

Policy Forum for Ireland keynote seminar
Next steps for the Higher Education sector in Ireland

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 20th October 2021

*****Taking Place Online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, Labour Spokesperson on Education, Enterprise and Trade
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for meeting the needs of the current HE landscape**
Paul Kehoe TD, Chair, Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- 9.15 **Irish higher education in the wake of the pandemic and implementing the three year strategy**
Jim Miley, Director General, Irish Universities Association
- 9.25 **Next steps for the Irish HE sector - improving collaboration between universities, reforming governance and funding, the outlook for fees, and lessons learned from the pandemic for system-wide improvement**
Dr Joseph Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Technological Higher Education Association (THEA)
Professor Maria Slowey, Director, Higher Education Research Centre, Dublin City University (DCU)
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, legal
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 Break
- 10.10 **Priorities for improving mature student participation in Irish HE**
Senior commentator
- 10.20 **Widening access to HE and quality, diversity and inclusion in Irish university staff and student bodies - funding streams, flexible, part-time and distance learning, FE-HE co-operation, and targeting support to disadvantaged and underrepresented communities**
Professor Andrew Burke, Chair, Business Studies and Dean, Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin
Clare Austick, President, Union of Students in Ireland
Senior representative, further education
Commentator
- 10.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD, Labour Spokesperson on Education, Enterprise and Trade
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rose Conway-Walsh TD, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science
- 11.20 **Spreading the benefits of Irish HE and R&D - facilitating effective knowledge exchange, supporting Ireland's skills needs and next steps for technological universities, supporting regional development across Ireland, and the cultural value of the sector**
Professor Maggie Cusack, President, Munster Technological University (MTU)
Alison Campbell, Director, Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI)
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, research group
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 Break
- 12.10 **Cementing Ireland's position in the international HE landscape**
Mary Canning, President, Royal Irish Academy
- 12.25 **Future co-operation between Ireland and the UK, the impact of Brexit, and encouraging inward student mobility**
Professor Robin Mason, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Birmingham
Laura Harmon, Executive Director, Irish Council for International Students (ICOS)
- 12.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Rose Conway-Walsh TD, Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Ireland