

# MEET YOUR 2024 CANDIDATES



# EDUCATION OFFICER

## SAM WALTER MATHARI

Greetings, fellow students of the University of Leicester! My name is Sam Walter Mathari, pursuing my Master's degree in Advanced computer science. I am honored to announce my candidacy for the position of Education Officer in the upcoming Student Union elections. I present to you my manifesto aimed at fostering an enriching and inclusive academic environment for all.

- I pledge to be a vocal advocate for the diverse needs of our student body, ensuring that every voice is heard and represented in university decision-making processes.
- I will continuously seek feedback, evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives, and adapt strategies to meet the evolving needs of the student body, ensuring a dynamic and responsive approach to education governance.
- I'll ensure all students receive timely notifications about placement and internship opportunities through modern communication channels, replacing traditional notice boards.
- Collaborate with faculty members to enhance the quality of teaching through ongoing professional development programs and feedback mechanisms.

Together, let us strive to create an educational environment that is accessible, inclusive, and empowering for all.

Your support in this endeavor will be invaluable, and I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming election. Thank you.



# VAISHNAVI CHAUDHARI

Heyyyaaaaa guysss !!!

What makes me an ideal candidate to be your Education Officer for the next year at our university due to my proven dedication and experience in student advocacy. Serving as both a postgraduate officer and a course representative in the previous year, I've developed a deep understanding of the academic landscape and the diverse needs of our student body.

My tenure as a postgraduate officer allowed me to implement effective communication channels between students and faculty, fostering a collaborative environment. I successfully organized forums addressing academic concerns and actively engaged with student feedback to bring about positive changes. As a course representative, I advocated for enhancements to curriculum, ensuring it aligned with students' evolving needs.

I am committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity within the educational framework. Drawing from my past roles, I aim to establish mentorship programs, ensuring that every student's voice is heard and valued. My proactive approach to problem-solving, combined with a passion for enhancing the overall academic experience, uniquely positions me to contribute significantly to the role of Education Officer.

Together, let's build an educational environment that empowers every student and cultivates a culture of continuous improvement.



# AHSAN AHMED KHAN



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Hey, it's Ahsan, your future Education Officer!

If you're down for a Revamping of the O2, want the choice for in person or online exams, or more support and events for International students then vote me!! I know you don't want exams on weekends, and hate waking up in the morning. Tired of having massive gaps between lessons? Don't want to feel left behind skipping class for Jummah? Want a better mitigating circumstances policy? Free coffee on campus?

A Social space for Brookfield students? Do the committee members here want more support societies run events, from meet and greets to grand balls? Tired of the Cost-of-living crisis?

I'll solve all your problems. Guaranteed. As Current School Representative, former President of my own society, Vice President and Founder of a youth organisation in Japan, I have the skills needed to get the job done. Vote Ahsan Khan, if you want your problems solved.

# AKSHAY THIMMASHETTY

Dear Voters,

My commitment lies on improving both student welfare and academic success. As the Officer of Education, I will:

- Empower course representatives and make sure student opinions are acknowledged in policy discussions to strengthen academic representation.
- With a deep understanding of student needs, I'll elevate voices and promote concrete change.
- I'll create a supportive environment through buddy programs, cultural exchanges, and mental health support.
- Speak up in favor of equitable assessment procedures, easily available educational materials, and student success-focused policies.
- Encourage an environment that values diversity, creativity, and academic integrity.
- Encourage the entire well-being of students by offering many programs and services for support.
- Honor academic accomplishments and offer chances for cross-disciplinary cooperation.
- Vote and join me in cultivating a campus community where every student feels at home away from home.

Thankyou for your trust.

"Vote Smart, Vote Shetty!" -AkshayThimmaShetty.

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# PRESIDENT

## JOBANJIT SINGH

Leading Our University to Success. My Vision for President  
Hey everyone! I'm nominating myself for University President because I want to make our campus the best it can be for all of us. Here's what I promise to do:

1. Build a Strong Community: Let's all feel like we belong here! I'll make sure everyone's voice is heard, and we support each other like one big family.
2. Support Students: College can be tough, but I'll make sure you have the help and resources you need to succeed, whether it's tutoring, mental health support, or cool events on campus.
3. Keep You Healthy: Your well-being is important! I'll work to improve health services on campus and promote healthy living so you can thrive in mind and body.
4. Listen to You: Your ideas matter! I'll always be open to hearing your feedback and suggestions to make our university the best it can be. Together, let's make our university an amazing place for everyone. Let's study hard, have fun, and create memories that will last a lifetime!



