

SAI

STUDENT
AFFAIRS
IRELAND

"Creating, Engaging and Enhancing Community for Student Success,"

Societies

Rewarding Excellence and Creating Leaders.



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



Róna Hughes
Societies Officer University of Galway
BICS Chairperson

Rewarding Excellence and Creating Leaders.

The session will explore:

- The role of Societies in third level
- How they help create leaders
- What they need to succeed

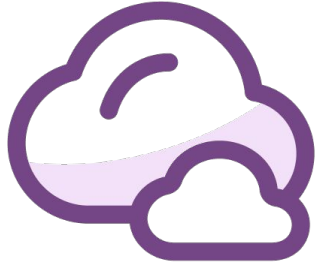
What has been learnt through the delivery of the University of Galway Society Leadership Programme.

BICS New Initiative:

Creating

- A national platform to support both societies and their administrators.
- A new national reward for all committee members
- Simplifying the BICS Awards application process.

slido



Why should students join societies in your institution?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

What do our institutions
have to say?



Make Friends
Find your niche
Gain new skills
Try something new
Create memories
Have fun/enjoyment
Social Outlet / Break from Study
Welcoming
Networking
Good for your CV

happy
memories



About our Societies in the Institutions who participated in the BICS Awards

BICS Award Winners – Leaderboard: Number of BICS Awards wins per institution

University of Galway: 81

UCC: 49

DCU: 38 + 1 Special Mention

DIT/TU City Campus: 34

IT Tallaght/TUD Tallaght: 33 + 1 Special
Mention

MTU Cork: 29

MIC: 24

UL: 19

RCSI: 19

TCD: 18

MU: 17



DKIT: 9

IT Tralee/MTU Tralee: 9

GMIT/ATU Galway: 4

NCI: 4

UCD: 4

DBS: 2

Letterkenny IT/ATU Donegal: 2

QUB: 2

WIT/SETU: 2

TUD Blanchardstown: 3

TUS Midlands: 1

TUS Midwest: 1

Stats from BICS Award Participants

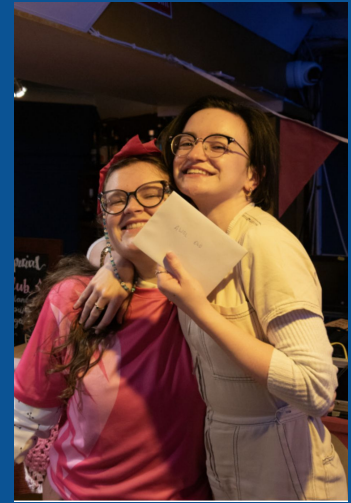
Institute Name	Number of Students in your Institute	Number of Society members in your Institute?	% of students in societies	How many Societies are in your Institute?	In your HEI do Societies fall under the Students' Union or the Institution?	Funding for Societies Non Pay	Source of Funding	Number of Events this year	How many full time/part-time staff look after Societies	Are you a single campus or multi campus?
DCU	18,000	8,135	45%	110	Institution & SU	€200,000	Capitation	640	3	Multi campus
Mary I	5,500	800	15%	25	Students' Union	€12,000	Capitation	215	2	Multi campus
Maynooth University	15,000	4,319	29%	75	Institution	€105,000	Capitation	827	2.5	Single campus
MTU Cork	12,000	3,000	25%	50	Institution	€90,000	Capitation	500	3	Multi campus
MTU Kerry	2,500	500	20%	20	Institution	€25,000	Capitation	40	1	Multi campus
RCSI	4,833	1,960	41%	53	Institution	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	Single campus
TU Dublin	28,500	10,000	35%	92	Institution	€400,000	Capitation	1,286	5	Multi campus
TUS Midlands	13,600	n/a	n/a	80	Institution	€50,000	Capitation	550	1	Multi campus
UCC	24,000	13,000	54%	117	Institution	n/a	Capitation	2,345	4	Multi campus
UL	19,000	3,645	20%	39	Students' Union	€44,000	Capitation	347	2	Single campus
University of Galway	19,500	12,204	64%	130	Institution	€340,000	Capitation & Levy	3,175	5.5	Single campus

Totals

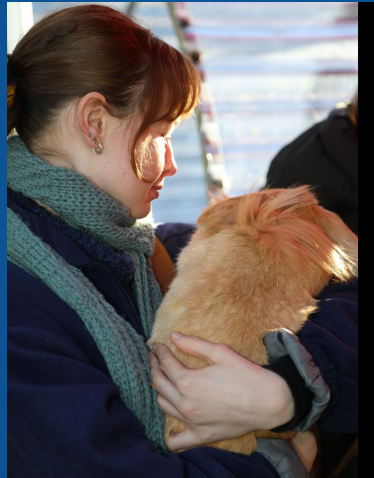


Students	Societies Members	% of students in societies	Number of Societies	Funding	Number of Events	Number of Staff
162,433	57,563	35%	791	€1,266,000	9,925	30

What do Societies mean to the Students?



Do Societies Aid Retention?



Societies Kept me in College

61%

had contemplated dropping out or felt under significant pressure personally or academically

Of these

68% felt the friends they made in societies were their support,

48% felt societies helped them cope with a personal challenge.

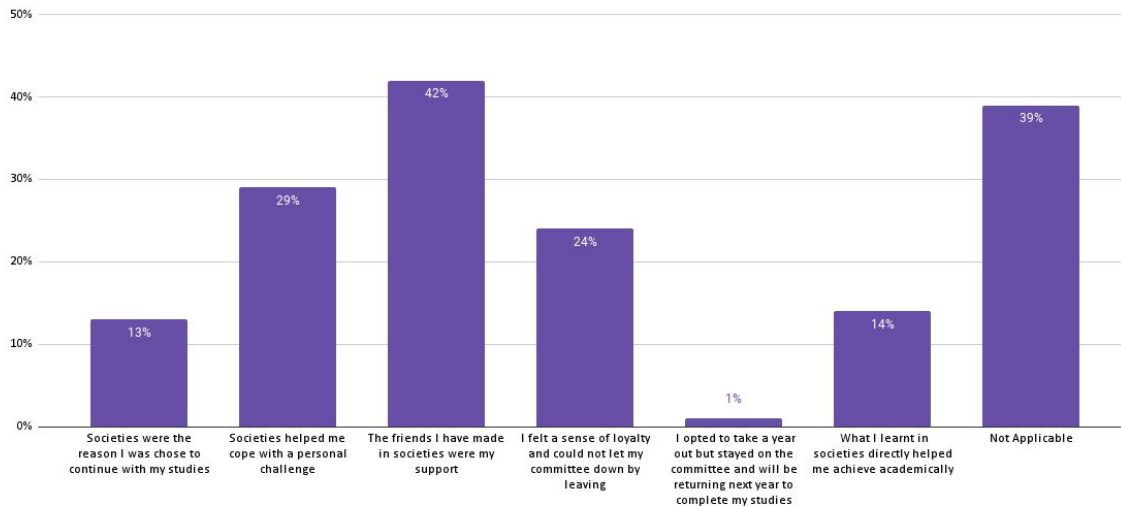
39% felt a sense of loyalty and could not let their committee down by leaving.

23% said what they learnt in societies directly helped them achieve academically,

21% societies were the reason they chose to continue with their studies.

2% opted to take a year out but stayed on the committee.

If at any stage during the year you contemplated leaving the college, or felt yourself under significant pressure personally or academically, to what degree did your involvement in societies help you cope?



Do Societies foster a sense of Belonging, Friendship, Purpose & Self-Actualisation?



