

Scéim Teanga Aontas Daltaí Iar-bhunscoile na hÉireann **ISSU Irish Language Scheme**

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RÉAMHRÁ - INTRODUCTION

Aithníonn ADIÉ an tábhacht a bhaineann le chur chun cinn na Gaeilge sa chóras oideachais, sa tsochaí agus san aontas é féin. Aithníonn ADIÉ go ndéanann siad ionadaíocht ar scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge chomh maith le scoileanna Béarla, agus

teastaíonn ón aontas an teanga a chur chun cinn, ag creidiúnt go bhfuil sí mar chuid de chroílár cultúir agus féiniúlachta na hÉireann.

Sa scéim seo, leagtar amach polasaithe inmheánacha an aontais i leith na Gaeilge. Ba cheart go léann **gach** Oifigeach tofa an cháipéis seo agus iad ag tosnú amach san ról atá acu, le cinntiú go bhfuil leanúnachas ann ó thaobh na Gaeilge chomh maith le h-obair na Gaeilge san aontas.

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The Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU) recognises the importance of advancing the Irish language in our education system, our society and our union itself. The ISSU recognises that the union represents English-medium and Irish-medium schools and furthermore, the ISSU recognises that the Irish language is socially and culturally significant in the lives of many students represented by the union.

This document will outline the ISSU's internal policies regarding the Irish language (Gaeilge), as well as the procedures the union has in place to engage with the language.

Every elected Student Officer should consult this document when taking office to ensure the continuity and progression of Gaeilge in our union in the years to come.

Over the past few years, the ISSU has worked with numerous Gaeilge organisations to promote the Irish language amongst students. Amongst many other things, past Oifigigh have had a presence on the Advisory Group for the Gaeltacht Education Unit, worked with Conradh na Gaeilge on their campaigns and educational policy and provided Gaeilge Activism workshops and Training Days in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge at events such as Skills Academy and Annual Assembly.

Going forward, the union aims to continue this work but also expand and grow as an organisation that supports the growth of the language with the vision to welcome, support and encourage the use of Gaeilge in its everyday functions, aiming to use Gaeilge **functionally** - the primary role of a language being to communicate.

This document recognises the need for the ISSU's constitution to be available in both Irish and English language, as the ISSU represents both English and Irish-medium educational institutions. Therefore, the constitution should be **professionally** translated by an external source with any constitutional amendments passed at the Comhdháil Bhliantúil to be translated within one month.

The ISSU recognises in this scheme that, going forward, **Gaeilge cannot be confined to the role of the Irish Language Officer.**

1. FREAGRACHTAÍ - RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 Student Officers

This document recognises that the progression of the Irish Language within the union cannot be solely confined to the role of Oifigeach na Gaeilge. Therefore, the ISSU acknowledges that **every individual student officer** has a duty to consider the Irish language scheme when working in their capacity as an elected representative on behalf of the union.

When representing the Union under **no** circumstance should any officer refer to **Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí** as the **NSE** or the **National Student Executive**.

1.1.2 Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí

Uachtarán

The Uachtarán should liaise with Oifigeach na Gaeilge to ensure that the ISSU is progressive as possible in terms of the Irish language.

As the Uachtarán is the main spokesperson of the ISSU, they should use Gaeilge, as per the Irish language scheme, to the best of their ability when representing the union. (see 2.3) When representing the Union the Uachtarán may only refer to themselves as the “ **Uachtarán**” and not the “**President**” of the ISSU.

Leas-Uachtarán

The Leas-Uachtarán should aid the Uachtarán and Oifigeach na Gaeilge with their duties as outlined in this scheme. They should use Irish to the best of their ability where possible when acting Uachtarán, especially in their external communications. When representing the Union the Leas - Uachtarán may only refer to themselves as the “ **Leas- Uachtarán**” and not the “ **Vice President**” of the ISSU.

Education Officer (Oifigeach Oideachais)

The Education Officer should work with Oifigeach na Gaeilge on matters relating to the curriculum / teaching of the Irish language. Along with Oifigeach na Gaeilge, they should ensure that Irish educational policy is kept up to date and relevant.

Rúnaí

The Rúnaí should work with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge to produce minutes and records as Gaeilge where possible. When representing the Union the “**Rúnaí**” may only refer to themselves as the “ **Rúnaí**” and not the “ **Secretary** ” of the ISSU.

Communications Officer (Oifigeach Cumarsáide)

The Communications Officer **must** work with the Oifigeach Gaeilge to produce all content bilingually as per section 10.8.1 VII of the ISSU Constitution and should assist the Oifigeach with the running of the Irish language social media channels of the union.

