

TRUSTEE TESTIMONIAL Q&A

**Anna Egan, Junior Secretary, UCD Volunteers Overseas
Communications Executive, PRO14 Rugby**



International Development is something that I've had a keen interest in for years, so in November 2017 I decided to put myself forward for a graduate position on the University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) Board of Trustees. On a personal level, my association with UCDVO has evolved a lot over the years. I started off as a student volunteer, which led me to sitting on the student society committee and then working for one of their partner organizations and today, I am acting as the Junior Secretary to the Board. These experiences have given me a well-rounded view in the understanding of the charity.

From the get-go I was interested in what I could offer the board, while also learning from fellow past-volunteers and professors alike.

While I had experience volunteering with UCDVO, I've also been involved with other Irish charities in volunteering, fundraising and development education. As I had also gone through the motions of being a volunteer for the charity, I knew quite accurately how the decisions made by the Board impact the students they're directed at. This has proven to provide a level of insight which, in many cases, is lacked in many Board room settings.

The Board consists of some of the University's highest-ranking professors and lecturers and this creates a varied and dynamic atmosphere in the Board room. We each have a unique background and set of skills which brings an interesting layer of conversation to every meeting.



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As the Junior secretary, my tasks include minute taking, correspondence and meeting logistics.

Both strategy and governance play a pivotal role in the running of the Board; two aspects that I am a big advocate for.

As a Marketing student, strategy is an intrinsic element to any project, so applying this to the Board's short and long-term goals is fulfilling and exciting.

It has been a great learning experience to date. There is great satisfaction in seeing strategic goals being implemented and fulfilled, and I love how each Board Member has something new and unique to offer. It has certainly been a learning curve, but I am looking forward to the next two years as a Board Member of UCDVO.