Societies gave me a sense of Belonging, Friendship, Purpose & Self-Actualisation



Positive Aspects:

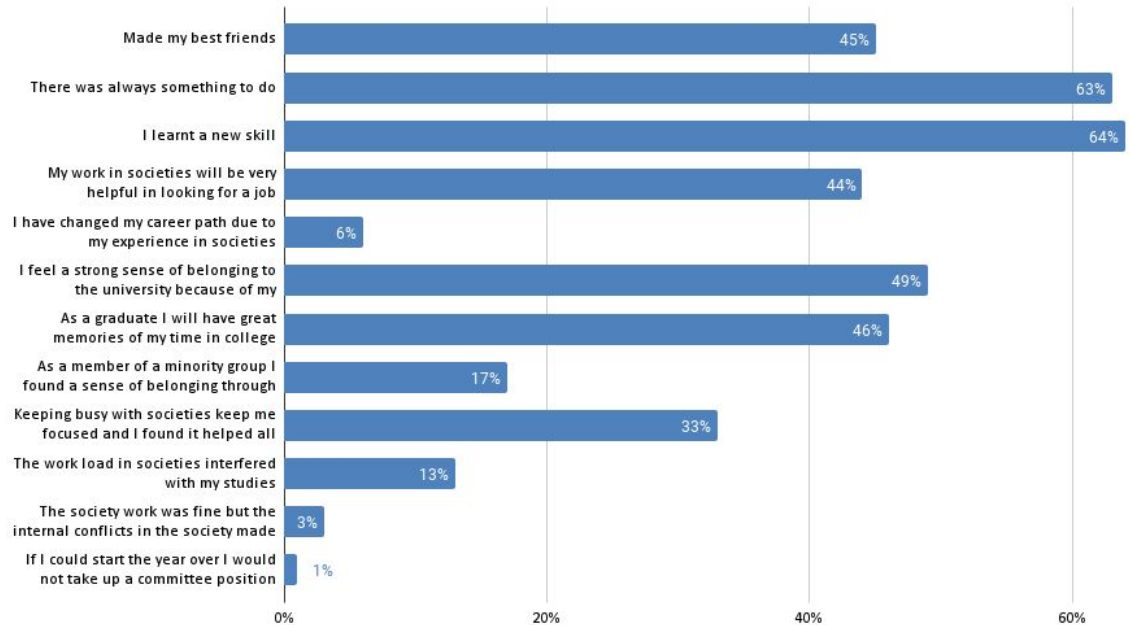
- 64% I learnt a new skill
- 63% Always something to do
- 49% Felt they belonged
- 46% Great college memories
- 45% I made my best friends
- 44% Will help get a job
- 33% Kept me focus & helped all aspects of my life



Negative Aspects:

- 13% Workload interfered with Study (down from 18% last year)
- 3% Internal conflict caused difficulty (down from 5% last year)
- 1% Regret taking up a committee position (down from 3% from last year)

Because of your involvement in Societies which of the following statements apply to you?

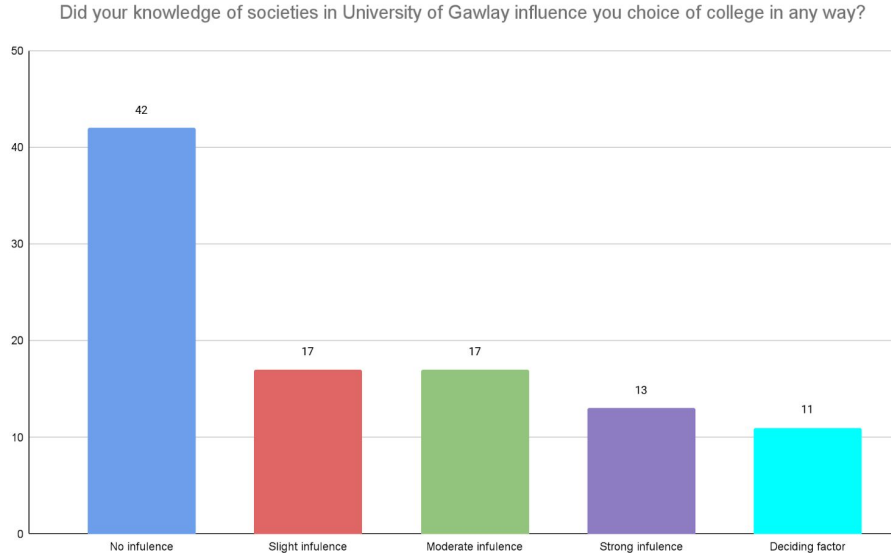


Do Societies influence students choice of College?



Societies Influenced my choice of college!

Prior to enrolling in The University of Galway did your knowledge of societies in the University influence your choice of college in any way?

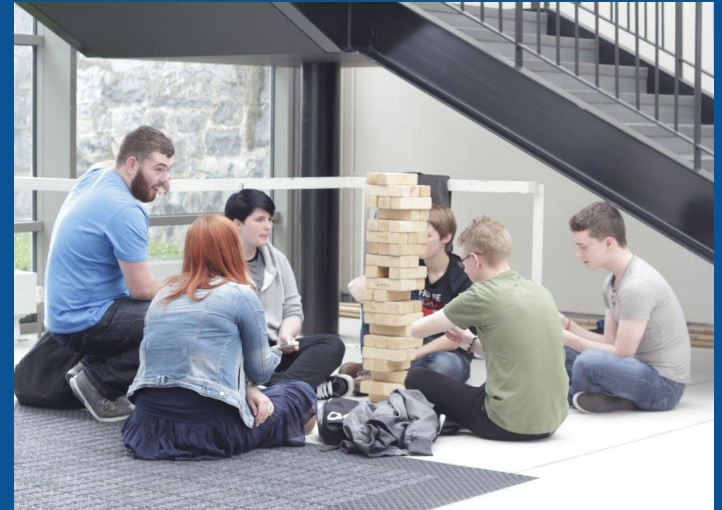


Year	Deciding Factor				
	1	2	3	4	5
2024	42%	17%	17%	13%	11%
2023	51%	16%	16%	13%	5%
2022	48%	14%	16%	15%	7%
2021	45%	16%	18%	15%	6%

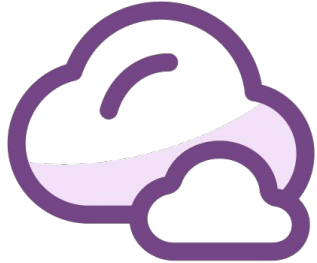
It significantly influenced 221 committee members (24%) who chose 4 & 5 and for 98 students it was the deciding factor!

These 98 student are on 60 different society committees and 20 of them are academic societies.

What can Students learn as part of Societies?



