



# SeanadVoter.ie VótálaíSeanad.ie

## Seanad Éireann Higher Education Constituency FAQs

### General Questions

#### What is Seanad Éireann?

Seanad Éireann is the upper house of the Irish Parliament, the Oireachtas. The lower house is called Dáil Éireann. There are 60 members, called Senators. 11 Senators are nominated by the Taoiseach, 43 Senators are elected by panels representing vocational interests, and 6 Senators are elected by graduates from specific higher education institutions. Currently, in Seanad elections, the six "University" Senators are elected by two three-seat constituencies: the National University of Ireland (NUI) and the University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin/TCD). However, for Seanad elections held after 1 June 2025, these six Senators will be elected by the new Higher Education constituency.

#### What is the Higher Education constituency?

The Higher Education constituency is a new constituency for Seanad Éireann. The electors in this constituency will be able to elect six Senators to Seanad Éireann. The register of electors for this constituency is updated annually. It is managed by the Central Registration Authority (CRA) established under the Seanad Electoral (University Members) (Amendment) Act 2024.

#### What is SeanadVoter.ie?

SeanadVoter.ie is a website that enables users to apply to be added to the register of electors for the Higher Education constituency. It is administered by the National University of Ireland (NUI), which is the central registration authority for the Higher Education constituency. The team in NUI that carries out the functions of the central registration authority is called the SeanadVoter.ie team.

#### When are Seanad elections held?

Elections take place every five years or within 90 days once Dáil Éireann is dissolved. Elections for the 27th Seanad took place in January 2025.

#### How many Senators will be elected by the Higher Education constituency?

Six Senators will be elected by the Higher Education constituency.

#### When is the register published?

The first register for the Higher Education constituency was published on 1 April 2025. From 2026 onward, the register will be published on 1 June each year.

### **What information is on the register?**

The register is a public document. It includes the first names, surnames, current addresses, and ballot paper addresses of registered voters in the Higher Education constituency. It does not include PPS numbers, qualification details, or dates of birth.

### **I am on the Register of Electors for the Seanad Éireann Higher Education constituency. Do I need to reapply to be added to the Register in 2027?**

If you received an email from SeanadVoter.ie confirming that you were added to the 2025 or 2026 Register of Electors, then you do not need to reapply.

### **I voted in Seanad Éireann elections in January 2025. Do I need to register for the new constituency?**

Elections held after 31 May 2025 will be on the basis of a new Higher Education constituency and a new register. You must register for the new Seanad Éireann Higher Education constituency if you want to vote in elections in future. You will not be automatically registered for the new Higher Education constituency, even if you were on the NUI or Trinity College Dublin registers.

## **Registering for the Seanad Éireann Higher Education Constituency**

### **How do I register for the new Seanad Éireann Higher Education constituency?**

The easiest way to register is online at [www.SeanadVoter.ie](http://www.SeanadVoter.ie).

You can also download a paper copy of the application form on this website and submit it by post to: SeanadVoter.ie, PO Box 13784, Dublin 2, Ireland.

The deadline for applications is 26 February.

### **Am I eligible to register?**

You are eligible to register if you:

- Are an Irish citizen
- AND**
- Are 18 years or older
- AND**
- Hold a degree (not an honorary degree) from a designated institution.

### **What qualification counts as a degree?**

To be eligible to register, you must hold a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree from a designated institution.

Certificates, diplomas, higher diplomas, and honorary degrees cannot fulfil this requirement.

### **What are the designated institutions?**

To be eligible to apply, you must have received a degree from a designated institution. The "designated institutions" are the National University of Ireland, the University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin), and institutions that are designated under the Higher Education Authority Act 2022.

The definition includes institutions that have been dissolved and had their functions transferred to a designated institution.

There is a pathway within the HEA Act 2022 that will allow for the addition of institutions in the future subject to engagement with the Higher Education Authority. This is not within the SeanadVoter.ie remit.

A full list of designated institutions is available here – [www.SeanadVoter.ie](http://www.SeanadVoter.ie).

### **Is there a fee to register?**

No, registration is free.

### **What is the registration deadline?**

The deadline for applications to be included on the register is 26 February.

### **What personal information will be published on the register of electors?**

The register of electors will include the following details for everyone on the register:

- First name
- Surname
- Current address including Eircode/postcode.
- Address for ballot papers including Eircode/postcode.

### **I don't want my details to appear on the register. Can I apply to be an anonymous elector?**

Unfortunately, it is not possible to register as an anonymous elector for the Higher Education constituency, as there is no provision for this under the current legislation.

## **Application Process**

### **Why does the application form ask for my PPS number?**

Providing your PPS number (PPSN) will allow a basic check to help confirm your identity details and help to protect the integrity of the register. PPSNs will not appear on the register.

### **What documents do I need to upload with my application?**

You must upload evidence of citizenship, which can be a photo or scanned copy of your valid Irish passport or Certificate of Naturalisation. If you do not provide your PPS number, you must provide a photo or scanned copy of a completed Witness form.

### **What can I do if I can't provide my PPS number in my application?**

If you do not wish to or cannot provide your PPS number, you must submit a Witness form. This form must be completed and signed in the presence of a member of the Garda Síochána, a Notary/Notary Public, or a registered medical practitioner. This form is available at [SeanadVoter.ie](http://SeanadVoter.ie). Once completed, a photo or scanned copy can be included in your online application.

### **My application has been rejected, but I meet all the eligibility requirements. What happened?**

Please check the application details and document(s) you submitted and ensure that all information is correct and up to date. This may include formatting and content of fields such as date of birth or PPS number.