Should adhere to the terms of this scheme regarding campaigns and communications while similarly enforcing the Brand Document’s policy on the Irish language.

Equality Officer (Oifigeach Comhionannais)

Should consider any inequality specific to students who attend Gaelcholáistí or schools in Gaeltacht regions and aim to work on addressing these, in conjunction

with the Oifigeach Gaeilge, to encourage more students to attend Irish-medium education.

Welfare Officer (Oifigeach Leasa)

Should consider the unique obstacles Gaelcholáistí face in terms of student welfare when deciding their priorities for their term (ex. lack of mental health / welfare support available as Gaeilge) while supporting and assisting where possible.

Aontas Daltaí Iar-Bhunscoile na hÉireann

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International Officer (Oifigeach Idirnáisiúnta)

Should highlight the importance of Irish culture / language abroad and ensure that the Oifigeach Gaeilge / Coiste Gnó is aware of any work being completed by the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) on the promotion of minority languages. As Gaeilge is now recognised as an official language of the European Union the International Officer must liaise with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge about any correspondence they may now receive about Gaeilge in the European Union.

Regional Liaison and Support Officer (Oifigeach Ceangail agus Tacaíochta Réigiúnach)

Should support Regional Officers from Gaeltacht areas / Gaelcholáistí where possible.

Should work with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge to communicate with Irish-medium student councils and to provide training and support in Irish. Should liaise with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge to offer Gaeilge Workshops at Regional Councils in held in Regions with Gaeltacht Areas.

Sustainability Officer (Oifigeach Inbhuanaitheacha)

Should use the language to the best of their ability where possible as per the scheme. Should consider the difficulties rural students in Gaeltacht areas face in terms of transport, broadband and services.

Disability Officer (Oifigeach Míchumais)

Should work with the Welfare Officer and Oifigeach Gaeilge on the topics such as the resourcing of adequate Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) with Gaeilge.

Uachtarán Oinigh

Should use the language to the best of their ability where possible as per the

scheme.

When representing the Union the Uachtarán Oinigh may only refer to themselves as the “ **Uachtarán Oinigh** ” and not the “**Honorary President**” of the ISSU.

1.1.2. Regional Officer Body

Oifigeach na Gaeilge should attend regional councils that include a Gaeltacht (listed below) to encourage a bilingual setting as much as possible:

- Donegal
- Kerry
- Waterford
- Galway
- Cork County
- Louth-Meath
- Mayo

Regional Officers in Gaeltacht regions should consider the unique challenges posed to Gaeltacht students and should consult with them when deciding their work plans for their term.

1.2 Rúnaíocht - The Secretariat

On the occasion where the Secretariat gets an inquiry through Irish, they should consult with the Oifigeach Gaeilge if appropriate and answer through the medium of Irish. eolas@issu.ie should be linked with studentvoice@issu.ie and gaeilge@issu.ie - general queries should be facilitated as Gaeilge as well as just those relating to Gaeilge-specific topics.

1.3 An Coiste Monatóireachta agus Comhairleach- MAC

All members of the MAC must have read Scéim Teanga an Aontais and must also use the language to the best of their ability where possible as per the scheme.

2. CUMARSÁID - COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 **All** correspondence written in the Irish language should be answered in the Irish language. In the circumstances in which a Student Officer is unable to do so or requires assistance, they **must** consult the Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

2.2 All correspondence sent to a Gaelcholáiste should be sent as Gaeilge and approved by the Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

2.3 Campaigns:

The following items should have an Irish language equivalent when running campaigns:

- Campaign Names
- Slogans
- Key Branding + Promotional Materials
- Logos

These items should hold the same weight as the English versions - should be displayed in the same size text etc.

2.4 If an ISSU representative is addressing the media, a stakeholder, or any external form of communications, they should open in Irish ie. "A chairde" etc. - especially in written communications (table below).

2.5 Every officer should:

1. follow the communication requirements as laid out in this scheme - start their emails with pleasantries as Gaeilge (m.sh. "A __, a chara," "Le gach dea-mhéin" srl.) etc.

2. contact Oifigeach na Gaeilge for any assistance with the language/translation work that they require

2.6 The Irish equivalents of titles should be used firstly or to the same emphasis as per the constitution - especially in written communication. Every Officer should know their Irish equivalent and how to pronounce it correctly - consult with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge if help is needed.

2.7 All external press releases and statements should be bilingual - however, if this is not feasible, they should include openings as Gaeilge.

2.8 Officers and members of the Secretariat should have an email signature function set up on their ISSU email account with the English and Irish version of their title. (template below).

2.9 All letterheads and templates should be bilingual.

2.10 Social Media - all posts should be bilingual where possible and posts should be sent to the Oifigeach Gaeilge with two days notice (where possible) in order to allow for adequate time to translate.