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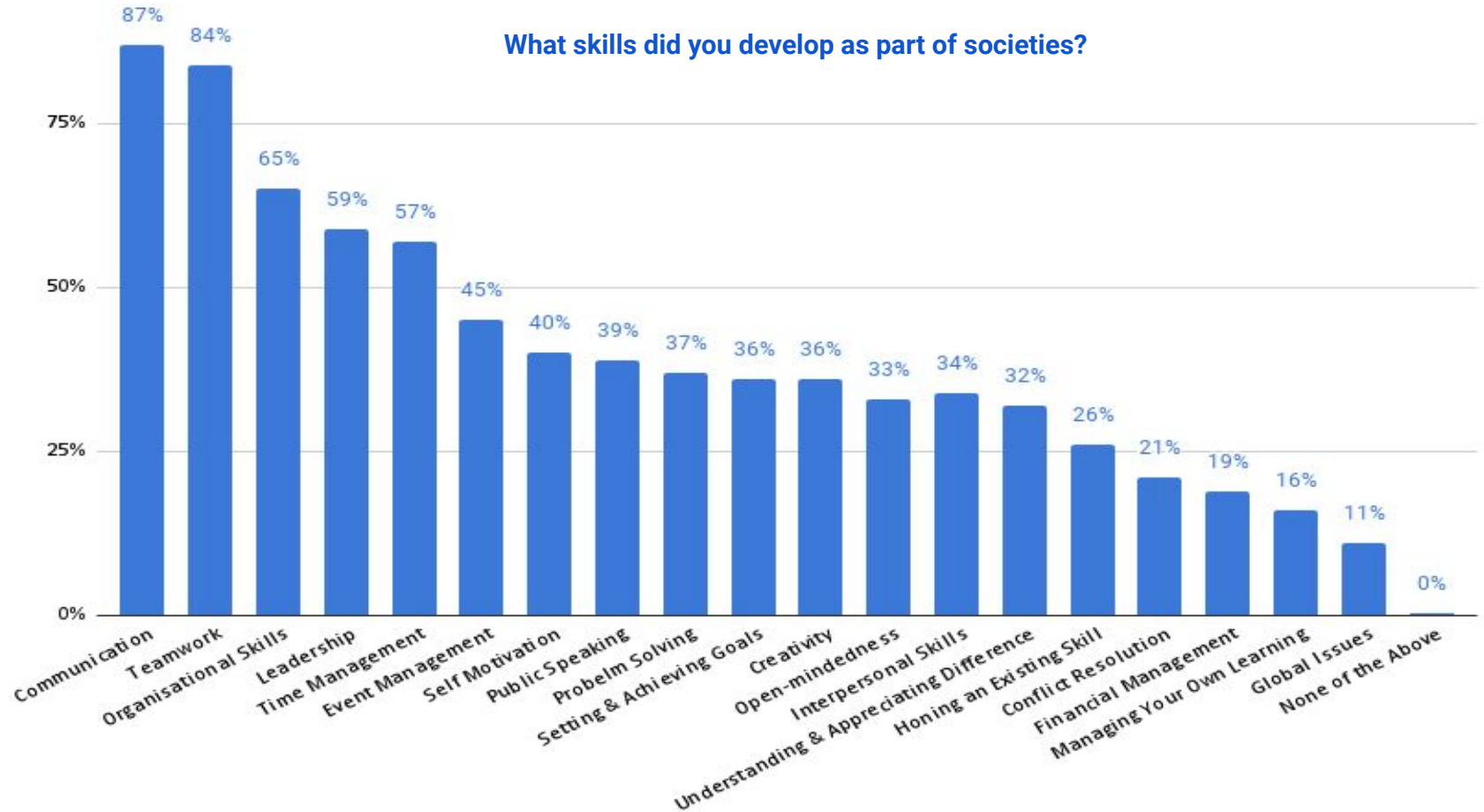


What can society committee members learn as part of Societies?

① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to activate this poll while presenting.

I learnt Skills for Life

What skills did you develop as part of societies?



I learnt Skills for Life

What skills did you develop as part of societies?

87% Communication

84% TeamWork

65% Organisational skills

59% Leadership Skills

57% Time Management

45% Event management

40% Self Motivation

39% Public Speaking

37% Problem Solving 36%

Creativity

36% Setting & Achieving Goals

34% Interpersonal Skills

33% Open-Mindedness

32% Understanding & appreciating
difference

26% Honing and existing Skill

21% Conflict Resolution

19% Financial Management

16% Managing your own learning

11% Global Issues

0.40% Learnt none of the skills!

What the committee members had to say

This year was my first year in the committee as well as my first year as a university student. Being a committee member has further **enhanced my skills** outside of being a committee member. Having skills in **leadership** and **communication** allowed to **express my opinions** during meetings and also **take charge** during events,

Society Secretary

Throughout the year, I believe I have made significant strides in fostering **empowerment** within the society. By actively encouraging initiative, promoting inclusivity, **facilitating skill development**, fostering collaboration, and providing leadership opportunities, I have witnessed a positive shift in the **confidence and engagement** of our members. This has contributed to a more **dynamic and cohesive society** where **everyone feels empowered to contribute and lead**.

Society Auditor

I believe my activities as a committee member and specifically as a treasurer, strongly improved my **communication and fairness** skills. Besides this, having a **great year** with a lot of fabulous events, **meeting wonderful people empowered my motivation** to keep going on this **amazing journey**.

Society Treasurer

Communication was something I was never good at, but being part of the committee has helped me improve it greatly as **I was able to make decisions**, have my **opinion be heard** and **work together** with everyone.

Society ACM

What do societies need to excel?

What Support Structures?

Best Practice:

- ❑ Dedicated Staff
- ❑ Out of hours, evening and weekend support.



Institution	Society full time staff or equivalent part-time
DCU	3
Mary I	2
Maynooth University	2.5
MTU Cork	3
MTU Kerry	1
RCSI	1
TU Dublin	5
TUS Midlands	1
UCC	2
UL	2
University of Galway	5.5

How they are governed?

- ❑ Managed by Student Services & or Students' Union
- ❑ Student Led
- ❑ Democratically elected committees elected each year
- ❑ Subject to their own Constitution

Of the 10 colleges surveyed

- 7 managed by Student Services/Institution
- 2 Students Union
- 1 Student Services/Institution & Students Union



Recruitment - Getting members!

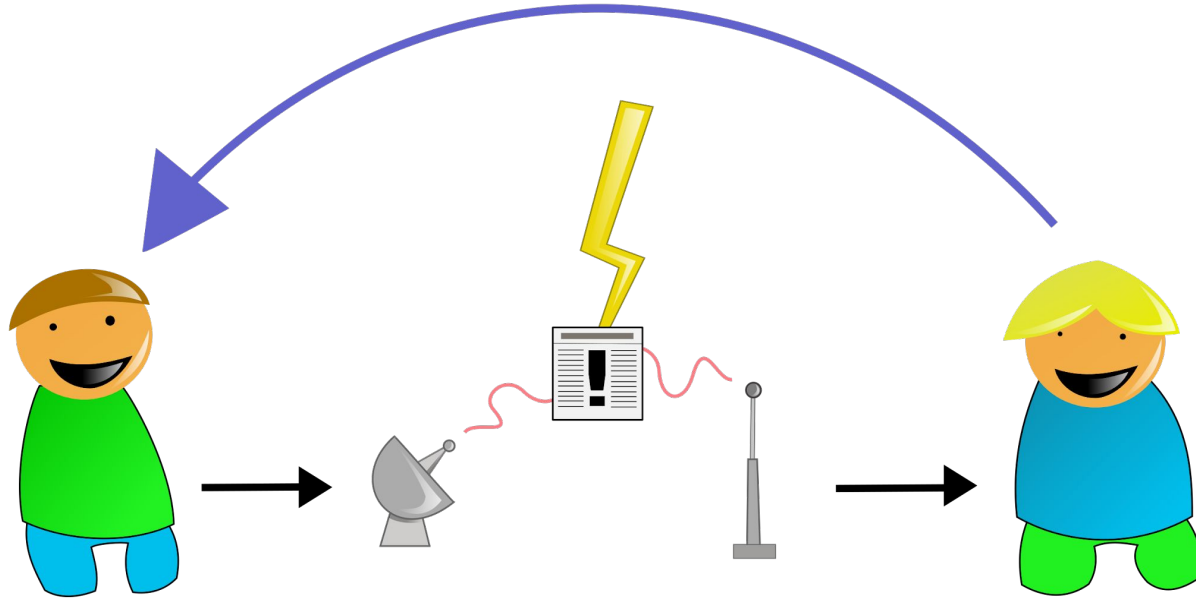
- Societies Days
- Join at Events
- Join online

Communication with Members

- Social media
- Email
- Text
- WhatsApp
- Website
- Events calendar
- Newsletter
- Posters
- Signage
- College marketing opportunities
- Info Desk/Office
- Online platforms - i.e. Discord



What the societies said worked for them



Societies Communicating with Members & Public

We were able to successfully communicate with our members

No: 1	2	3	4	Yes: 5
0%	1%	4%	32%	63%

95%

We were able to successfully communicate with the public

No: 1	2	3	4	Yes: 5
1%	2%	15%	37%	46%

83%



Societies Communicating with Members & Public

Top 10 methods 2024/2023

90% / 81% Announce emails to members

71% / 72% Instagram

46% / 49% Social media

38% / 42% Societies Day/Fairs

37% / 34% Societies Dashboard

31% / 33% Societies Calendar

13% / 12% What's Happening Guide

11% / 11% Discord

8% / 7% Societies own website

8% / 11% Tik Tok

Email Announcements	Instagram	Posts on Social Media	Societies Day or Societies Fair
90%	71%	46%	38%
Societies Dashboard	Societies Calendar	What's Happening Guide	Discord
37%	31%	13%	11%
The Society's own website	TikTok	Articles/posts on main University website	Local media (newspapers, radio etc)
8%	8%	5%	5%
Facebook	Twitter	Articles/posts on main Societies' website	Facebook groups
5%	5%	4%	3%
Linkedin	Snapchat	National media (newspapers, radio etc)	
3%	3%	1%	

Communication from the Societies Office

Top 10 methods

2024/2023

81% / 84% Email to student email address

59% / 57% Calling to the Office

51% / 49% Instagram

35% / 35% Societies Newsletter

34% / 40% announce emails to society email

31% / 37% University all student email

30% / 25% What's Happening Guide

28% / 31% Committee Dashboard

18% / 27% Socs Website

11% / 11% Texts

Direct email	SocsBox Office	Instagram	Socs Info Newsletter
81%	59%	51%	35%
Societies announce emails	University all student email	What's Happening Guide (newsletter)	Committee Dashboard
34%	31%	30%	28%
Societies Website	Texts	TikTok	Twitter
18%	11%	6%	4%
Discord	Facebook	Linkedin	Snapchat
4%	2%	2%	2%



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Societies Case Study

University of Galway Governance Model?



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- ❑ Managed by Student Services

Societies officer reports to Director of Student Services & Dean of Students

- ❑ Student Led

- ❑ USCG Overseeing Committee (9 students & 9 staff)

7 Students elected to represent the 7 constituencies,

1 Students Union representative, 1 BICS representative

1 staff Chairperson elected from the staff reps

4 Staff to represent the 4 colleges, 2 non academic reps, 1 Chaplaincy rep, 1 Buildings and Estates rep, Director of Student Services.

- ❑ Democratically elected committees elected each year

- ❑ Constitution

What Policies are needed?



What University/College Policies are relevant?

- Student conduct
- Social Media
- Postering/Advertising
- Alcohol/Drug
- Insurance
- Financial management/accountability

Can you develop your own policies/protocols - how are they approved?

- Society Recognition
- Electing a committee
- Sub-committees
- Respect Charter
- Affiliation to external groups
- Complaints process
- Authorised Absence
- Equipment Protocol
- Health & Safety

How is governance implemented?



What funding do they need?



Schedule of Allowances

- Funds that supports activities that promotes the aims of the society
- Funding to encourage regular events
- Capital Funding to purchase appropriate equipment
- Committee bonding
- Hosting large events ie conferences, intervarsities
- Workshop teachers
- Welcoming Guest Speakers
- Travel within Ireland and abroad
- Conference & Intersarsity Attending
- Competition Entry fees
- Nights out and social opportunities
- Screening licence
- Hall hire

University of Galway To date this year income	
Society Grants	€168,780
Sponsorship	€63,100
Ecommerce/Fundraising	€432,035
Charity Fundraising:	€49,667

In University of Galway we have a schedule of allowances which allows fully recognised society to get funding based on activities in any given year. New Societies have 12 months on a maximum of €500.

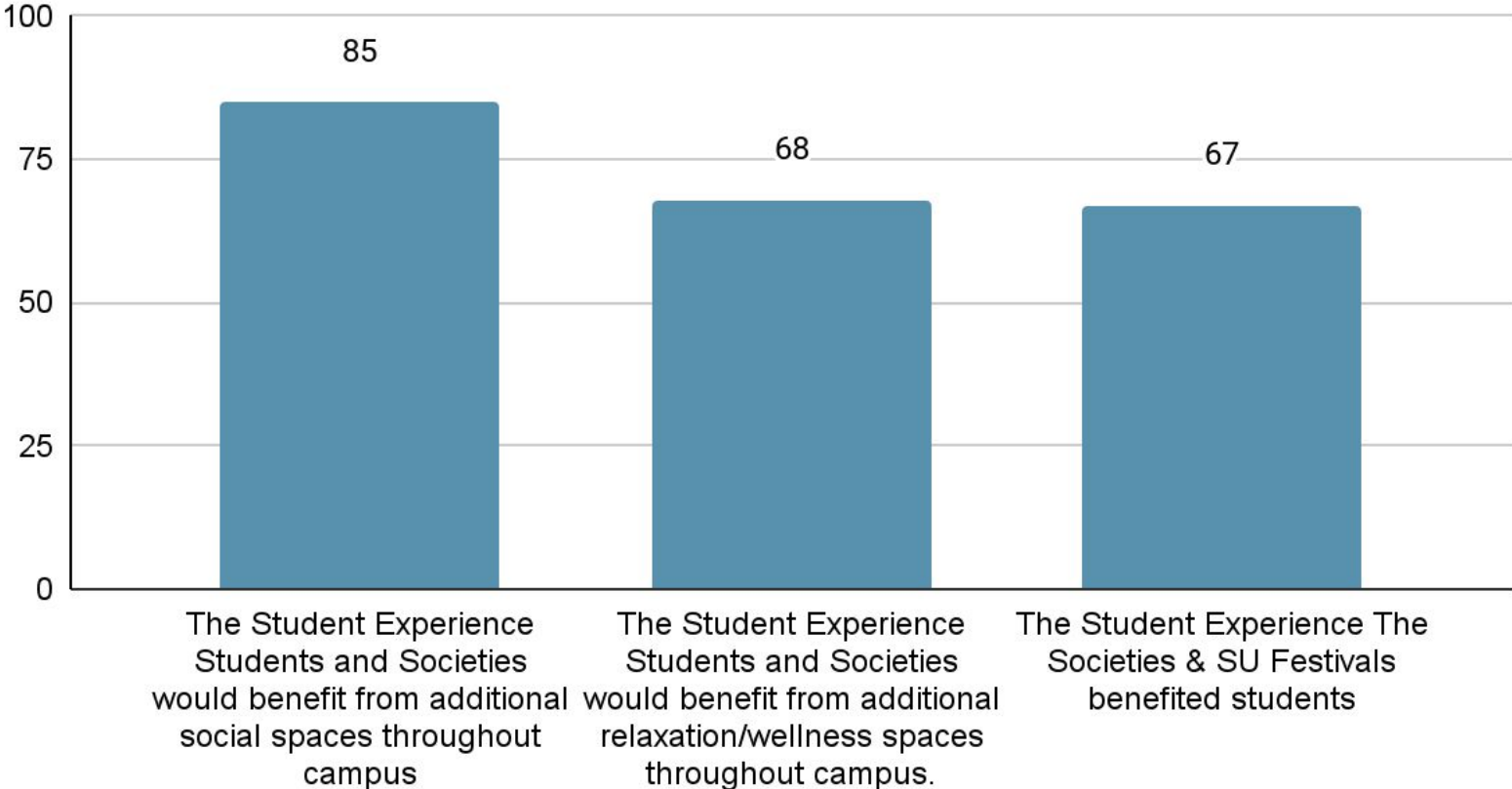
- *Top Grant this year for one society €21,000, majority between €1000 - €5,500. Some Societies society do not require any funding.*
- *Societies have their own bank accounts which are set up with a central bank account, we approve payment and payees.*
- *All income and expenditure is entered into the societies dashboard and receipts uploaded.*
- *Societies carry over balances from the previous year in their bank accounts.*

What facilities do they need?



- Ability to book Rooms for activities
- Specific spaces for dance with mirrors, performances, yoga, photography, art room, set building space, music rooms etc
- Communal space for interacting/ Common room
- Equipment - bespoke equipment suitable to their needs.
- Computers
- Printing
- Storage - never enough
- Kitchen, access to hot water and tea making
- Receiving and sending post
- Bank Accounts
- Emails
- Ticket selling

Improving the student experience



Societies Online Management Platform?

University of Galway Societies Dashboard

- Signing up members
- Creating membership groups
- Committee information & archiving
- Events Calendar
- Attendance taking
- Signing up for events
- Training modules
- Constitutions
- Posters
- Gallery
- Help content
- Surveys/Questionnaires
- Email
- SMS
- Website profile
- Social media links
- Safety Statements
- Room Booking
- Equipment booking
- Managing Finance
- Online webstore
- Document storage
- Archives/Reports
- Leadership
- Awards

This is paired with a student portal, YourSpace, for all extracurricular activities: Volunteering, Clubs, SU, (class reps, elections, grinds, second hand books) Mentoring, Peer assisted learning, Awards, E-modules, Plus personalised calendar, notifications and personal data management.

In Person Training

Auditors/Vice Auditors
 Events
 Health & Safety
 Secretaries
 Treasurers
 PRO
 OCM/ACM
 Leadership Award
 Society Awards & BICS
 ALIVE & Digital Badges
 Society Forum
 Super Soc Jamboree

Training Timetable September 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Friday
Sept	11th	12th	13st	14th	
6.30pm - 7.45pm	Societies Forum Q & A	Auditors/Vice Auditors	Events	Secretary Treasurers 6pm - 9pm	Orientation 16th & 17th
8.00pm - 9.15pm		Health & Safety		PRO	
			20th	Thur 21st	
		Socs Day 2	Treasurers 1pm - 3pm	8) Super Soc Jamboree 7pm - 9pm	
Sept	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th
6.30pm - 7.45pm	PRO	Health & Safety	Secretary	OCM & ACMS	
8.00pm - 9.15pm	Auditors, Vice Auditor	Events			
		Treasurers 2pm - 4pm			Treasurers / 12pm - 2pm
Oct	3rd	4th	5th	6th	6th
6.30pm - 7.45pm	Society Leadership	ALIVE Awards/Digital Badges			Auditors Away Day Wildlands Moycullen Times to be Confirmed
8.00pm - 9.15pm	Society Awards & BICS	OCM/ACM			

Auditors Away Day

Time Table Friday Oct 6th

9.30am Breakfast in the Hub tea/coffee pastries.

10am Bus

10.30am Group exercise 'Why my society exists'

We will also explore what your society is all about, why you exist, so be sure to have your mission statement, aims and charter done with your committee so you are prepared!

12.00pm Activity choose from ninja course, disc golf or marshmallow & spaghetti challenge

1.10pm Lunch

2pm 'EDI Group Intelligence exercise'

We will be exploring how the University can become a more inclusive place embodying the principles of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. We will be using the Collective Intelligence method which means that we want to hear your ideas.

3.30pm presentation from EDI Officer

4pm activity: Wall Climbing, Zip line, Celtic Challenge Escape Room

5.30pm depart

62 Attended

49 societies represented



Training E-Modules

Committee members must attend in person training or complete 2 modules: *Societies How they work* and the one relevant to their role. They can complete as many as they like.


They can see in the dashboard when they have completed the required training

5671 completed to date



 University of Galway
Societies Office

Society Events, Health & Safety


 Course · 14 Lessons

Updated at Sep 19, 2023

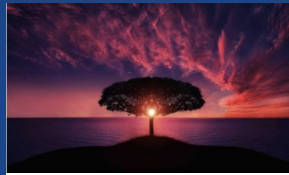


 University of Galway
Societies Office

Public Relations Society Training

 Course · 16 Lessons

Updated at Sep 7, 2023



 University of Galway
Societies Office

**Leadership for Success:
The role of the Auditor
& Vice-Auditor**

 Course · 12 Lessons

Updated at Sep 6, 2023

E-module title	Number completed
Societies: How they work, Mandatory Module	1519
Society Teamwork OCM/ACM	704
Auditors/Vice Auditors Leadership & Chairing Skills	451
Conflict Resolution	326
Public Relations Training	316
Organising Events and Health & Safety	298
Secretary Training	296
Societies money how it works	274
How to use the Society Dashboard	255
Your society profile: intro to creating a public image	242
Treasurers Managing Your Finances	239
Discord	234
COVID-19 student training for committee members 2021	215
Guide to Sponsorship fundraising	130
Socs online: Maximising your virtual world	69
Disability Awareness: Creating an inclusive Society	54
Extra Curricular opportunities at University of Galway & Societies!	49

Rewards

- Super Soc
- President's Award - ALIVE
- Society Leadership
- Society Digital Badge
- Employability Award
- Society Awards
- BICS Awards



Super Soc By October 31st

- 4 committee members
- 100 members
- All committee members complete training
- Complete Leadership Questions Society: goals, mission and society charter.
- Committee members goals and choose leadership skill to develop
- Have up to date constitution
- Have Safety Statement
- 2 events on calendar
- Attend Auditors Away Day

Reward: €20 per committee member
46 Societies Achieve it.

University of Galway Societies Leadership Programme

Leadership Award

Part of the ALIVE Cert (Presidents Award)

Society Eligibility Requires:

- Completing the 3 questions in the leadership section
'Mission and Aims & Charter'
- Having 4 committee members listed in your dashboard
- Having held at least 4 events this year
- Having 100 members registered with your society

Personal Eligibility Requires:

- Answering your first question and your end-of-year reflection in the leadership section in your dashboard.
- Completing the short survey in the leadership section
- Complete Committee Training
- Applying to do the ALIVE cert

The ALIVE Cert is on the academic transcript



Leadership Questions Committee Questions

Start of the Year

These 3 questions can only be filled in by the Auditor or Secretary with agreement of the committee.

Mission Statement

This is the general aim of the society and its broad aspirations, it should be general and encompass the essence of what the society is about.

Aims Objectives & Goals

This should be a list of actual things you hope to achieve this year, discuss with the committee, what is realistically achievable, when would you hope to achieve it by and how will you know you have achieved it.

[See help module here](#) (scan QR)



Leadership Questions Committee Questions

Society Charter

The Charter is an agreement by a group of people of how they will behave and how they wish to be treated. It establishes the specific rules of guidance by which the society committee is to function. What are each persons rights and responsibilities. [See more information here](#) (Scan QR) and tips on how to create your society charter. Note you do not need to answer each of the questions below they should prompt you to create your list for your Charter.

Your charter should include:

- What are your teams norms?
- How the society will conduct its business,
- How everyone is to be treated,
- What is expected of each member,
- How you will reach decisions
- How will you have fun?
- The code of conduct expected from each member
- any sanctions if agreements are breached.



This can change each year and must be agreed by each member, this should be read out before any elections at an AGM or EGM and then discussed with the newly elected committee and amended as agreed.

The University is committed to the value of respect and this is a great place to start with a charter, you have heard it all before: treat others as you would like to be treated, create an atmosphere where each member feels valued, bullying of any form should not be tolerated, no one should ever feel discriminated against, do not create inner cliques or set up factions.

Leadership Questions Committee Questions

End of Year

1) **Reflecting on your mission statement how did your society do this year?**

2) **Did your society achieve any of its aims, objectives and goals?**

3) **Reflection on your Society Charter**

- Did your society refer to your charter during the year to help with conflicts?
- Did any part of your charter work for you
- What advice would you give next years committee regarding creating a charter.

4) **What would you regard as your society's greatest success?**

5) **What would you regard as your society's greatest challenge?**

Leadership Questions: Committee Members Individual

Start of the year

Your Hopes & Aspirations,

what you hope to learn as part of the society, which you want to share with your committee.

Leadership Skills

What Leadership Skill would you like to further develop this year. You can pick just one or more that you feel working with the society this year will help you develop. You do not need to be in what you consider a 'leadership role' everyone can exhibit leadership qualities. Choose from the following leadership skills explained at [this link](#)

1) Communication, 2) Empowerment
3) Honesty & Respect 4) Motivation 5)
Creativity 6) Fairness 7) Assertiveness 8) Positivity.



You can also choose a different leadership skill, if you do please explain what it means to you below.

End of the year

End of Year Reflection

Look at the society goals you and the society set, (and your hopes and aspirations) think about what you learnt and the triumphs and challenges and reflect on them.

Leadership Skill

1. What leadership skill did you choose to develop this year as part of the society?
2. Do you believe you have improved this skill?
3. What other skills did you develop this year that you believe will make you a better leader?

University of Galway Societies Leadership Programme

Digital Badge

All the requirements for the Leadership Cert

Plus

Society Eligibility Requires:

Completing the society end of year report

Personal Eligibility Requires:

Completing the committee members end of year leadership questions.

This forms part of the new digital skills passport being developed by the university



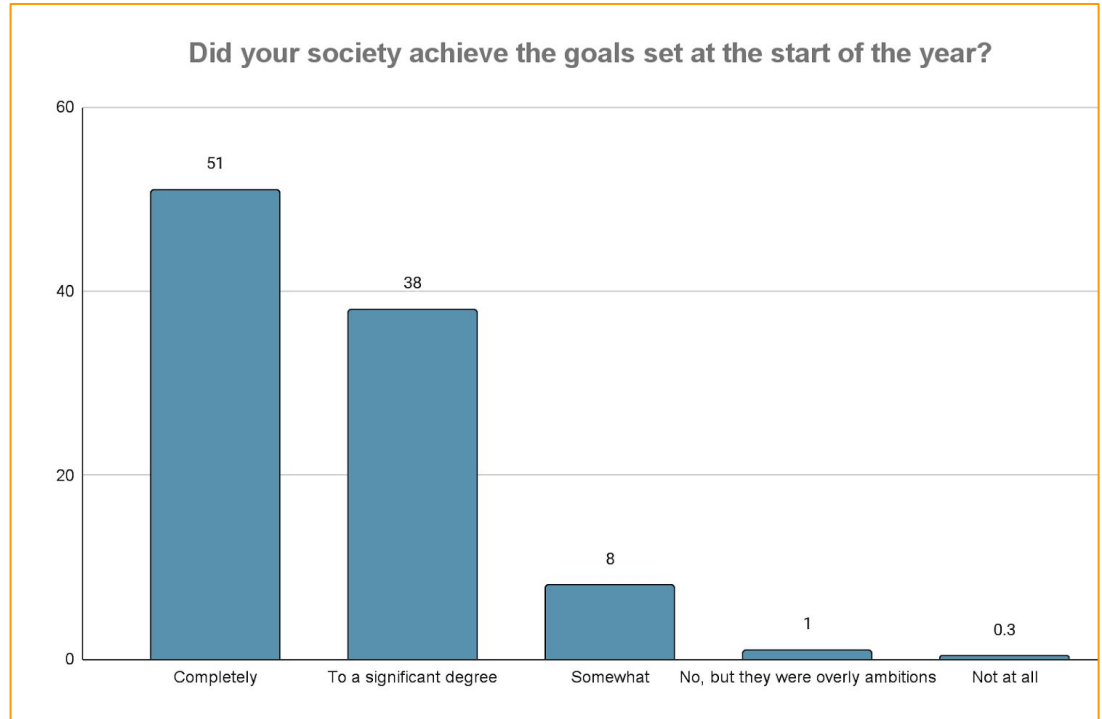
448 given in 2023

Achieving Society Collective Goals

*939 committee members
completed the survey to date.*

89%

believe their society goals
had been completely or to
a significant degree
achieved



What the student had to say about achieving goals

Yes, we believe our efforts allowed students to **further their artistic journeys** and improve their creative sense. Alongside this we managed to **expose our members to other people's works**, which in turn encouraged them to continue **appreciating the artistic process as a whole**.

We successfully held many **collaborations with other societies** and this helped us to increase **diversity and inclusion**. We also successfully donated to **charities** and **increased the number of active members** we had.

We were able to meet many of our goals and objectives, including **positive ecological impacts** (beach cleans and participating in climate action week), **increase of public outreach** (more active on social media), helping fund charities and **hosting a unique event** (seal rescue ireland charity pub quiz).

The society **achieved all of its aims, objectives, and goals this year by diversifying its approaches**. This was achieved by including the SU, SocsBox, staff, student body, and larger Galway community in the organisation and promotion of various events.

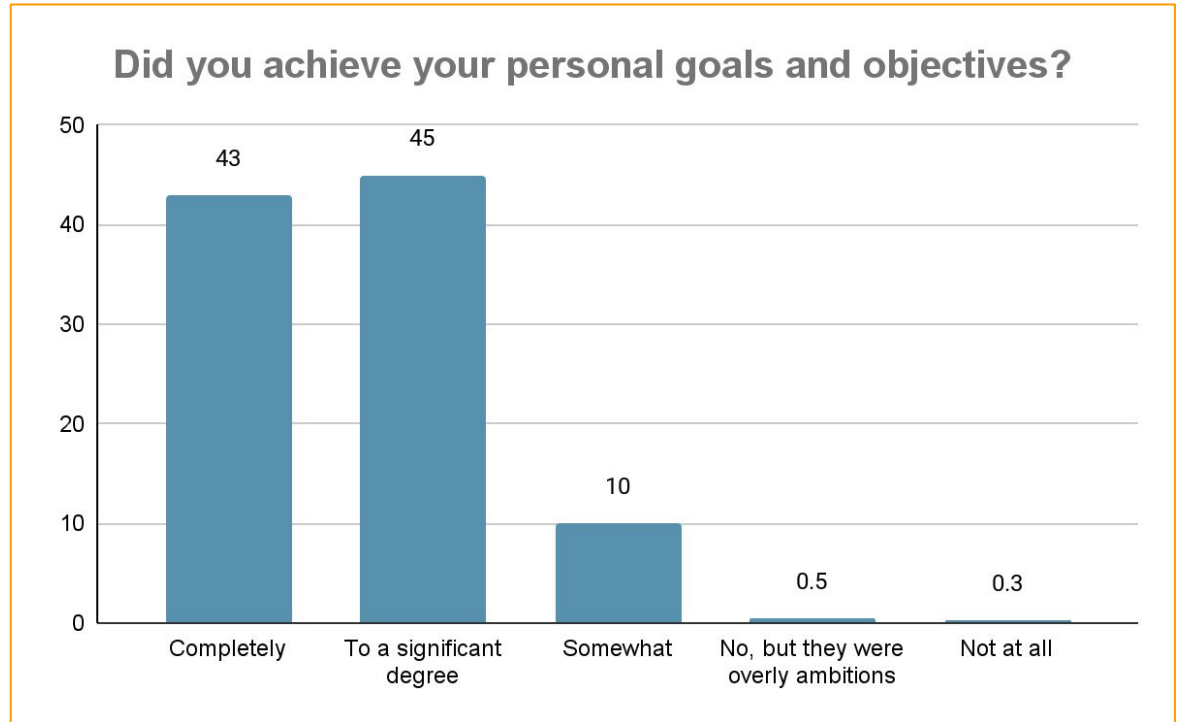
Through organising **fun and interesting events**, we were able to **support those interested in these fields throughout the college**, while also providing **opportunities for people within the group to make friends**.

Achieving Personal Goals

88%

felt they had either
completely or to a
significant degree
Achieved their
personal goals

Did you achieve your personal goals and objectives?



What the student had to say about their personal goals

This year, I made a conscious decision to focus on developing the **leadership skills of honesty and respect**. I committed myself to **upholding these values** by adhering to **ethical principles** and always considering the impact of my decisions on the members of our society. A key goal was to **create a safe and inclusive space where every member felt heard and treated fairly**. I am proud to say that I successfully achieved these objectives.

Society Auditor

I had a great time, and being a part of societies made my studies at this university more fun and helped me **integrate and understand culture better** as an international master's student.

Society Postgrad Representative

I have learned a lot about how societies as a whole and how each individual role works! I think I succeeded in my goals, **developing many new skills** and helping run the society.

Society OCM

I think I succeeded in my goals for the year and made a lot of **great friends** I can rely on. I also think I have **grown in terms of my leadership and teamwork abilities**.

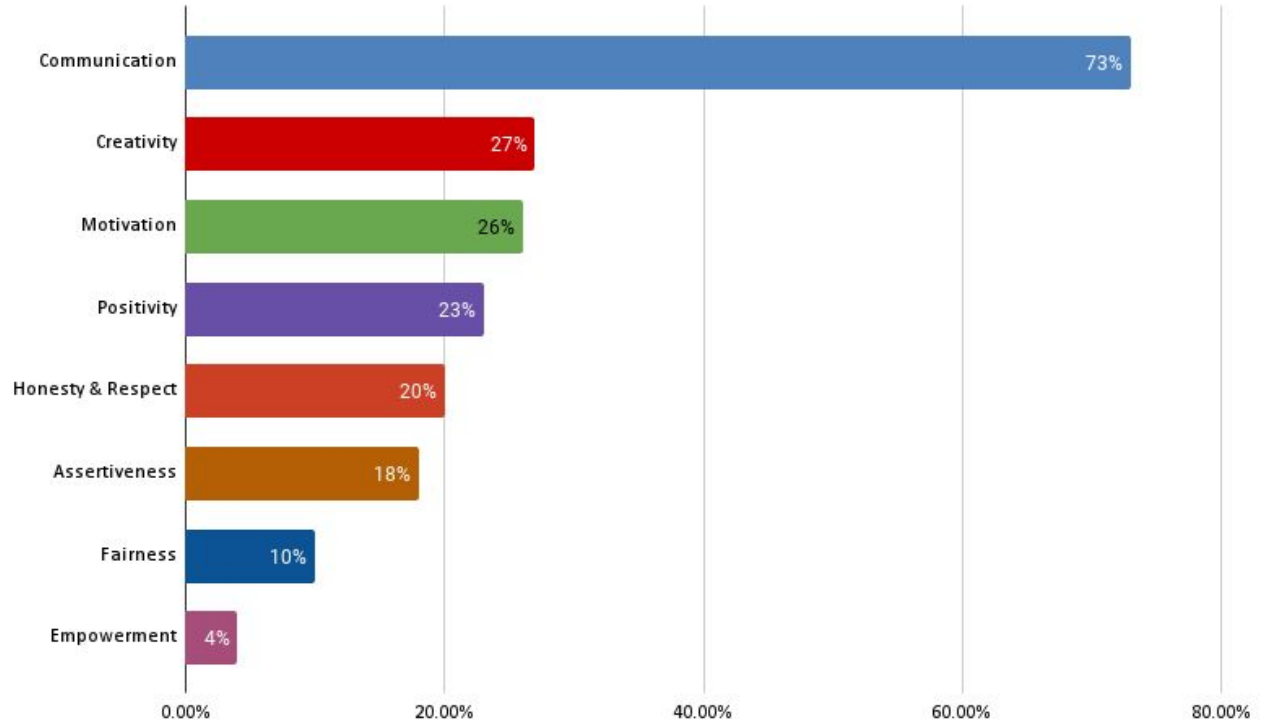
Society vice Auditor

I feel that my secretarial work in this committee has given me an excuse to **work hard for the betterment of other people** and has thus made me feel more **motivated** in daily life. Writing emails to society members also helped me build my **communication and creativity skills** in addition to this.

Society Secretary

The Leadership Skills I chose

This graph refers to the 8 society leadership skills chosen as part of the society leadership award, with communication coming out on top at 73%



The skills were workshoped and chosen at the Auditor's Away day in 2022

They Chose

73% Communication

27% Creativity

26% Motivation

23% Positivity

20% Honesty & Integrity

18% Assertiveness

10% Fairness

4% empowerment

Grad Ireland Skills Employers Want

Soft skills

- Communication
- Confidence
- Analytical skills
- Motivation
- Independent working

Hard skills

- Fluency in a foreign language
- Leadership skills
- Writing skills
- Project management
- Numeracy skills

What the committee members had to say about the leadership skills

As a secretary I was hoping to develop my **communication, management, creativity** and **collaborative** skills. I should admit that this position brought up so many **opportunities** for me that helped me to **challenge myself**, know myself better and **become a better version of me**.

Society Secretary

I developed **assertiveness**, as I needed to be **firm but fair** in our committee meetings, without creating animosity if things were not going according to plan.

Society Auditor

Motivational skills can be considered a key aspect of personal management, and it's an area where I've **surpassed my own expectations**. Initially, my aim was modest: to navigate daily work placement **without feeling overwhelmed**. However, as I immersed myself in the adult working environment and became more involved with the society, **I underwent a significant transformation**. I became more **self-reliant**, honed my **organisational skills**, and cultivated a heightened sense of **professionalism**. These experiences have not only expanded my capabilities but have also **equipped me with valuable skills that I can apply across various aspects of my life**.

Society OCM

I chose to develop the skill of **Positivity** this year as part of my role on the society committee.

I strongly believe I have improved this skill immensely in my role. During the first couple of weeks of the semester, when trying to recruit people, **instead of dwelling on the problems or setbacks**, such as the lack of engagement, I focused on **finding solutions** and **taking proactive steps to address the challenges**. I adopted a **problem-solving mindset** that looked for **opportunities and lessons** in every situation, which I think greatly helped in pulling off the showcase in the end.

