

New School of Law Building Student Essay Competition

Context

You may well know about plans for the new Cork University Business School building at Union Quay in the city centre which is currently the subject of a planning application. However, you may not know that the School of Law is also exploring improving its facilities commensurate with its top 100 global ranking. This was also flagged in the Quality Review of the School in 2020 and in the School's own Strategic Plan adopted in September 2020. New facilities could involve refurbishment of the Aras na Laoi building or a new building adjacent to it or a combination of both. The progress of this project is obviously subject to securing funding and get necessary approvals. It's a long-term project and, taking account of the timescale for the new Business School building, it is likely to take at least 10 years to come to fruition. Nonetheless it is important that the process gets started. To that end the School established a New Building Working Group in 2021 and conducted a benchmarking exercise with a number of highly ranked law schools which have new buildings and an initial consultation with School staff in summer 2022 to establish what kind of facilities the new building and/or refurbished building should contain. We are also committed to consulting students on what they think the School should look like and what kinds of facilities it should have. This essay competition is one aspect of that consultation. We will also formally consult through the Student Council and the Law Society at a later stage once the project is more advanced. However, now is your chance to influence the vision for the building!

The task

Please submit an essay of no more than 2,000 words on the following topic:

What should a building for the UCC School of Law, ranked in the top 100 law schools globally, look like in 10 years-time?

Any student registered for a law programme is eligible to participate. **The deadline is Tuesday 28th February at 23:59 hours.** Essays will be reviewed by the School's New Building Working Group.

Prizes

To encourage participation an anonymous donor is generously funding 3 prizes of €1,000, €750 and €500 for the top three essays submitted. The prizewinners will be publicised through our media and social media channels.