

THE BELONGING PROJECT

**UCD School of Education and School of Philosophy,
in collaboration with NCAD Bureau+**

OPEN CALL FOR WRITER & POETS

Entries Open:
01.12.22

Submission Deadline:
03.02.23

belonging.ie

UCD School of Education and School of Philosophy, in collaboration with NCAD Bureau+, invites short written submissions on the theme of belonging to the university from all members of the UCD/NCAD community.

We invite submissions in any written form, from short stories to poetry to essays. Autobiographical reflections and interviews are all welcome. Tell us [or describe?] when, how, or where you had a sense of belonging.

Selected submissions will be paired with students from NCAD's Bureau+, who will develop creative (design, illustration and/or motion picture) responses inspired by the writers words. This will all culminate in an in-person art exhibition and seminar in Spring 2023.

The maximum word count for submissions is 1,200.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG?

From clubs and societies to year groups and student unions, student life has always been conceptualised as a time of togetherness, affiliation, connection, and kinship. The university in these senses, is much more than an abstract ideal. It is a concrete space where the energy of real-life places and rituals is paramount. Indeed, the sense that a person is doing something with others, as part of a broader experience that stretches and unites across time and space, has always been fundamental to the university as an institution: from rituals of arrival (orientation and welcoming events) and departure (graduation ceremonies) to university mascots, mottos, and generational folklore.

The COVID-19 pandemic sundered us from this space - from the energy, connections and rituals of university life. Moreover, the subsequent cost-of-living and housing crisis has impacted profoundly the practical abilities of both staff and students to enjoy and flourish in campus life fully. These realities have left many feeling disconnected, disengaged and disenchanting with university life. Our aim is to reconnect with and rekindle a sense of what it means to belong so as to understand and cultivate belonging in the post-pandemic university. We do this in recognition of the centrality of belonging to human well-being and with a desire to foreground staff/ student voice and experience of this tacit but essential component of university life.

If you have any questions please contact emma.farrell@ucd.ie or any member of the team.

THE BELONGING TEAM

Dr Emma Farrell, UCD School of Education
Dr Áine Mahon, UCD School of Education
Dr Shane Bergin, UCD School of Education
Dr Lisa Foran, UCD School of Philosophy
Robert Farrelly, Post Studio



thoughtful **NCAD** bureau+