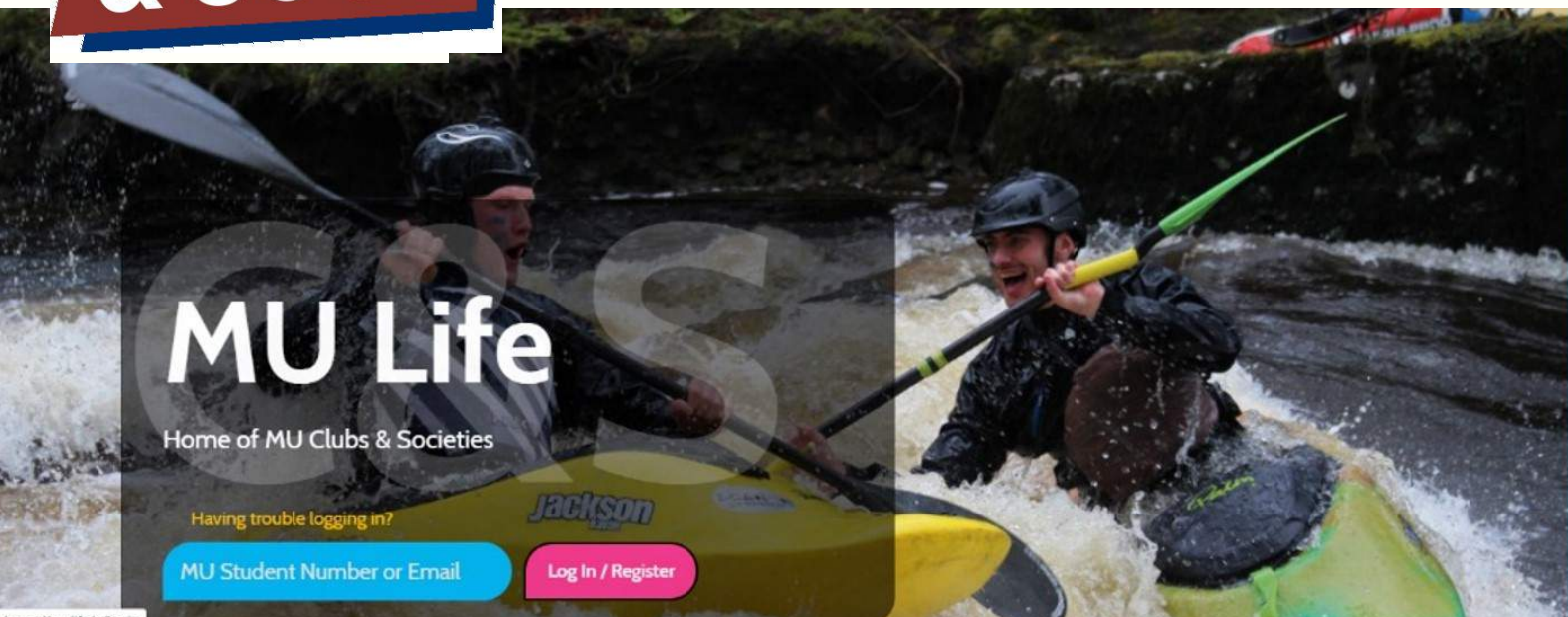




MU LIFE

*Maynooth University
Clubs & Societies Newsletter*



THANK YOU to our Clubs & Societies Leaders

As we come to the end of another academic year and we reflect on what was a particularly tough year for us all, it is hard not to feel a huge sense of pride for the amount of work our clubs and societies did throughout the year. More importantly, what impressed us most was the focus that the various committees put on trying to help 1st year students to integrate as best they could into university life without anyone having to tell them.

A challenge was posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and our students more than rose to meet that challenge thus once again high-lighting the importance of clubs and societies to our student experience and helping our new students to settle into their new environment albeit digitally.

