

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Activities & Engagement

Name: Róisín Costelloe

Period: July- October 2025

July

- I attended Lead and Change in Birmingham which was training for Student Officers organized by the National Union of Students (NUS UK). It was a great opportunity to attend workshops and meet other officers in my role and discuss ideas to take back and bring into Queen's Students' Union.
- I attended the SU/Queen's Sport Sporting Clubs Review Groups where I raised the fact clubs were not consulted about the rise of PEC fees and discussed the possibility of getting an extended Freshers' period for students in September.
- I met the St Mary's Student Union Officers along with the rest of our officer team which is a good step towards a partnership agreement. A lot of St Mary's students discussed that they would take part in our Clubs and Societies as associate members.
- I facilitated a tour of the Students' Union to Queen's College China alongside the SO Postgrad Education. This gave the students an insight as to what our students experience and what is available to them here.
- I organized a pride banner and friendship bracelet making session with SO Accessible Education and SO Welfare in advance of Belfast Pride. I then attended the pride breakfast with NUS USI with the rest of the team, followed by marching in the Belfast Pride Parade representing Queen's Students' Union.
- New to the role, a key thing was attending meetings with all the relevant departments, so we're caught up to date on the work they do, and they know our priorities and the work we would like to do this year.

August

- The Officer team met with the President and Vice President of Universities UK. This was a great opportunity to share the views of students on higher education issues, highlighting university is more than just a degree and the importance of engaging with Clubs & Socs and Volunteering for employability purposes. A key theme was Cost-of-Living and how students have no choice but to work to afford university.
- As an Officer team we facilitated 1-2-1s with University College London Students' Union Student Officers learning from our counterparts in the biggest SU in the UK with 45,000 students.
- I attended SUT+ training hosted in Queen's Students' Union learning about different topics such as event planning, Student Sport Ireland and taking part in an SU simulation to showcase the importance of communication and highlight past issues that have come up across Ireland.

- I met the Stranmillis president along with the other Student Officers. As Queen's has a partnership agreement with Stranmillis University and St Mary's university it's important that the unions build a connection too.
- I took part in shortlisting for interviews for the SU Volunteer internship position. Those who satisfied the essential criteria were then invited to an interview for the position the following week.

September

- I sat as part of the interview panel for the SU Volunteer internship role. All interviewees were marked on their answers to specific questions. The internship was then offered to a candidate who is now part of that team.
- SO Welfare & Community and I gave a tour explaining our different services available at the SU to the new Residential Life team in Queen's Accommodation so that they can signpost people to us if needed and know where support is available. The SU and accommodation have a strong relationship, and part of this relates to the Residential Life team and Student Officers visiting each other as part of their training.
- I attended the NUS USI facilitated Higher Education Officer Chat with UUSU along with the rest of the team.
- The team and I took part in Complaints and Appeals training, equipping us with the necessary skills to sit on panels and accompany students as support if one of us is requested.
- I took part in the Report and Support video. Report and Support is a Queen's service through wellbeing which offers support to students facing a multitude of issues such as harassment, bullying, racism and sexual misconduct.
- I gave 11 induction presentations about the SU to different students highlighting all the opportunities available and how they can get involved.
- I attended a catch up on club access chat at the PEC where my extended Freshers' period request was confirmed. Students had a month to try clubs for free, ending on October 19th. They spoke to the operations team at the Dub (Queen's University Malone Playing Fields) and made period products available there following my request.
- I assisted at mental health and wellbeing events such as Eat the Donut competition and Carnival games in the foyer.
- Around the time of Freshers', I attended an accommodation visit to BT1 with SO Accessible Education, putting the 'freebie on us' vouchers on SU notice boards for free soft drinks or pints encouraging students to visit our Union Bar.
- The team and I represented SU voice at our 3 day stand at Freshers' Fair. We pushed newsletter sign up and student representative recruitment such as course rep. It was a great opportunity to meet students, make them aware of opportunities available to them
- I attended all SO Freshers' events such as Pizza and Paint where I helped take sign ins, Rodeo vs Ravers, led Scream Pong at our Monsters University Big Night In, and took charge over the Big Brunch, which hit record numbers at over 900 students.
- I oversaw the Society grant application final awards with the Clubs and Societies Manager and SU Societies. With over 90 applications the money was split using an equation tallying points from their applications.

- I spoke at the Homework Club Lunch and Learn. As a past homework club volunteer, I was asked to share my experience and answer any questions those considering applying may have.
- I led walks from accommodation with the Walkie Talkie Girlyes and worked at some of the different sections for the Sunday Social in the SU. This was the first Sunday after people had moved into halls arriving and potentially their first time in the SU.
- I attended the open day with some of the team and told potential future Queen's students about the SU and what clubs and societies we have available here they may be interested in.
- I met with the Women's Association Chair about her plans for the year and gave advice.
- Building upon our connection with St Mary's myself and Jack attend the St Mary's Freshers Fayre. This let their students know that they could access most of our Clubs and Societies as well as the Pantry which is a Cost-of-Living initiative formed refill station that is free to attend twice a week.

October

- I attended our first Queen's Students' Union Management Board as a Student Officer.
- I attended the Association Strategy Lab session we had with SO Welfare and Communities and SO Accessible Education. It allowed me to meet some of our association chairs I hadn't met previously.
- I gave a firsthand account of my experience as a Homework Club volunteer at the Homework Club Volunteer Induction, answered questions students had and helped give out pizza to the volunteers.
- The team and I got trained to be trainers for Green Dot active bystander sessions. This will allow us to run sessions with students moving forward and help change the narrative from the ground up by calling out behaviour that enables violence against women and girls, providing they feel safe to do so.
- The team and I recruited signatures for the Fair Deal for Our Future NUS Campaign by holding stands in the foyer and MBC. The aim is to increase the minimum wage for students, decrease tuition fees, and fair funding from the government.
- I ran a Presidents' Forum for societies and Chairpersons' Forum for clubs. This allowed those in a chairperson position to mix while feeding back to the SU about their experience, issues they may be having and ideas that can be implemented moving forward.
- I was invited to attend the Invent Awards by SU Enterprise with the President which celebrates the best and most innovative inventions. The SU has 4 student start-ups in the final 12 and 3 students in the student category.
- I met with the Walkie Talkie Girlyes president about how we could support Project Pink which is a walk themed walk to support 'the ending violence against women and girls' campaign' on the 5th of November. This is the second year this event will be running from the SU to City Hall with different landmarks lit up pink in support such as the Lanyon and City Hall itself.
- Took part in AMLÉ promotional video at the start of September showing our support and representing our region telling people to come out to CEARTA. I attended CEARTA

Irish language rights march with AMLÉ (Aontas na Mac Léinn in Eirinn) along with NUS USI and UUSU (Ulster University Students Union).

- I along with SO Accessible Education attended a Pathway to sanctuary working group. They provided us with an update on fellows and what they've been working on since the receipt of the University of Sanctuary status.
- Set to join the Student Sport Ireland Student Ambassador Programme. The Student Ambassadors are student sports leaders from across higher education institutions in Ireland, who act as advocates for student sport and help shape the work of Student Sport Ireland.