### **What can I do if I can't provide a valid Irish passport in my application?**

If you cannot provide a valid Irish passport or certificate of naturalisation in your application, please contact [applications@SeanadVoter.ie](mailto:applications@SeanadVoter.ie).

### **Can I upload my driving licence in my application?**

Please do not upload your driving licence in your application, as we cannot accept this as proof of citizenship.

If you cannot provide a valid Irish passport or certificate of naturalisation in your application, please contact [applications@SeanadVoter.ie](mailto:applications@SeanadVoter.ie).

### **The application form rejected my email address. What happened?**

Please check that you have not included an extra space, full stop, or other character at the end of your email address. This can be a problem, particularly if you copy and paste your email address.

## **Voting in the Higher Education Constituency**

### **Who will be able to vote in the Higher Education constituency?**

Registered voters, who are included on the published register of electors for the Higher Education constituency, will be able to vote in this constituency.

### **How will voting happen in the Higher Education constituency?**

If you are on the register, you will receive voting materials by post. These will be sent to the address for ballot papers that you provided in your application to register. These materials will include:

- A ballot paper
- An envelope for your completed ballot
- An envelope for sending your vote to the Returning Officer.

### **Can I vote if I live outside Ireland?**

Yes, you can vote by post from abroad. Your voting materials will be sent via post, so please ensure your address for ballot papers is up to date.

### **When will I receive my ballot paper?**

If you are on the register, you will receive your voting materials by post after an election is called.

## **Applicants Previously Registered to Vote in the University Constituencies**

### **I am already registered for the Trinity College Dublin Seanad Éireann constituency. Do I need to register for the Higher Education constituency?**

The Seanad Éireann elections that took place in January 2025 used the National University of Ireland (NUI) and the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) Seanad Éireann Registers of Electors published in June 2024.

Elections held after 31 May 2025 will be on the basis of a new Higher Education constituency and a new register. You must register for the new Seanad Éireann Higher Education constituency if you want to vote in elections in future.

### **I am already registered for the National University of Ireland Seanad Éireann constituency. Do I need to register for the Higher Education constituency?**

The Seanad Éireann elections that took place in January 2025 used the National University of Ireland (NUI) and the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) Seanad Éireann Registers of Electors published in June 2024.

Elections held after 31 May 2025 will be on the basis of a new Higher Education constituency and a new register. You must register for the new Seanad Éireann Higher Education constituency if you want to vote in elections in future.

### **What happens if there is a bye-election in the 27th Seanad?**

A bye-election is an election that is held when a vacancy in the membership of Seanad Éireann occurs due to the death, resignation, retirement or disqualification of a member. A bye-election will be held to fill the vacated seat.

If a member of the 27th Seanad, who was elected by the NUI or Trinity College Dublin constituency in January 2025, was to vacate their seat, a bye-election would be held in the Higher Education constituency. Graduates of NUI or Trinity College Dublin, who have declared they want to be included in bye-elections in their application to register, would be eligible to vote in this bye-election.

### **What is a NUI Reference Number? Can I use this number to register?**

NUI Reference Numbers were sent in a letter in December 2024 to all electors on the NUI Register of Electors. This number could be used up to 23 January 2025 to register for the new Higher Education constituency.

The provision for using NUI Reference Numbers was only in place for applications for the 2025 register.

### **What is a TCD Alumni Number? Can I use this number to register?**

Trinity College Dublin (TCD) Alumni Numbers were sent in a letter in December 2024 to all electors on the TCD Register of Electors. This number could be used up to 23 January 2025 to register for the new Higher Education constituency.

The provision for using TCD Alumni Numbers was only in place for applications for the 2025 register.

## **Registered Electors for the Higher Education Constituency**

### **Can I update my registration details?**

If you have not yet applied to be added to the register, please use your up-to-date and correct details in your application.

If you were added to the 2025 or 2026 register, you can update your details by completing a Claim for Correction of Entry Form.

A copy of this form can be downloaded and submitted by email to [applications@SeanadVoter.ie](mailto:applications@SeanadVoter.ie), or by post to SeanadVoter.ie, P.O. BOX 13784, Dublin 2, Ireland.

When contacting SeanadVoter.ie, please tell us the Application Number you received when you submitted your application to register (if known).

### **Can I remove my name from the register?**

Yes, you can request to have your name removed from the register by submitting a written request by email to [applications@SeanadVoter.ie](mailto:applications@SeanadVoter.ie), or by post to SeanadVoter.ie at P.O. BOX 13784, Dublin.

### **Can I view the Register of Electors?**

A copy of the register will be available for inspection at the offices of the National University of Ireland.

There is a prescribed fee (€100) for purchasing a copy of the register. The information contained in the register can only be used for an electoral or other statutory purpose.

Please contact [applications@SeanadVoter.ie](mailto:applications@SeanadVoter.ie) for information about viewing or purchasing the register.

**Can I object to someone on the register?**

An objection can be made by someone already on the register or by a registration officer in a designated institution. Objections can be made to the entry on to the register of any person on the Electors List or the List of Claims. An objection form is available to download from SeanadVoter.ie and must be used to submit an objection.

**What is the Electors List**

The Electors List is produced on 29 January. It includes: the current register of electors; people have applied to be added to the register and appear to be eligible to be added on 1 June; and people who no longer appear to be entitled to be registered.

**What is the List of Claims?**

The List of Claims is produced on 12 March. It includes everyone who submitted a completed claim, on or before 26 February, who was not included in the Electors List published in January.

**What is the List of Objections?**

The List of Objections includes everyone whose claim to be included on the register has been the subject of an objection.

You can contact us if you have a question.

We're happy to help.

[applications@SeanadVoter.ie](mailto:applications@SeanadVoter.ie)

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