The Clubs & Societies Office would like to recognise the mammoth effort put in by the clubs and societies this year to help create and maintain that sense of community. Because **Together We Are Maynooth University.**

Mary Banahan & Mary MacCourt
MU Clubs & Societies Co-ordinators

IN THIS ISSUE

**NEW CLUBS & SOCIETIES
STRUCTURES**

**MU LIFE UPDATES -
ONLINE ELECTIONS**

**CLUBS & SOCS AWARDS
2021 & THE WINNERS**

CLUBS & SOCIETIES OFFICE

**CLUBS & SOCIETIES
CO-ORDINATORS**

**MU GAA PARTNER WITH
GPA TO OFFER POSTGRAD
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**SOME CLUBS & SOCIETIES
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 / 21**



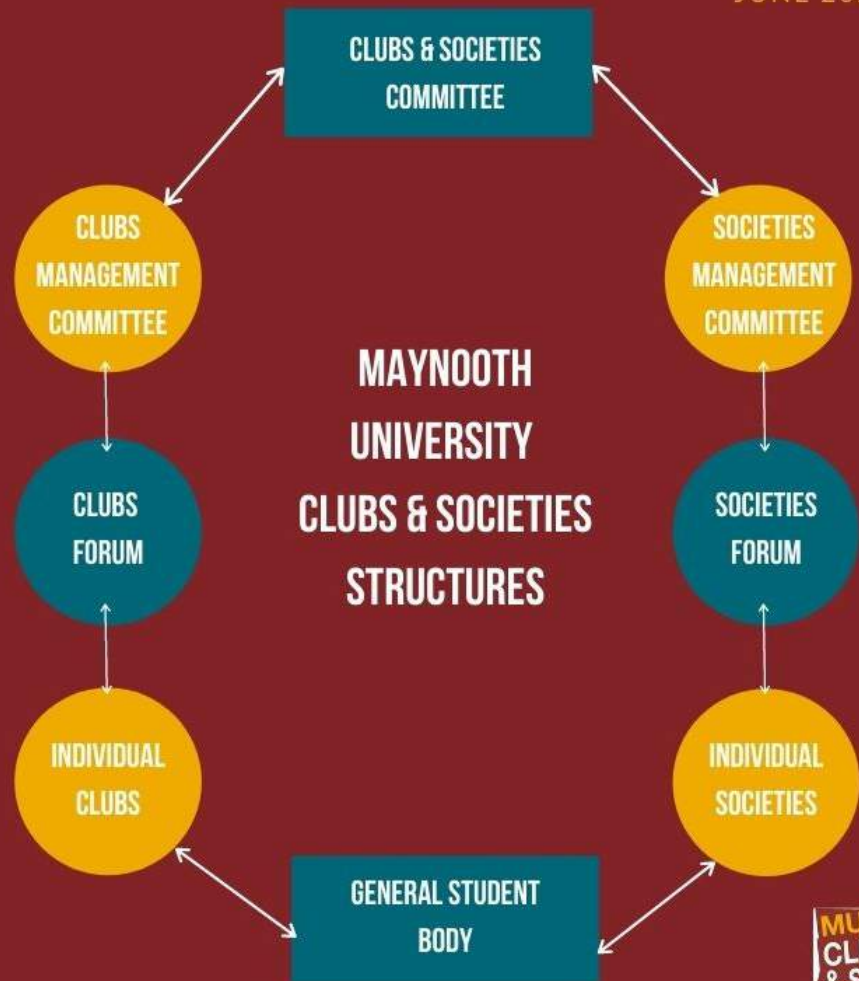
Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

JUNE 2021

NEW C&S STRUCTURES

A new structure for Maynooth University Clubs and Societies designed to place students at the heart of the student experience as well as at the heart of clubs and societies decision-making was agreed at a Clubs & Societies Committee on the 27th May 2021.

WWW.MULIFE.IE



New C&S Structures will see greater student involvement in decision-making

At a recent Clubs and Societies Committee meeting it was agreed to implement new Clubs and Societies structures, that will compliment what is already in place as well as increase student involvement in the decision making for Maynooth University Clubs and Societies.

