



Third Level Education

Introduction

"Ireland now has one of the highest student fees in Europe — and they're set to rise again. While our European peers protect access to education, we risk pricing a generation out of opportunity. We're calling for urgent action to reduce financial barriers, invest in third-level access, and ensure no young person is left behind in a Republic that claims to value ambition."

Spending Policies

- **Education Equity Grant for Under-30s** Create a state-backed top-up grant of €500-€1000 annually for students under 30 from middle-income families — those not qualifying for SUSI but still struggling. This closes the support gap without increasing bureaucracy.
- **Freeze Fees at Current Levels and Introduce a Multi-Year Reduction Pathway** Immediately halt any planned increase to student fees and legislate a three-year phased reduction target — cutting fees to €1,500 by 2026 and €1,000 by 2028, in line with European norms.
- Susi grant for part time masters*

- **Support Women in STEM** Increase funding for initiatives that boost women's participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in key sectors of Ireland's innovation economy. Targeted investment in outreach programmes, mentorship, and scholarships will help close the gender gap, unlock talent, and future-proof our workforce. This is a smart, forward-looking policy — one that reflects Young Fine Gael's commitment to equality of opportunity and a thriving knowledge economy.