# KAUSHIK CHODVADIYA

I pledge to prioritize student well-being, ensuring mental health resources are accessible. Innovation will thrive through cutting-edge research and technology, preparing students for the evolving global landscape. Transparency and open communication will define our administration, encouraging a sense of community.

Sustainability will be a cornerstone, forging a campus that values environmental responsibility. I aim to cultivate a culture where every voice is heard, empowering students, faculty, and staff alike.

Let us embark on a journey where education transcends boundaries, and our university becomes a beacon of knowledge, creativity, and societal impact. Together, we'll shape the future of higher education, empowering individuals to lead and inspire positive change.

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# MOHAMMAD ISMAIL

Greetings, fellow students,

I am Mohammad Ismail, and I am excited to be your candidate for President. My vision is simple: to be the voice that amplifies your concerns and aspirations.

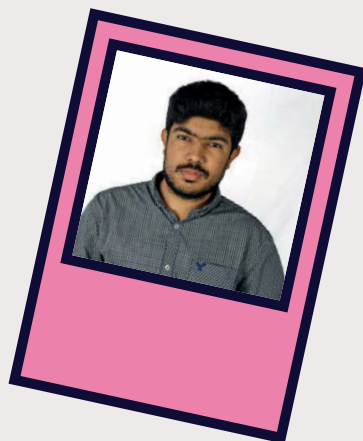
In this role, I will provide strategic leadership, steering our Union towards inclusivity and purposeful direction. Together, we'll tackle issues through impactful campaigns and open dialogue, ensuring that your concerns are not just heard but acted upon.

Advocacy with senior University staff will be a top priority. Regular meetings will be the platform to make sure your concerns are not only addressed but also prioritized at the highest levels.

I am committed to effective team management, leading a dynamic Executive Team that works tirelessly to serve your needs. As the head trustee on our board, I will ensure transparent governance with your interests at the core of every decision.

Let's build a united student community. I am passionate about celebrating diversity and creating an environment where every student feels valued and represented.

Vote me for a Student Union that reflects and empowers YOU! Together, let's make our student experience extraordinary.





# OLA TOMKOWICZ

As your SU President, I aim to prioritize student voices and needs by focusing on practical initiatives. I want to ensure that all students feel secure and enjoy their time at UoL. Let's collaborate to create changes that benefit every student at UoL and focus on

## Safety:

- Increasing bus service hours to Oadby i.e. Night buses
- Offering self-defence classes available to all students, free of charge.

## Well-being:

- Extending gym opening hours.
- Reducing waiting times for support services, extra focus on international students who struggle to find support.

Continuing Campaigns like De-stress, Movember and much more!

## Finance and resources:

- Seek funding for mini-buses for society use, such as trips and competitions.
- Review the current spending to make sure budget is being used with students in mind.

## Student focus:

- Eliminating weekend exams to accommodate students' other commitments and to allow them to properly relax during stress heavy exam periods.
- Enhancing the SU website, particularly for mobile use.
- Ensuring every student knows their personal tutor, course reps and the support available.
- Implementing weekly drop-in sessions for students to provide feedback and share ideas.

Above are a few of my suggestions within the word limit. For more information or questions, email me at [at542@student.le.ac.uk](mailto:at542@student.le.ac.uk).



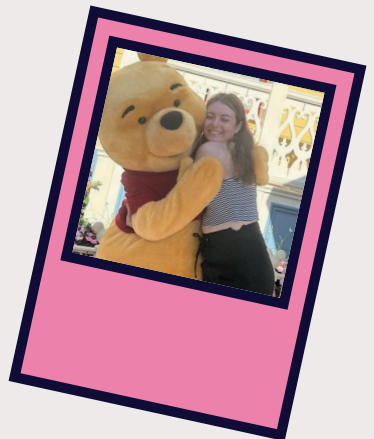
# SHANNON FINLAN

My name is Shannon, Shan, and this is my second year running for SU president. I am a second year law student and my pro nouns are She/her.

I am passionate about making this university great and better than it ever has been. I believe there is a lot of work to do and want to make sure, if I succeed, to fulfill my campaign promises.

My areas of focus will be:

- drug and alcohol addiction and awareness,
- men's mental health,
- stalking/harassment action
- liaising with local public services to help the backlog of accessing local health services



# JADE THOMAS

Hello Everyone, my name is Jade and I'm running to be your President for 2024/25! I have had the pleasure of being your Liberation Officer this academic year and I would love the opportunity to represent your views at a higher level!