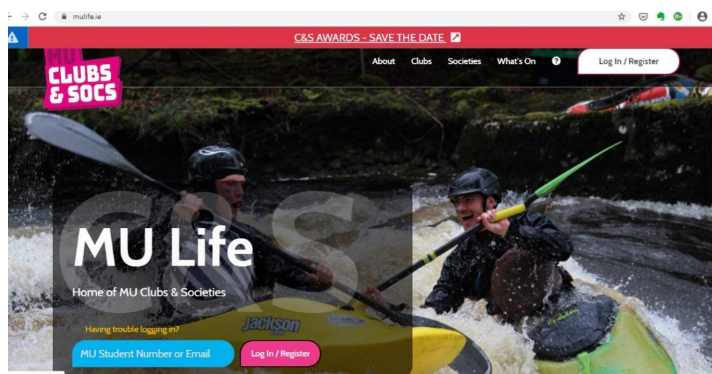
In short, a Societies Management Committee and a Clubs Management Committee have been established to encourage, promote and develop clubs and societies life on campus. These Management Committees will be made up of a number of Maynooth University staff and students.

In order to get these committees up and running for September we will be holding elections before the end of June via MU Life.

There were a number of information sessions held on the 9th June to outline these changes and what steps the C&S Office will be taking next in order to progress this issue.

For more information on the new structures contact the MU Clubs & Societies Office.

MU LIFE: A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR CLUBS & SOCIETIES



MU Life is our one stop website for Clubs and Societies and has proven to be such an important platform for real time engagement for our committees and their members.

This is where staff and students can find out what our C&S have been up to and what their plans are for the coming year, read their latest news and most importantly where you can join up and become a member and get involved.

This year, in response to Covid, we rolled out some new features including Event Bookings, logging attendances and online membership payments as well as requiring every committee to appoint Covid officers and we encouraged the promotion of virtual events.

The Clubs & Societies Office will be working hard over the summer to continue to improve what MU Life offers our students and Clubs & Societies Committees.

For more information visit: www.mulife.ie

New Developments - Online Elections

This semester, we were able to put in place an online election facility on MU Life where clubs and societies were able elect next years committees. Quite a number of clubs and societies took up this option and it will hopefully continue to facilitate a greater number of students to get involved with the committees especially those students who traditionally found it difficult to attend and vote and AGMS.

Clubs & Societies Awards 2021

New C&S Award Categories added to reflect these challenging times

The Clubs & Societies Committee added 3 new award categories this year to recognise the extraordinary effort put in by clubs and societies and individuals as they worked to ensure their fellow student leaders and members stayed engaged with clubs and societies despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

The 3 new categories are:

- Best Motivator
- Best Reaction to COVID-19
- Best Act of Kindness

2nd Virtual MU Clubs & Societies Awards

The 27th (and 2nd Virtual) Annual Clubs & Societies Awards took place on Tuesday, 27th April. Preparation for this event began well in advance of the event itself as the Clubs & Societies Office co-ordinated all aspects of this much anticipated event including the promotion, the application process, judging and recording of the event.

It is always great to be able to recognise and reward the great work of our students which plays a big part in making this the wonderful campus community it is. Nonetheless, we all look forward to when we can celebrate these achievements in person .



Clubs & Societies Awards Winners 2021

Clubs

Best Club:	Trampolining Club
Most Improved Club:	Athletics Club
Club Event of the Year:	Trampoline Club (Escape Room)
Athlete of the Year:	Aoise McHenry (Shotokan Karate)
Club Executive of the Year:	Robert McCabe (Athletics Club)
Best First Year Athlete:	Andrew Duggan (Shotokan Karate)

Societies

Best Society:	Disney Society
Most Improved Society:	Free Legal Advice Clinic (FLAC)
Best New Society:	Film Society
Society Event of the Year:	Purple Training (Pride Society)
Society Person of the Year:	Áine Keegan (Business Society)
Best Society First Year:	Laura O'Reilly (Disney Society)
Civic & Charity Award:	Disney Society

Other Awards

Best Motivator:	Emma Thornton (Musical Society)
Best Act of Kindness:	Tina Adinga (Purpose Movement)
Best Reaction to COVID:	FLAC & Mental Health Society
Best Video:	Athletics Club & Snowsports Club
Best Poster:	Musical Society
MSU Charity Champion:	Business Society

Clubs & Societies Office

With a bit of luck we will be returning to campus in the coming months so if you do have a query about clubs and societies and wondering where we are located, you can find us on the Ground Floor of the John Building (next to the Bookshop and across from John Hume Lecture Theatre 2).

Managed by the Clubs & Societies Co-ordinators (Mary Banahan & Mary MacCourt), the office is a hive of activity both in person and virtually.

Meet the Clubs & Societies Co-ordinators

The Clubs & Societies Office is managed by the Clubs & Societies Co-ordinators:

- Mary MacCourt
- Mary Banahan

Between them they have over 35 years of experience of dealing with students and student led groups.

This office supports the work of over a 100 different clubs and societies on campus as well as supports the work of the MU Clubs & Societies Committee which is the governing body for MU clubs and societies.

To contact the C&S office please visit www.mulife.ie



MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY GAA PARTNER WITH THE GPA TO OFFER POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



The Gaelic Players Association (GPA) are delighted to announce details of a new scholarship agreement with Maynooth University. Under the agreement, four fully-funded scholarships will be available to inter-county players annually, with successful applicants to be known as 'Maynooth University/GPA Scholars'.

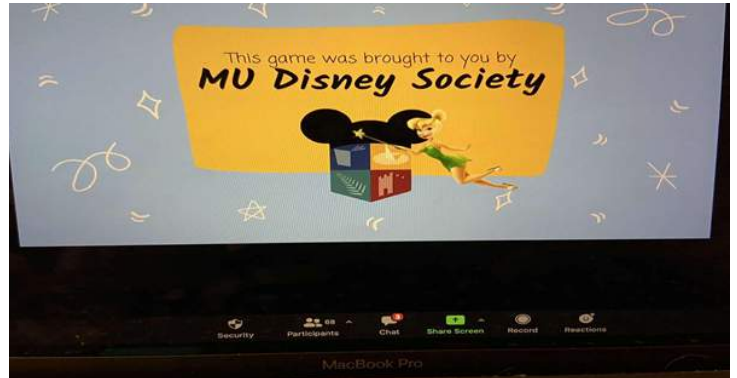
The agreement between the GPA and Maynooth will run for an initial three-year period starting with the 2021/2022 academic year and scholarships will be available for any fulltime Masters/Postgraduate courses available in University. All applications will be assessed using a set of criteria agreed by the GPA and the University. In combination with their studies, scholars will actively contribute to the Maynooth GAA community and mentor other elite sports students at undergraduate level.

This new agreement strengthens the long-term existing relationship between the GPA and Maynooth University. Numerous graduates of the Jim Madden GPA Leadership Programme have gone on to complete the Special Purposes Certificate in Professional Leadership at the University over the last four years.

DISNEY SOCIETY

Highlight of the year: Winning Best Society at the virtual MU Clubs and Societies Awards!

Favourite Memory: Getting to socialise with members and committee virtually



One Word to describe our year:

"Magical"

The Search for Library Cat

Virtual Escape Room In February, Disney Society hosted our virtual escape room. It was open to all students across MU and SPCM, and 80 students took part! In teams, students would race to complete puzzles and challenges to find the missing Maynooth library cat. Along the way, students would run into celebrities who were visiting campus, like Dolly Parton, who'd help with the search for library cat. The event was a huge success, raising €311 for MS Ireland.

MUSICAL SOCIETY

The past year has been difficult for the entire world, these unprecedented times have brought about change to our daily lives in the most drastic ways.

However, the Arts sector was the first to close and will be the very last to reopen. We at Maynooth University Musical Society refused to put our passions on pause for an entire year. We have spent this year adapting and changing our lives on stage to a life on screen.



The cast had the challenge of recording their own vocals into their phones, this led to a lot of singing in wardrobes and cupboards to get that 'sound booth' feel. They each sang along to backing tracks mixed and edited by Brian Dalton and Ben Cully. They were helped by Sam Lee who edited the dialogue sound and scene noise to help take the pressure of the intricate soundtrack that was being created.

Then came the choreography, Emma and Gavin recorded themselves doing every dance for the show and uploaded it to Google classroom for the cast to see. The cast then had to go and learn the dances in the comfort of their own homes, with only a few panicked and confused messages to either Emma or Gavin. This hard work massively paid off in the end. Credit to the cast for their dedication and perseverance during the whole process.

Our fabulous producer Molly Hackett also represented us with the executive committee and was brilliant in organizing us all and keeping us all on track. We also can't thank Focas enough for their time, their passion, and their dedication to our project. We are happy to say we have become great friends with both Andrew and Conor and our lucky audiences have not seen the last of our collaboration yet.

