** to the best of my ability.

With regards to my most immediate concern, as a vegetarian myself, I would love to push to get **more meals for vegetarians and vegans**. I know from experience how frustrating it can be, having to skip a lunch because you don't like the one and only veggie option there is on offer. There should be **complete inclusion** at university, in all areas, and I hope to help with that.

I have a history as a **Member of Youth Parliament**, with experience in campaigning for direly important matters, from **Mental Health Support** to **Votes at 16**, and I'll use that experience to represent **YOUR** concerns on the student council!



Caitriona Breaw

Passion, purpose, progress

My name is Caitriona and I'm a final year student at UU Coleraine. Through my years here I have managed to grow my sense of self and what I believe in. I want to take my experiences, all I have to offer, and give back. I want to use this last opportunity to make a difference on campus by working on making the university more green, more healthy, and student friendly.



CHRIS DEVINE

I'm Chris and I'm a 2nd year media studies and production student. I'm married, I have four children and I have returned to education after a two-decade gap year. I love university life and I have met some incredible people during my short time at the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

My aim is simple; I want to represent you on the student council.
That's it.

A vote for me is a vote to have your voice heard.



Grace Boyle

Start with a Healthy Mind!

Hello! My name is Grace!

My time at UUC has been made immensely better by being involved in societies. I joined CASS last year and have a keen interest in music. I have made efforts this year to put on more events in the students' union, like our own live music night, Lights Out. I've been proactive in creating a better experience for students who join the society.

Since then I've started my own society called Love Veggie, we are making strides in getting more vegan and vegetarian options for students at UUC and have successfully brought vegan sandwiches to the spar with the help from The Honest Vegan. We also hold social events for our members. If I was elected for student council I would make sure that all dietary needs are met.

It has come to my attention that there is a need for mental health services to be more easily accessible. I am an advocate for mental health awareness, from what I have experience and seen in Ulster I strongly believe that there needs to be an open discussion to increase awareness and ensure that mental health services are accessible and reliable service for students studying here.

Miss KATIE MCKEEGAN

Your mental health is my mental health.

Since starting Ulster University I have enjoyed working with students through my various roles on the newly re-established TLC Society, the Bar Committee and Ulster University Rowing Club. Through being on these committees I have seen how important it is for student's mental health to be recognised and respected. Nevertheless, I will push for more rights for women and rights for people with disabilities at Ulster University. This is something I will therefore push for and stand up for if elected. Moreover, the skills I have gained through the various committees are paramount. I have the ability to change to the various roles, the listening skills for when those that sometimes are unheard get heard and the commitment to stand for what I and others believe in. I will transfer these skills if elected to the council and use them to the best of my ability for you.

"Do not fear, for I am with you" Isiah (41:10)



Miss SAMANTHA RODERICK

My name is Sammy (Samantha) Roderick and I am a fourth year student at UUC. I come from Southeast England, studied in Coleraine for two years before studying abroad at Nebraska Wesleyan University in the USA. I'm back for a fourth year and I'm more ambitious now than ever to make change happen in our student community and expect this to carry on to a local level outside of campus.

My aims are to engage more people in conversation about taboo and stigmatised topics like sexual health and mental health with an emphasis towards sexual assault awareness. There is not enough information out there, on campus, about sexual assault both before, during or after.

Regardless of what topic, I want to encourage people to challenge and explore what they think they know. The more we have the conversations that challenge our ideals, the more we can gather a well rounded understanding of our society and most importantly, ourselves.



Miss SHANNEN MAHER

Maher for student council

I sat on student council last year, and would love to be re-elected! During my role as student councillor I brought forward two motions which were both passed. One regarding the possibility of moving January exams around a bit in order to accommodate the needs of more students and another regarding the lack of silent computer study areas. I am a good candidate for student council as I am a little bit older than the other students (I'm nearly 25) and therefore I understand the needs of older students but I am also young enough to understand and meet the needs of the younger students. In addition I have a 3 year old daughter and therefore I also speak to and for student parents. My main interests in regard to putting forward motions are mental health, support for disadvantaged students (be that through disabilities, low income or having dependents), and the need for more healthy and reasonably priced food options on campus.

If reflected I will strive to be a voice for all my fellow students and I will endeavour to be active within my role by proposing motions to help carve a better university experience for all at Ulster.

Mr MATTHEW BELL

Standing for Transparency and Accessibility. Standing for you!

Hello, my name is Matthew and I am a final year student studying Journalism with Marketing.

My vocation focuses quite a lot on transparency and it is that that I want to see implemented across our Students' Union. I have passed policy asking for societies to develop their constitutions to represent them to do exactly as they say on their document and for them to be also transparent with their accounts.

I want to be a councillor that is passionate about paying particular attention to these issues and implementing policy seeking change for the good for the student population that engages with the Union in this way.

I'm also keen to see more of the Black and Ethnic Minority community taking up places within societies.



Robert Graham

Representing Everyone.

The UUSU has made great progress to ensure equality for all. I would like to see this progress continue and grow with momentum so that everyone feels equal no matter their community background, if they are an ethnic minority, if they are a member of the LGBT community or if they are disabled. Everyone in our University should feel an equal part of the community that surrounds the Students Union and the University as a whole.

I intend to put students first. The students in this community must be at the forefront of every decision made, they make up the community and so should be the main focus behind every decision made.



Mr BRENDAN CLARKE

Give a hoot, Don't pollute

I'm Brendan, currently a second year student in Environmental science.

While I've been a student at UUSU I've been involved with multiple societies and sports clubs, founded the Horticulture society where I am currently chairperson and am also setting up a food enterprise on campus which will promote healthy eating and bring much needed vegetarian options to campus.

I was also on student council last year and part of the green sub-committee, and would like to be part of it all again to try and improve and promote sustainability and healthy living on campus.