As your President I would have 4 key areas of focus throughout the year. These would include developing the cost-of-living campaign to increase support for students and help improve financial literacy, improving our Students' Union spaces to be more accessible and student-friendly, prioritising student safety on and around campus, and finally working to make our campus community more inclusive.

The Students' Union prides itself on being Your Home Away From Home, yet the current feeling amongst students is that the feeling of home is missing from our University Community. As your President, I intend to work to empower students and ensure that you are and remain the key stakeholders in shaping YOUR university experience!

Elect Jade for President if you want someone who is committed to continuing to make positive changes for all, acting as YOUR voice to create YOUR ideal University.

Feeling Jaded? VOTE JADE FOR PRESIDENT!



# SIYA BHATT

Hi! My name is Siya Bhatt (she/her), and I am running to be your Students' Union President for 2024/25! I want to amplify your voices and elevate our University experience to the next level.

Our students are facing challenges ranging from academic pressures to financial constraints and mental health concerns. As a proactive advocate, I recognise the magnitude of these issues and am prepared to tackle them head-on for you. My vision is simple: I aim to strengthen the student voice, secure campus-wide affordability, and sustain fair governance.

As your President, I will prioritize the following:

- Advance the Cost of Living campaign to minimise financial barriers.
- Lobby the University for increased funding across all departments.
- Address long waitlists and boost counselling efficiency to ensure our community's well-being.
- Enhance support services to nurture the overall growth and flourishing of each student.

Advocate for increased academic support, and access to essential resources throughout our students' educational journey.

Every student here at Leicester deserves to be part of a thriving campus culture and have a meaningful experience. This fuels my passion to represent your concerns, champion your ambitions, and lead positive change.

#StandWithSiya to strengthen, secure and sustain our community!



# LIBERATION OFFICER

## AISHWARYA KOTE

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Greetings, fellow students and esteemed members of our university community. My name is Aishwarya Kote, and I am honored to stand before you as a candidate for the position of Liberation Officer.

As a candidate for Liberation Officer, I am dedicated to amplifying the voices of marginalized groups on campus, including people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, differently-abled students, and those from underrepresented socioeconomic backgrounds. Through open dialogue, active listening, and advocacy, I am committed to addressing systemic inequalities and dismantling oppressive structures within our institution.

In pursuit of these goals, I will prioritize the following actions:

Establishing regular forums and platforms for marginalized voices to be heard and respected.

Advocating for inclusive policies and practices that promote equity and justice for all members of our community.

Collaborating with academic departments to integrate diverse perspectives and experiences into the curriculum.

Organizing cultural events, workshops, and seminars that promote dialogue and understanding across differences.

Providing resources and support services tailored to the needs of marginalized communities, including mental health and wellness initiatives.

Through these efforts, I am dedicated to creating an inclusive campus environment where everyone can thrive and contribute to a fairer society.

# AMINHA CHOWDHURY

Hello, my name is Aminah and I am running for the role of Liberation Officer for 2024/25. I want to represent Leicester as a university and the student body, particularly regarding what it means to fit in and express their voices on issues, especially those that concern them.

I am deeply invested in fair and equal representation as I am passionate about law and justice as a current law student, and this spills over into equality, diversity and liberation for all. I have experience championing global education and lobbying parliament when I was younger, and I would like to retrace those steps to help create a better campus and unite as a community.

As an officer, I would like to focus on these general areas:

- Ensure all students feel safe and secure on campus.
- Support minority groups and extend allyship.
- Help rally for causes and implement positive changes relating to them.
- Furthering support for working class students to increase equality and opportunity.

I promise to represent the student body and take on your voice and causes to improve the university. A vote for me is a vote for the people!



# COLLINS POKU EFFAH

## MANIFESTO

My name Collins Poku Effah, MSc International Business student vying for the position of Liberation Officer at the University of Leicester Student Union. I have been on the fore fronts for students' liberation over the years. I have held several positions as School Prefect, SRC president and Union President back home in Ghana.

## Personal Skills

- Empathic
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Communication skills
- Active Listener



## Action Plan

I will work closely with other executive members to ensure that;

- Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students, including students of African, Asian, Arabs and Afro-Caribbean descent voices are heard.
- Disabled students, including students with a physical disability, mental health condition, or a Specific Learning disabilities are given equal opportunity as other students.
- Trans and non-binary students, including but not limited to trans men, trans women, non-binary people, and other forms are not segregated.
- I will work closely with the various University committees and working groups and ensure that students have their say on the issues that matter to them.
- Finally, I will coordinate events and campaigns, creating empowering community spaces and driving forward change on everything from student support to curriculum diversity.

# GELAREH AHADI

I'm Gelareh Ahadi and I'm studying MSC Business Analysis and Finance

These are the initiatives I plan to implement:

- Serve as a proactive voice for students, ensuring that policies and practices reflect the diverse needs of the student.
- Execute meaningful events that address issues of liberation, equality, and diversity.
- Advocate for structural and digital enhancements to make campus facilities and online resources accessible, ensuring that students with disabilities have equal opportunities to learn and participate in campus life.
- Develop a comprehensive calendar of international cultural and religious events, providing educational content to enhance students' global awareness
- Organize inclusive events that educate and celebrate different cultures, religions, and sexual orientations, fostering a campus environment that respects and embraces diversity.
- Lead impactful campaigns on critical issues such as gender equality and racial justice,
- Collaborating with other student officers and external organizations to amplify student voices and drive change.
- Advocate for high-quality lecture recordings and accurate transcription services to support students with attention disorders, ensuring they have equal access to educational content.
- Establish a secure and anonymous reporting channel for students to disclose incidents of harassment or discrimination, ensuring their safety and anonymity while facilitating appropriate responses to their concerns.





# SAKSHI RAINA

Lal Sakshi Raina's remarkable journey from Lamberi, India, to the University of Leicester in England, captured in 'Defying Odds and Soaring High,' epitomizes resilience. A pivotal moment occurred during a classroom lecture, revealing a twist in her narrative.

Endowed with an indomitable spirit and a love for the arts, Sakshi faced a unique challenge at 15 – a diagnosis of keratoconus. Rather than succumbing to despair, she embraced it, catalyzing personal growth and embarking on a transformative journey of self-discovery.

Despite keratoconus challenges, Sakshi excelled in media, showcasing a flair for storytelling and deep understanding of communication. Undeterred by life's obstacles, she pursued dual master's degrees in India. The turning point came with her admission to the University of Leicester for a Master's in Media and Public Relations, a triumph over adversity and an inspiration for others. Hailing from a middle-class family, her father played a crucial supportive role.

Sakshi's narrative, defined by resilience and achievement, stands as inspiration. Her understanding of human struggles positions her as an ideal liberation officer candidate, advocating for those facing adversity.



# COMMUNITY & WELLBEING OFFICER

## REED JAMES



I'm standing to #reedvitalise the Students Union, as I'm passionate about making changes to improve everyone's experiences. However, until now, I've been just a student, so if I want to continue fighting for you, I'm asking you to consider voting for me to be your Community and Wellbeing Officer.

When elected, here is a list of what I pledge to do:

- 1) Produce an independent sustainability plan for the Student Union.
- 2) Lower food prices and ensure there are longer opening times on campus food outlets.
- 3) Support the creation of a childcare system for students with children.
- 4) Make the Student Union's room booking system more like the library to speed up room booking confirmations.
- 5) Have open office hours so I'm accessible to all students.
- 6) Work with the university to offer more student jobs at campus food outlets.
- 7) Increase the number of hours international students can work during vacation hours.

This candidate statement is only allowed to be 200 words, so if you want to see my full list of pledges or if you want to contact me, please click on my linktree: <https://linktr.ee/reedjames4su>

Thanks so much for reading, and please consider voting for me.

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# SATYA KUNDURTHI



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Hi there! I'm Satya, a second-year student studying computer science, and I'm running to be your officer for Community and Well-being Officer.

## Why Me?

I want to create a space where no one feels alone and where people feel comfortable talking about their feelings, whether to friends, family, or professionals. Like most students, I struggled with mental health issues while attending university, and I spent the most of my time trying to deal with it on my own. Being an International Student I know it's quite difficult to handle everything on your own, especially when you miss your home.

## My Goals.

- To put into practice a regular yoga and meditation program which helps in lowering stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms and improving general resilience and emotional equilibrium.
- I would like to start a "Chit-Chat" program where students may unwind to sit and chat in order to normalize it being a problem and provide information on where and how to get help.
- Since mental and physical health are related, I want to work with the sports officer to increase the number of people who play sports and cut the cost of gym memberships to make it more affordable.