'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' was our submission for this year's All Ireland Musical Theatre Intervarsities and it was our biggest project yet. We teamed up with two fellow students who have set up their own production company while studying here in Maynooth. Andrew Hart and Conor Logue are the two clever brains behind Focas Productions. Our two Directors and Choreographers Gavin Murphy and Emma Thornton had an ambitious vision for 'Jamie' and Focas Productions brought this to life on screen.

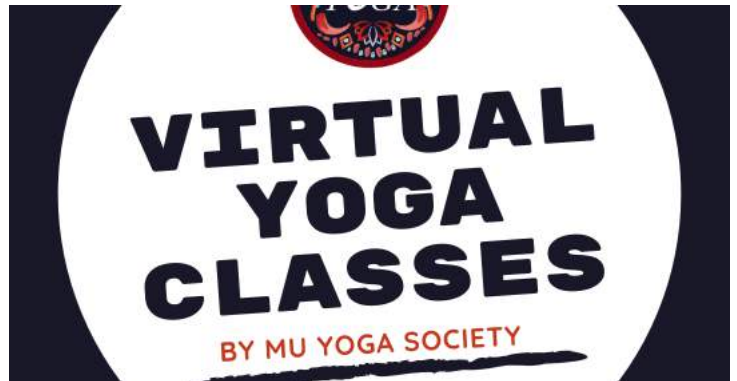
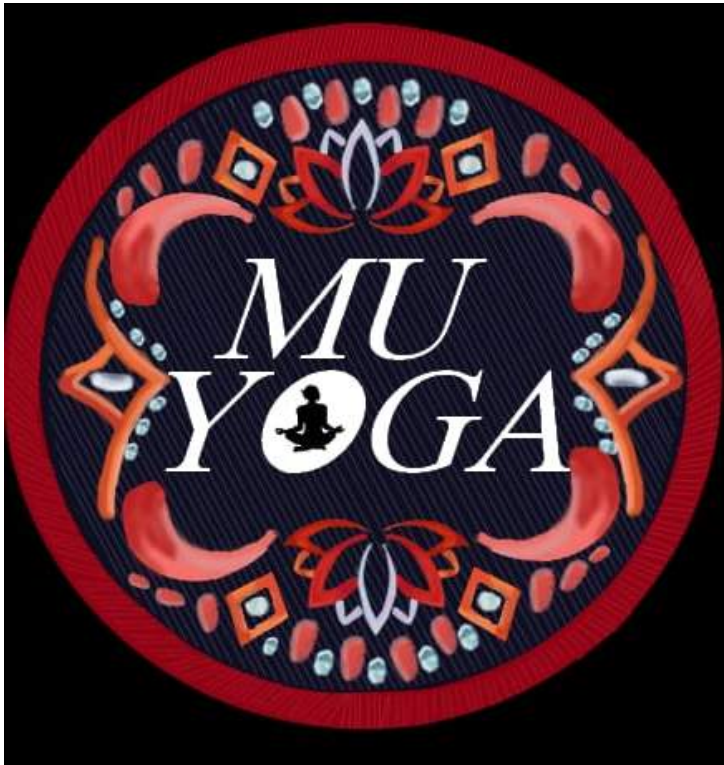
We at MUMS have come a long way in the last number of years and we are becoming a force to be reckoned with on the national stage. However, bringing our talents to the screen was an entirely different undertaking. We had a huge team of students behind the scenes helping with every element of our show. Loredana Marginean was fabulously talent costume designer and the creator of the amazing jacket worn by Eamonn Walsh (Jamie) in the finale sequence of the performance. The show itself has a cast of nineteen people, Anna Bergin our Musical Director and Ben Cully our assistant Musical Director had the huge task of making these people who are scattered all over the country sound as though they are in the same room. They spent a huge amount of time editing and mixing the casts vocals together.



