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The Origins

of the

Mincéirs Whiden Society

of the National University of Ireland Galway



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Adopted by the Mincéirs Whiden Society on Friday, the 18th of June 2021.

Forming a Society

When applying for recognition as a new society you will need to do the following.

1. Contact the Societies Officer at socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie.
2. Fill in your application form including contact details, your aims, and projected events.
3. Fill in a Society Constitution template.
4. Apply for a table on Socs Day (Societies Day) 1 and or 2.
5. Return your application form and the constitution to socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie.
6. Get Approval from the USCG (University Societies Coordinating Group) to have a table at Societies Day 1 and or 2.
7. Depending on which day, you must collect 100 potential members on Socs Day 1, or 50 on Socs day 2.
8. Attend a USCG meeting to appeal for full recognition as a society.
9. Hold an EGM (Extraordinary general meeting) to elect a committee. You will need a minimum of 4 committee members.
10. Attend society training organised by the Societies' Office.

How the NUI Galway Mincéirs Whiden Society was founded

{1} In April 2018, Jason Sherlock from Ragoon, Galway, contacted the NUI Galway Societies' Officer, Riona Hughes, about the creation of an Irish Traveller Student Society. The Societies Officer agreed that this was a positive thing and advised to consult with Traveller students and Traveller organisations such as the Galway Traveller Movement. Riona further set out the guidelines regarding the steps to take to form the society.

{2} Jason and Owen Ward (NUI Galway Access Centre) completed step two.

{3} In 2018, Jason had discussions with Martin Ward and Margaret O'Riada from the Galway Traveller Movement and showed them a draft Society Constitution. Discussions around aims and the name of the society occurred; however, there was no agreement on the society's name. Afterwards, Jason decided to name the society "Minceirs Whiden Society". "Mincéirs Whiden" is in the Cant Language, translating into English as "Irish Travellers' Talking". Jason Sherlock, Owen Ward, and Michelle Mitchell continued the work on the draft Society Constitution.

{4} Jason applied for a table on Societies Day 1 (September 2018).

{5} Jason Sherlock, Owen Ward, and Michelle Mitchell reviewed the application form and returned the draft Society Constitution to socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie.

{6} The University Societies Coordinating Group (USCG) gave Mincéirs Whiden Society approval to have a table at Societies Day 1 in the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

{7} On Societies Day 1, Jason Sherlock, Margaret O'Riada, Owen Ward, Michelle Mitchell, and the Galway Traveller Movement helped Mincéirs Whiden Society gain over 100 members on Societies Day 1. At the end of the 2018-2019 academic year, the Minceirs Whiden Society had 187 members.

The first meeting of the Minceirs Whiden Society took place on the 12th of December 2018 in NUI Galway. Those who were present were: Jason Sherlock, Owen Ward, Martin Ward, and Michelle Mitchell.

{8} Jason Sherlock attended a USCG meeting to request full recognition as a society, to which the Mincéirs Whiden Society received full recognition unanimously.

{9} An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on the 18th of February 2019 in NUI Galway to elect a committee. As a result, the first Committee of the NUI Galway Mincéirs Whiden Society comprised of:

Mincéirs Whiden Society Committee of the 2018-2019 Academic Year	
Name	Position
Jason Sherlock	Auditor (Chairperson)
Coleman Sweeney	Vice-Auditor (Vice-Chairperson)
Martin Ward	Treasurer
Lee Anna Ward	Secretary
Kathleen Sweeney	OCM (Ordinary Committee Member)
Owen Ward	OCM (Ordinary Committee Member)
Michelle Mitchell	OCM (Ordinary Committee Member)
Lennita Ruggi	OCM (Ordinary Committee Member)

{10} The Mincéirs Whiden Society attended training organised by the NUI Galway Societies' Office.

The Minceirs Whiden Society officially launched on the 17th of April 2019 in NUI Galway.