# NAGA SUDEEPTHI PADMANABHUNI

I'm running for the position of Community and Well-being Officer because I deeply care about creating a supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and supported. I am dedicated to making our university a place where every student gets their best. Let's work together to build a stronger, healthier and happier community.

My Manifesto Points:

I will work to organize regular town hall meetings, forums, and focus groups where community members can come together to discuss important issues, share ideas, and collaborate on solutions.

Create a safe spaces where all members of the university community feel welcomed and valued.

Collaborate with a local businesses and charities to create opportunities for students to make a positive impact in the wider community.

Provide help like emergency funds or housing for students going through financial or personal crisis.

Keep talking to everyone in the university to make sure we are meeting their needs.

Ensure that all students regardless of their background have equal access to education and opportunities and work to remove any unfair treatment or barriers that some students may face.

Provide resources and workshops on budgeting financial planning and debt management to help students navigate financial challenges.



# SPORTS & SOCIETIES OFFICER

## ADAM BUKACEL

It's the challenges that define us, it's the challenges that bind us. There are many challenges that a student will face throughout their university life, studying, readings, tests. But sports, art, and your social lives should not be in the lists of challenges you may face.

As Sports and Societies Officer, I will commit myself to facing challenges that barrier your ability to join a social club, go with a group of friends to an art gallery, or even score a goal at your next match. To accomplish breaking through the barriers you may face, I will focus on three main things in my campaign.

First, pushing for a safer and closer area to partake in athletics.

Second, to bring further awareness and appreciation to our artist and the art community that illustrates our student culture.

Third, by creating a space where new and returning students can have a sense a pride when donning University of Leicester kits. Being a student is a challenge, but by no means does that make it impossible to enjoy your student life.

As your Sports and Societies Officer, to face the challenges that are faced in university together.

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# GEORGE GLOSSOP

Immense passion for sport, an advocate for physical and mental health and a desire to see key improvements within our university. What more could you want from a sports officer?

Some key manifesto points:

- A consistent dialogue between leadership and students- students too regularly go unheard within a sports setting. I will implement monthly meetings between club representatives, myself and leadership, enabling a transparent process for any queries and complaints.
- Using our own uni-based talent- from photographers and journalists to coaches, match officials, psychologists and those in the medical fields. This enables our students to thrive and get vital experience whilst also benefitting our sports teams. It's a win-win.
- Combatting the cost of living and mental health crisis- students are facing damaging levels of stress, only worsened by the cost of living crisis. Sport is proven to aid mental health and one key policy would be more affordable campus leagues in a wider variety of sports. Furthermore, incentives should be in place for students to take part in community initiatives, such as the Victoria Park Parkrun that takes place right on our doorstep.

#GOFORGLOSSOP for inclusivity, performance and overall success, with your best interests at the heart of it all.

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# AJAY REDDY

VOTE AJAY REDDY For Sports and Societies Officer #RallyWithAjay

## Previous Experience

- In India, I served as the Sports and Cultural Officer at The Oxford College of Business Administration, where I organized numerous inter-college sports and cultural competitions 2021-22.
- Volleyball Captain at T.John College Bangalore, India 2018-20.

Why you should vote me as YOUR Sports and Societies officer?

- You should #RallyWithAjay because I ensure equal opportunities and facilities for sports enthusiasts.
- I'd ensure a wide range of activities, from sports tournaments to cultural events, for everyone!
- Vote for Ajay to revamp our sports clubs, retrieve sports kits, and energize sports and societies!

Campaigns for You!

## 1.Inter-University Tournaments:

- Fostering Healthy Competition and Student Pride.
- Engaging Summer Sports Activities.
- Support for Representing Teams.

## 2.Sports Festivals and Events:

- Dynamic Sports Festivals.
- Creating a Festive Atmosphere.

## 3.Fitness Challenges:

- Affordable Gym Access and Wellness Initiatives.
- Promoting Overall Health and Well-being.

## 4.Adaptive Sports Programs:

- Inclusivity Through Adaptive Sports.

## 5.Facility Upgrades and Maintenance:

- Advocating for Enhanced Sports Facilities.
- Collaborative Efforts for Quality Sports Kits.

## 6.Virtual Competitions:

- Tapping into Online Gaming Trends.

## 7.Mobile App for Sports Community:

- Facilitating Communication and Interaction.