New Members Liaison Officer

What the societies had to say about their usefulness of their Charter

Our society's charter has been **vital in guiding our activities and resolving conflicts** this year. We regularly referred to it when disputes arose, using its principles of **inclusivity and collaboration** to find solutions that honored our shared values. One standout aspect of our charter was its emphasis on creating a **welcoming and inclusive environment**, which helped attract diverse members and **foster a sense of belonging**.

For next year's committee, I advise ensuring the charter **reflects our core values and involving members in its creation**. It should be **flexible to adapt as the society evolves**, prioritizing inclusivity, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing to continue **fostering a vibrant community**.

Throughout the year, our society frequently referred to our charter as a **guiding framework for resolving conflicts** and ensuring smooth operations. **The emphasis on diversity, respect, and inclusivity outlined in the charter helped foster a positive and supportive environment**. Specifically, the sections outlining team norms, treatment of members, decision-making processes, and expectations of members were particularly effective in guiding our interactions and behavior.

Advice for Next Year's Committee: When creating a charter for next year's committee, it's essential to **involve input from all members to ensure it reflects the values and expectations of the entire society**. Additionally, clearly defining processes for decision-making, conflict resolution, and member expectations will contribute to the smooth functioning of the society. Regularly revisiting and reinforcing the charter throughout the year can help maintain adherence to its principles and values, contributing to a cohesive and successful society.

What the societies had to say about their usefulness of their Charter

When we look back on our Society Charter, we can see how it was a fundamental document that guided our operations and promoted an inclusive. Although there were no major disputes that required us to specifically refer to the charter, **its tenets of inclusivity, respect, and open communication influenced all of our interactions and decision-making processes over the course of the year.**

We found that the charter's emphasis on **providing equal opportunity for all members to actively participate and offer their abilities was particularly effective.** This idea promoted a sense of ownership and belonging among participants, which boosted participation and teamwork in social events.

In terms of creating a charter, I would advise the committee for the following year to make sure that **expectations, processes, and consequences are all set out clearly and precisely.** To ensure consistent implementation of the charter and to avoid misunderstandings, phrases should be defined clearly along with the repercussions that go along with them. Furthermore, getting member feedback early on in the charter-writing process helps **increase support and a sense of ownership for the document, which will improve its ability to effectively direct the society's activities.**

What the societies had to say about their usefulness of their Charter

The charter was very useful. We were able to meet every Monday to discuss the **plan and communicate what needs to be done**. additionally, everyone was treated with kindness and respect. That said, the society used and followed the charter every week.

There was no conflicts in the group, but I would advise the next year committee members to follow the charter as it gives everyone in the committee a **common ground to follow**.

Our Charter helped us to remember that **collaboration and respect are integral to the success of a society**. We **delegated tasks effectively** and reached all decisions by consensus.

Inclusivity, intersectionality and empowerment were at the core of all of our actions when providing social, creative, and activist events for our members.

This year, we were lucky and grateful not to have to deal with any conflict in our committee. However, we did refer to our charter, for example in discussing in committee members about how to deal with the absenteeism of some members of our committee.

Having fun as committee members was definitely helpful to our society. We had fun events together 3 times this year, and our visit to Dangan Nursery and Garden Centre definitely helped in helping us to bind and also connect with new members.

When creating a society charter, we would advise members to **emphasise having fun**, because this is not only the best part of being in a society, but Committee members are much **more likely to be motivated, encouraged and inspired** to contribute to the work of the committee, thereby minimising problems.

What the societies had to say about their usefulness of their Charter

Reflecting on our Society Charter, it served as a **guiding light throughout the year, especially during conflicts**. The norms outlined in our charter, emphasizing equal respect and the value of each member's contribution, proved instrumental in resolving disagreements and fostering a harmonious environment within the society.

One aspect that particularly stood out was the **emphasis on inclusivity and enthusiasm towards all contributions**, which significantly enriched our weekly committee meetings and subsequent events. **Encouraging active participation and positive attitudes among members ensured a vibrant and collaborative atmosphere, ultimately enhancing our society's overall effectiveness.**

Looking ahead, my advice to next year's committee would be to carefully consider each component of the charter during its creation. It's essential to ensure that the charter **reflects the values and goals of the society** accurately while **providing clear guidelines for behavior and decision-making**. Additionally, fostering a sense of **enjoyment and camaraderie**, as emphasized in our charter through committee bonding and social events, should remain a priority to sustain member engagement and satisfaction. Lastly, maintaining **consistency in enforcing rules** and addressing any breaches in accordance with the constitution will uphold the integrity and credibility of the society.



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Source Material [Respect charter](#)

Scan to View Societies
End of Year Reports



Link:

socs.universityofgalway.ie/end-of-year-reports



Scan to View Societies
Leadership Report 2024
Survey Results [Here](#)



Scan to view
Societies Complaints
Process [here](#)

Board of Irish college Societies



Website: bics.ie

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Maynooth University
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TU Dublin (City)
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BICS - New initiatives



The Board of Irish College Societies is exploring new ways to support societies and society administrators in all institutions to ensure a good standard of service and support across the institutions.

Utilising existing platforms, benchmarking against the best on offer and working with our colleagues in other student facing supports to ensure that an easy to use, effective, intuitive and student friendly platform is created.

Synergy with StudentVolunteer.ie for holistic student journey and seamless HEI Admin experience.



BICS - Rewarding Excellence



BICS Awards

Application Process Simplification



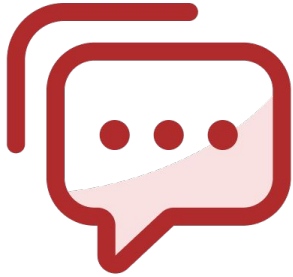
App	Institution level/ Campus level	Organization level (soc)
Public Profile / Website	Landing Page: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pick campus ● Calendar, ● Fixed Menu ● Social media links ● Contact details ● News/Info ● Posters ● Organizations in profile Includes campuses All organisation	Filter option for searching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email ● Logo ● Banner image ● Description, Meeting times etc ● Committee members ● Social media links ● Upcoming events ● Posters ● Join now button ● Aims & objectives per constitution
Calendar/ attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add events ● Check attendance ● link events to awards ● Calendar with all campuses, all organisations for main page. ● Can upload data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Posting you event ● Event signup ● Checking people in at events/attendance ● Event list ● If an attendee is not a member can join at attendance.
Membership	All organisation committees members All student members	Add and remove members, members can sign in on line as well as in person. Can create custom forms. Can confirm membership payment. <i>Optional extra can create payments.</i>
Committees	Current Incoming and outgoing committees positions Roll over to new committee each year Committee access levels	Committee details and previous lists.

App	Institution level	Organisation level (soc)
File-vault	Can upload docs to share urls and for archiving docs	Can upload docs to share urls and for archiving docs
End of year report	Can create one end of year report and see stats created	Pulls in all data can be viewed on profile
Constitution	Approve constitutions	Builds and tracks changes for approval and is displayed on the organisations profile.
Safety Statement	Can create, approve and edit organisations statements	Can create from templates and personalise
Email	Can email al committees, filtered by organizations and other filters	Email all members Emil groups they create or who attended events.Filers etc. If an attendee is not a member can join at attendance.
Surveys	Can create surveys/polls to produce stats	
Help section	Can create help pages, upload videos etc	
Elearning	Can upload articulate modules	Can track completion of modules to put towards awards.
BICS & Campus Awards	Form builder and can pull in data and set word count	Can apply for awards



Q&A

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Audience Q&A Session

- ① Click **Present with Slido** or install our [Chrome extension](#) to show live Q&A while presenting.

Riona Hughes



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