

## Governing Authority Election 2026: Candidate Profile – Professional Support Staff



Indu Patwal  
School of Biological and Chemical Sciences

### Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

Originally from India I moved to Ireland in 2008 and completed my PhD education in University of Galway.

Today, I am a Senior Technical Officer in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at the University of Galway. I bring many years of technical knowledge gained through a combination of industry and research experience, which I now apply to supporting teaching and research activities within the University.

In my role, I work closely with students, professional support staff and academic colleagues across University services to support the operation of complex environments. This includes practical engagement with facilities, safety, and the delivery of teaching and research. My transition into a Technical Officer role has provided me with a direct understanding of how institutional decisions are experienced and how they affect staff workloads and the student learning experience.

### Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

I am putting my name forward for election to Údarás na hOllscoile as a member of the Professional Support Services because I care about the long-term wellbeing of the University and the practical impact of institutional decisions on staff and students.

Through my current role and broader technical, research, and industry experience, I see the vital connection between teaching, research, infrastructure, and staffing. I am acutely aware of how decisions in these areas are experienced in everyday work across laboratories, teaching spaces, and support environments. This has motivated me to contribute to the discussions that shape the future direction of the University, bringing an awareness of what is workable and sustainable.

I have been actively involved in University committees and staff networks, including serving as a representative on EDI committees, as well as participating in the University Women's Network and international staff networks. This involvement has reinforced the importance of belonging, respect, and openness, and strengthened my appreciation of the diverse contributions of professional support, administrative, and technical colleagues.



I view membership of the Governing Authority as a role of collective stewardship. If elected, I would approach it with care, openness, and respect for the diverse perspectives within our community, contributing thoughtfully to decisions with long-term impact.

### **Candidate Outline of Relevant Competencies / Cur síos an Iarrthóra ar Inniúlachtaí Ábhartha**

In my role as a Technical Officer within Professional Support Services, I see first-hand how University-level decisions affect the day-to-day work of staff and students. This experience informs my contribution across several key areas of responsibility relevant to the work of Údarás na hOllscoile.

**Strategic Direction and Institutional Planning:** Working across teaching, research, and professional support environments has shown me how institutional strategy shapes academic quality and long-term sustainability. I recognise that a shared vision is effective only when supported by realistic planning, clear priorities, and decisions that can be implemented in practice.

**Resources, Sustainability, and Value for Money:** I understand the practical impact of resourcing and infrastructure decisions on the effectiveness of teaching and research environments. My experience supports a balanced approach to resource use, with attention to sustainability and the long-term stewardship of University assets, aligned with the University's Learn–Live–Lead commitments.

**Risk, Compliance, and Accountability:** My daily work involves engagement with safety, regulatory compliance, and operational risk. This enables me to contribute constructively to discussions around risk awareness, accountability, and oversight, with an understanding of how policies and controls are experienced across the institution.

I believe I can contribute positively to the work of Údarás na hOllscoile by offering a Professional Support Services perspective that is thoughtful, accountable, and grounded in the everyday realities of the University.