We are delighted to say that all of this organized chaos led to a fantastic final project. We were lucky enough to win six awards at this year's Intervarsities. Eamonn Walsh won Best Male Performer for his portrayal of Jamie New. Gavin Murphy and Emma Thornton both took home the awards for Best Choreography and Best Direction. The fabulous cast took home the award for Best Ensemble and we also won the award for Best Visuals. We topped of the evening by winning Best Over All Show. We were absolutely thrilled and blown away by the support we received for 'Jamie'. We are very excited to continue with this momentum and hopefully bring many more awards home to Maynooth. We want to thank both Mary MacCourt and Mary Banahan for their continued support throughout the year.

YOGA SOCIETY

Highlight of the year: Getting to continue our yoga classes and hangouts online, it was a great way of allowing people to continue yoga, as well as for people to make new friends. We had great feedback throughout the year from both our members and our instructors.



Words to describe our year:

"Family"
"Friendships"
"Enjoyable"

Favourite Memory:

Our collab yoga classes with Mental Health Soc and SVP, these allowed new people to join our yoga classes as well as us all making new friends, as well as raising money for two wonderful charities.

TRAMPOLINE CLUB

Highlight of the year

2020/2021 was a year like never before. The club faced it's most difficult challenge so far, adapting to the online world and trying to keep members engaged and connected. But together as a club we rose to the challenge!

Throughout the year, we organized weekly events - whether it was our weekly 'Coffee and Chats' or a larger event like our 'Escape Room' night. These proved to be very successful, with a consistent turn out from our members.

One of our primary goals this year was to improve our collaboration with other clubs and societies - and we were very successful in doing so! We began our term as a committee with a collaboration with the Dublin based trampoline clubs, UCD, DCU and Trinity, called Tramp Night. We kept our members moving with our weekly fitness collabs with UCD, Trinity, DCU and Queens University trampoline clubs. We also collaborated with the other MU clubs and societies throughout the year, such as the Mental Health Society and the Access Society.

Raising money for charity was something MUTC has traditionally been very passionate about, and this year was no different. We held a 'Virtual In-house Competition' and a 'Bingo Night' with all proceeds raised going to the MSU charity partner, MS Ireland. Our 'Escape Room' event also raised €380 for the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre!

All in all, our highlight of the year has been overcoming many obstacles and keeping our members engaged and connected with one another.



One Word to describe our year:

"Connected"

TRAMPOLINE CLUB

Best Memory

Our best memory of the year is winning not one, but two awards, at the Clubs and Societies Awards night! Our club members and committee got dressed up for the event and watched the awards together on a Teams call. We were so surprised to be honored with the Club Event of the Year for our 'Escape Room' in aid of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and for the Best Club of the Year! Our committee worked tirelessly keeping the club engaging for its members throughout this difficult year, so to have our hard work recognized by the Clubs and Societies Office was truly amazing!



FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC (FLAC)

Maynooth University Free Legal Advice Centre (MU FLAC) is a very active and vibrant law society. We welcome members from all year groups. Our aim is to promote equal access to justice for all. We hold free legal advice clinics where students can come to (via Zoom and hopefully in person soon!) to explain their legal issue to a barrister and receive a free consultation.

We also train our members in areas of law such as Criminal Law, Landlord & Tenant Law, Employment Law, and many other areas to allow them to assist at our legal clinics and provide legal information to clients. MU FLAC enables you to take what you learn in the classroom and use it to help others in real legal issues – good practice if you wish to pursue a career as a solicitor or barrister! We also hold guest lectures from lecturers and practitioners in their areas of expertise, and social events such as quizzes, moot court competitions, and advice on studying law at third level.

In April 2021 we published “A Guide to Student Rights” which is a legal hand booklet written by MU FLAC members aimed at providing students with easy to understand legal information. This book is freely accessible in pdf format on our website or in hardcopy in the MU Library.

Even though we were off-campus last year, we created a community with like-minded people, hosted lots of events, and made our members feel part of campus life despite studying from their bedrooms.

MU FLAC won “Best Reaction to Covid-19” and “Most Improved Society” in the Clubs & Societies Awards 2021! If this is something you are interested in please join us by requesting your membership on MUIlife.ie – we would love you to be a part of MU FLAC. Follow us on Instagram @muflac and see our website www.muflac.webador.ie for more information.

Maynooth University's FLAC Society proudly presents



THE JOHANNA AIREY
Moot Court Competition
April 10, 2021
Applications Open
To enter, email
thejohannaaireymoot@gmail.com
Deadline for Entries
March 22

Proudly sponsored by



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TRAINING SESSION
Employment Law

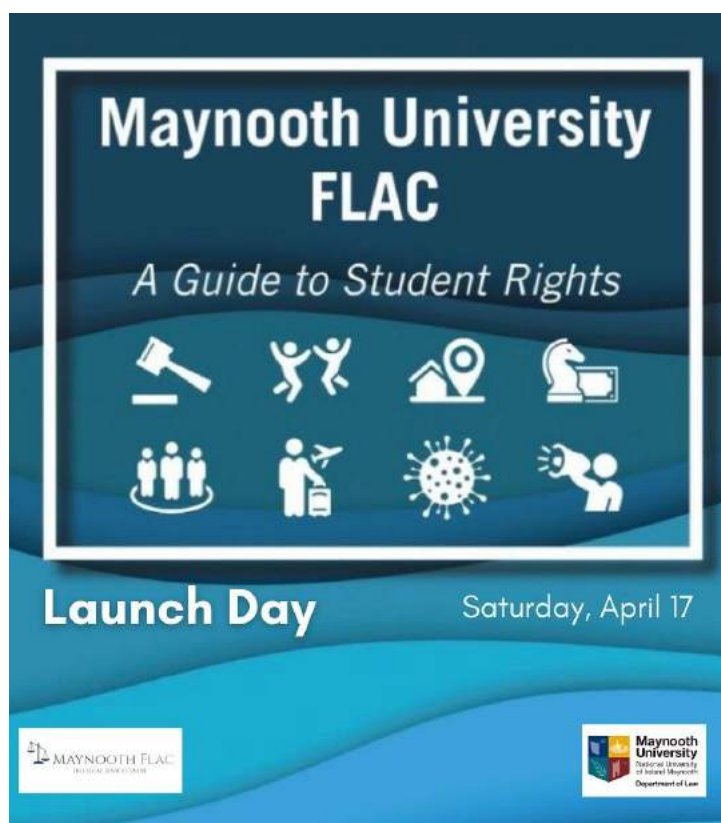
FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC (FLAC)

LAUNCH OF "A GUIDE TO STUDENT RIGHTS"

Maynooth Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) Society officially launched 'A Guide to Student Rights', on 17th April 2021. This guide contains rights and regulations ranging across a number of different areas including Criminal Law, Rights on a Night Out, Landlord & Tenant Law, Employment Law, Taxes & Finances, Travel Abroad, Useful Contacts, and a Covid-19 Section. Additionally, it was composed with the interests of the students at Maynooth University in mind, attempting to invoke awareness and education within the broader campus community. Thus meaning, it provides the information in a user friendly and easy to read manner.

The concept of this guide was brought to light by Former President, Scott Connolly, Former Vice President, Matt Jones and Former Secretary, Niall Finan and it was co-authored by former Editorial Officers, Rachel O'Rourke and Hugh Logue and current Editorial Officers, Ewa Smolaga and Hira Khan. The guide underwent composing and editing for two years, due to the continually evolving nature of COVID-19 legislation. As a result, even though it is not the only guide of its kind to have been published, it is the largest. It covers the most up to date regulations in a comprehensive and concise manner and keeping in line with the core ethos of FLAC which represents access to justice for all, the guide has been published on MU FLAC society's newly established website (<https://muflac.webador.ie/>).

Furthermore, 'A Guide to Student Rights' could not have been published without the proud sponsorship and support of Maynooth Law Department, the Clubs and Societies Office and Conor Duff BL. To mark this momentous occasion, MU FLAC society held a virtual zoom launch with FLAC CE Eilis Barry and Conal Cahill, representatives of FLAC Ireland, providing an insight into FLAC Ireland. Additionally, speeches from Professor Michael Doherty, Head of the Law Department at Maynooth University and finally, former and current committee members were also presented at the launch.



FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC (FLAC)

Johanna Airey Moot Court Competition 2021 – MU FLAC inaugural Moot

On Saturday 10 April 2021, Maynooth University FLAC held their inaugural moot court competition The Johanna Airey Moot. The question was very much in line with MU FLAC ethos and focused on human rights issues. The question centred around compulsory vaccination and legislated lockdowns, very topical issues which have seen the European Court of Human Rights issue judgement on compulsory vaccination only days before the moot. This engaging question was kindly written by Maynooth University alumni Conor Duff BL.

Teams from Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, and Griffith College all competed on the day. Judges consisted of Maynooth University lecturers, lecturers from other Irish Universities, Barristers, and PhD Students. Each moot had its own timekeeper which were made up of members of MU FLAC.

The Final was judged by the retired Supreme Court Judge and President of the Law Reform Commission, Ms. Justice Mary Laffoy, alongside Rosario Boyle SC, and Conor Duff BL.

Amazingly no technology issues arose and all in all a great day was had! The standards of the teams were very high and proved for difficult judging. Adam O'Carroll, student at Maynooth University won Best Speaker. Anna Offergeld and Daniel Walsh of Trinity College, and Darragh Gorman and Jesutofunmi Omokri of Maynooth University reached the Final with Darragh and Jesutofunmi succeeding to become the winners of The Johanna Airey Moot Court Competition 2021.

This event was kindly sponsored by the Department of Law at Maynooth University and City Colleges.

The Johanna Airey Moot Court Competition 2021 will go down in history for MU FLAC as not only the first ever mooting competition hosted by the society but also for taking place in strange online conditions.



Maynooth University's FLAC Society proudly presents

THE JOHANNA AIREY
Moot Court Competition
April 10, 2021

Applications Open

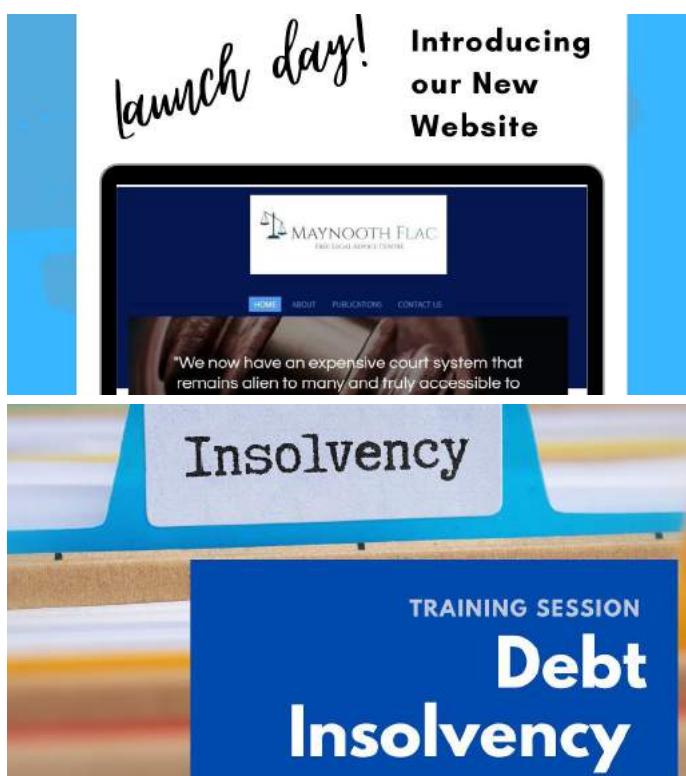
To enter, email
thejohannaaireymoot@gmail.com

Deadline for Entries
March 22

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launch day!

Introducing our New Website

MAYNOOTH FLAC
FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

INSOLVENCY

TRAINING SESSION
Debt Insolvency

Clubs & Societies Committee

2020 /21



Bukky Adebowale
MSU VP Student
Life



Michael Rafter
Chairperson



Rachel O'Connell
Bursar's Office



Ian Russell
Student
Engagement
Officer



Kelly Rennick
MSU President



Ciarán Watts
MSU VP Welfare &
Equality



Paul Davis
Sports Officer

The Clubs and Societies Committee is a committee established by the University Executive, to manage and fund the Clubs and Societies of the University.

Clubs & Societies Overview

MU LIFE TOTAL
MEMBERSHIPS 2020 /21

7,725

New Memberships

2,471

500 +

attended C&S
Training &
Information
Sessions

800 +

C&S Executive
Committee
Positions which
are at the heart
of all C&S activity.

31

Active
Clubs

78

Active
Societies

80 +

Clubs & Societies
participated in
Fairs Day

