

We call on all political leaders to act decisively and support these essential priorities. Each student matters, each staff member counts, and each vote is crucial for the future of higher education in Ireland.

The future of higher education in Ireland depends on the commitments made today.



Zero Precarity Full Potential IFUT Pre-Election Call

IFUT's Demands

Given the range of challenges facing the third-level education sector, IFUT demands that any party or individual aspiring to be part of the next government must:

- 1. Increase Investment in Education:** Commit to substantially increasing investment in education at all levels. This includes bringing expenditure per student up to the average levels of peer countries over the medium term, reducing class sizes, resolving teacher supply issues, and creating a more inclusive education system.
- 2. Implement Recommendations on Precarious Employment:** Fully implement the recommendations from the IFUT Report on Precarious Employment. This involves creating clear pathways to permanent contracts for all staff, ensuring fair and equitable working conditions, and addressing gender disparities and inequalities within the academic workforce.
- 3. Align Staff-Student Ratios with International Standards:** Commit to achieving staff-student ratios that meet or exceed international best standards within the term of the next government. This requires significant investment in hiring additional academic staff to reduce the burden on current staff and improve the quality of education.
- 4. Establish a Sectoral Engagement Forum:** Create a dedicated forum for sectoral engagement within higher education. This forum should facilitate structured dialogue between trade unions, representing academic staff, and employers to collaboratively address issues such as employment conditions, funding strategies, and workforce planning, ensuring alignment with EU Directives on collective bargaining.
- 5. Advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Actively promote and implement policies that advance the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). Commit to adhering to these goals within the proposed timeframes and strive to achieve these objectives ahead of schedule where possible.
- 6. Remove the Employment Control Framework (ECF):** Eliminate the outdated Employment Control Framework (ECF) to allow universities the flexibility to hire according to current needs, rather than being restricted by employment levels that are no longer relevant. This change is essential to address the pressing issues of staff shortages and precarious employment.

As a candidate in the upcoming General Election, if elected,
I pledge to fully support the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) Pre-Election Call.

Name:

Constituency:

Party:

