

Governing Authority Election 2026: Candidate Profile – Professorial



Professor Manus Biggs
School of Engineering

Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

Manus Biggs is a Professor in Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering, a University of Galway graduate, and a native of Galway city. He secured a lectureship at University of Galway in 2014 after completing a PhD at the University of Glasgow and postdoctoral research at Columbia University, New York. He was promoted to Professor in Biomedical Engineering in 2025.

Since 2014, he has been a funded investigator with CÚRAM, where his interdisciplinary research focuses on biomaterials, medical devices and tissue engineering. His work spans discovery-led and applied research, with a particular emphasis on the development of medtech technologies. He is also a committed teacher and oversees tissue engineering modules at undergraduate and graduate levels.

His research has been supported by competitive national and international funding awards and has resulted in more than 80 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals. He has received the University of Galway President's Award for Research Excellence and the UK Society for Biomaterials Larry Hench Young Investigator Award.

His career at University of Galway has been shaped by a commitment to excellence in teaching, research and innovation, and by a strong belief in the University's role as a regional, national and international leader.

Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

I am standing for election to the Governing Authority because I care deeply about the future of University of Galway and believe that strong, transparent and representative governance is essential to its continued success. As a Galway native, University of Galway graduate, teacher, researcher and long-serving member of staff, I would bring a practical understanding of the opportunities and pressures facing colleagues across teaching, research, administration, student support and external engagement.

If elected, I would contribute constructively to strategic discussions on the University's future direction, supporting decisions that are evidence-informed, financially and organisationally sustainable, and grounded in the realities of University life. I would be particularly committed to excellence in education and research, strengthening links between the University, local industry

and society, and ensuring that innovation and ambition are matched by appropriate resources, accountability and care for staff and students.

I would also support the embedding of equality, diversity and inclusion as a core part of the student experience. An inclusive University is one in which students from all backgrounds feel welcome, respected, supported and able to participate fully in academic and campus life. I would support decisions that strengthen belonging, wellbeing, accessibility, representation and fair opportunities for progression. I would approach the role with independence, collegiality and integrity, listening carefully to colleagues across disciplines and career stages and representing their perspectives fairly.

I am committed to supporting University of Galway's ambition to be recognised as a leading institution of learning with a strong international profile. Enhancing the University's reputation internationally is important for research partnerships, global engagement and attracting high-quality international student applications. I would support strategic efforts to promote the University's strengths in teaching, research, innovation and student experience, while ensuring that international growth is sustainable, values-led and appropriately resourced.

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

He brings substantial experience in research leadership, industry collaboration, student education and translational research to the Governing Authority. He has led academic collaborations with national and international industry partners to develop medical devices from early-stage research towards regulatory approval, commercialisation and clinical translation. He has supervised 15 PhD students to successful completion over the past 10 years and currently acts as primary supervisor to two PhD students.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the lifETIME Doctoral Training School since 2019, a UK/Ireland PhD training partnership. Since 2015, he has coordinated the Biomedical Engineering Professional Experience Placement Programme, supporting student engagement with Ireland's medtech-sector. He has also led Biomedical Engineering student recruitment activities since 2025, including University open days, school visits and school-leaver workshops.

He brings practical experience in managing externally funded research and translational projects where scientific ambition must be balanced with budgetary constraints, regulatory requirements, staffing capacity, timelines and delivery risk. He has led multinational research projects with UK, EU and US partners, secured over €8.5 million in research funding, and currently acts as University lead on a €3.5 million EU-funded project in medtech development.

He brings a collegial and representative approach, grounded in listening to colleagues across disciplines and career stages. He has mentored junior academics for the past five years and serves on the School of Engineering EDI Committee. His commitment to research culture is also reflected in the achievements of mentored students who have secured ERC, Fulbright and MSCA funding.

He brings an evidence-informed approach to decision-making, with experience as an international grant evaluator, editorial board member, PhD external examiner and member of the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee. He is committed to decisions that are



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transparent, inclusive, strategically aligned and informed by the realities of teaching, research, administration and student support.