

**Nomination form UNICollaboration Executive Board Elections 2018**

The candidate should submit this completed form to: **exec@unicollaboration.org** before Monday 2 April.

All the candidates’ biodata and election statements will be published on the organisation website before the 2018 conference.

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| Candidate’s Name | Breffni O’Rourke |
| Candidate’s institution & country of employment | Trinity College Dublin, Ireland |
| Candidate’s Email | breffni.orourke@tcd.ie |
| Please state the position you are a candidate for (simply delete the other positions from this list) | Vice-president |
| Candidate’s bio data (200 words maximum)  I am Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics and Manager of Language Learning Technologies and Resources in Trinity College Dublin. My research focuses on online communication by language learners (discourse, reading, engagement), and I teach Pedagogical Grammar of English; Discourse Analysis; Technology, Language, and Communication; and First Language Acquisition, as well as contributions to introductory linguistics survey courses. I am undergraduate coordinator in the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, responsible for managing the introduction of a new undergraduate Linguistics degree.  I was local organiser of the Second International Conference on Telecollaboration in Trinity College Dublin in 2016, at which the UniCollaboration organisation was founded, and have been its Publications Officer since then. I have acted as external advisor to the European Commission-funded INTENT project from which the UniCollaboration website and organisation grew, as well as the current EVALUATE project.  I am co-Editor in Chief of *Language Learning in Higher Education*, the journal of the CercleS, the European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education. | |
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| Candidate’s election statement (300 words maximum) - Please explain why you want to join the board and what you feel you would bring to the position.  I have been involved in telecollaboration and virtual exchange in various capacities over the years: research, practice, and professional service. My research interest lies in how online interpersonal communication works within virtual exchange, particularly at the level of discourse and engagement, and the relationship between patterns of online communication and language learning. My practical experience has been with eTandem and with a long-running Cultura-inspired project called Speakwise. Regarding professional service to the virtual exchange community, it has been my great honour and pleasure to serve as external advisor to two of the major international funded projects, INTENT and the ongoing EVALUATE, both EU-funded.  UniCollaboration was founded at the Second International Conference on Telecollaboration in Higher Education, which I organised, in Trinity College Dublin, and I have served alongside Melinda Dooly as Publications Officer since then. In this capacity I have driven the conception and development of the *Journal of Virtual Exchange*, to be officially launched at the third conference in Krakow. My experience of working with INTENT, EVALUATE and UniCollaboration have given me a deep insight into issues of virtual exchange, its great, even transformative potential in a polarised world, as well as the challenges facing practitioners in particular, and the need to promote it as a mainstream pedagogical practice.  The role of vice president of the organisation is one of support for the president, sharing the workload, discussing issues and offering advice, and deputising when necessary. I hope UniCollaboration members will agree that my experience in research, practice and service to the research and practice communities prepare me well for such a role, and I would be honoured to serve in this capacity. | |

**Supporters of your Nomination**

(Two members of the organisation should support each nomination for positions of second officer. Please be sure to consult these colleagues before submitting this form with their names and emails.)

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| Name of first UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | Melinda Dooly |
| Email of first UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | MelindaAnn.dooly@uab.cat |
| Name of second UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | Francesca Helm |
| Email of second UNICollboration member who is supporting your nomination | francesca.helm@unipd.it |