TABLE: PLEASANTRIES

_____, a chara, Dear _____
_____ agus _____, a chairde, Dear _____ and _____
A _____ To _____
Go raibh maith agat Thank you
Le meas agus buíochas With thanks and respect / Regards
Míle Buíochas Many Thanks
Beir bua Regards

Is mise le meas Respectfully

Le gach dea-mhéin / ghuí With well-wishes

EMAIL SIGNATURE TEMPLATE

John Doe (They/Them)

Translated Officer Title

Aontas Daltaí Iar-bhunscoile na hÉireann (ADIÉ)

Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU)

Phone: 01 443 4461

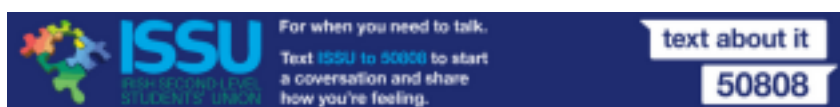
Email: firstname.surname@issu.ie

Website: www.issu.ie

Address: ISSU 10th Floor, Liberty Hall, Dublin 1, D01 F9K2



Representing, Uplifting & Defending Student Voice



This email was sent at a time that was convenient for me, please do not feel pressured to respond outside of your working hours.

Irish Second-Level Students' Union CLG, registered in Dublin.

Registered address: ISSU 9th Floor, Liberty Hall, Dublin 1, Ireland | Company registration no: 511901 | Charity registration no: 20141868 (

Letterhead as Gaeilge

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3. POLASAITHE GAEILGE

3.1. Oifigeach na Gaeilge: An Ról agus Dualgaisí an Róil - A More Detailed Look:

The Oifigeach na Gaeilge is responsible for promoting the Irish language within ISSU. They are the primary liaison with students in Irish-medium education.

The Oifigeach na Gaeilge is the person who ensures that the integrity of Irish is upheld within the ISSU.

They are responsible for the upkeep of the ISSU Irish Language Scheme and should ensure that the policy in the scheme is being implemented to the best of the union's ability.

Sample Tasks:

1. Oversee the regular translation of ISSU publications, internal and external communications and ISSU policy books and constitution, to ensure all resources are available bilingually.
2. Liaise with Irish language education groups like Conradh na Gaeilge and Gael Linn to promote the Irish language in schools.
3. Represent second level students at conferences and/or events regarding the progression and development of the Irish language.
4. Organise Oifigeach na Gaeilge training days in conjunction with Conradh na Gaeilge so that second-level students can learn how best to promote the language in their local area.
5. Work closely with the Education Officer to ensure the Irish language is taught in the best way possible in schools.
6. Support students who have had Irish language resources taken away from them.
7. Create Workshops for Regional Councils in Regions with Gaeltacht Areas.

Aontas Daltaí Iar-Bhunscoile na hÉireann

Irish Second-Level Students' Union

Guth na ndaltaí a chothú , a chosaint agus a spreagadh.



The Oifigeach na Gaeilge should meet with Conradh na Gaeilge and other Irish language organisations at start of their term to discuss their plans and ideas.

The Oifigeach na Gaeilge should contact OBESSU for support.

It is vital that the Oifigeach na Gaeilge does not put the role or the organisation at risk of suspected political bias. It is important that they stay neutral as a professional who works with the language.

They also should translate newly passed constitutional amendments in accordance with this scheme.

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3.2. Polasaithe Oideachais na Teanga - Irish Language Educational

DM1 - CB 2023	
Supporting School	Coiste Gnó na nDaltaí
Proposing Delegate	Gráinne Ní Ailín
ISSU Supports	The ISSU supports the policies of Conradh na Gaeilge regarding the teaching of the Irish language to allow for consistency in the work of the ISSU.
Rationale	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To allow for the continuity and consistency of the work of the Oifigeach na Gaeilge, there has to be consistency from one Coiste to the next to allow for long term development.2. To protect the Coiste if there is no Oifigeach elected so the Coiste has a baseline and a guideline to follow in regards to Irish Language, Oifigeach na Gaeilge races have been uncontested since 2019, there is a high risk that the role may not be filled in the future. This does not limit or constrict the Union as both organisations are committed to achieving the same goal - high quality Irish language education for all, Conradh na Gaeilge are best placed to draft policy on Irish language education, and it is unlikely that ISSU will ever have the same resources to mandate policy as well as them.

Information about Conradh na Gaeilge's educational policy can be found below:

<https://gaeilge4all.ie/>: advocating for a comprehensive policy (using the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) for Irish in the education system from preschool to third-level.

<https://www.cnaq.ie>

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