## 8.Thematic Sports Weeks:

- Creating Excitement through Themes.
- Immersive Exploration of Sports Culture.

## 9.Wildcard Tournaments:

- Encouraging Creativity and Innovation

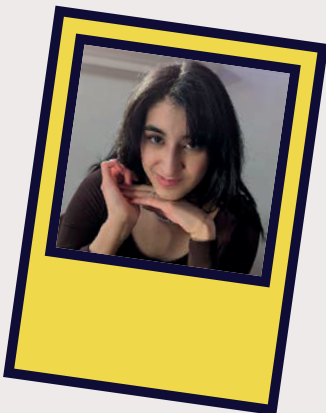


# PART TIME OFFICERS

## ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER

### BHAVAN BAINS

- All disabilities matter, even if you can't see them: Disabled does not have to mean physically impaired, anyone can be and they do not have to disclose what they have in order to justify themselves, or "prove" that they are dealing with something. Education is not always out there, but this can be changed through a variety of methods such as engaging workshops, resources and targeted outreach.
- Tackling the lack of support with health concerns/ anxiety.
- Mental health at the forefront: Let's break the stigma and put mental health first! • Promoting diversity & inclusivity.
- Support for undiagnosed needs: Unsure whether or not you may be considered to have a disability? Have you felt misled about your personal needs in the past being unable to access the relevant services? I strive to ensure students are acknowledged whether or not they have been officially diagnosed, prioritising equality for everyone who has a shared that same doubt at some point – no matter where along they are on their journey.
- Advocating for safe spaces: Sometimes it's just too loud, too bright, too many people and/or too much - and that's okay.
- Being a familiar face & a person you can trust.





# CASPIAN O'DONNELL

Accessibility advocacy is something that is immensely close to my heart. As someone with Autism, I have had to spend the majority of my life advocating for myself and others.

I strive to be a voice for disabled students across the university. Being able to build upon my personal experiences as a disabled individual and apply it to the university community as a whole is immensely important to me, as I want to be able to help students know that the university is here for us, not against us.

Having access to safe spaces on campus, alongside easy-to-navigate resources is important in maintaining the wellbeing of disabled students as much as it is for any other student. However, it may look a little different. Working towards having spaces on campus to decompress would help cultivate student success while providing a safe environment to regulate in the ways that work for them.

Society is quick to overlook disabilities and dismiss others for being different. In the world of inclusivity, disabled individuals can be forgotten, especially when the disabilities are "invisible." Cultivating a nature of understanding and acceptance propels forward the university's goals to create well-rounded students open to different perspectives.



# MARIA ISON

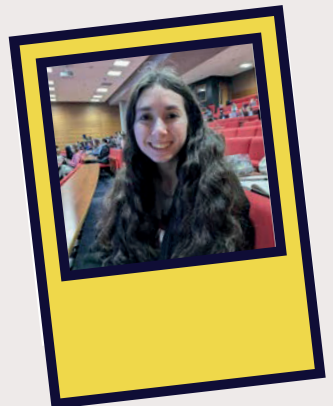
Hello, my name is Maria pronouns she/her, I am running to be to be the next accessibility officer. I am a psychology undergrad and my goals are to of course make university accessible for everyone through identifying areas in need of improvement within university.

By making small changes which will make a big impact to some individuals myself included for example access to lecture material and lecture rooms as well as the whole of campus.

I would make it easy for discussions around accessibility to take place including any issues or problems students may face at university, how I would implement this is by setting up anonymous forum. So that voices are heard, and change can be made, this is something I truly feel passionate about.

University needs to be a safe space were people can grow as individuals and shouldn't have to deal with inaccessible spaces putting other students at a disadvantage.

For me as a dyslex individual who struggles with their mental health I understand the challenges people with learning disability, mental health conditions , long term health conditions face in their day to day life adding university to the mix makes things even more complicated.



# SIAN WORTON

Developing on my work from this year I hope to prioritise the following:

- Maintaining communications with my current contacts in different university departments in order to enable conversations to occur about improving university processes and facilities.
- Continuing the research and collection of resources in an accessible format for students with accessibility needs on a variety of topics (e.g. applying for benefits; academic accommodations; transition into university life).
- Further pressuring the university into fulfilling their duties of providing reliable disabled facilities across both campus and accommodation. This includes improving maintenance response times and communication with students about any works that could have an impact on accessibility and student's day-to-day life.
- Proceeding to represent students with accessibility needs in whichever ways they may need (e.g. conversing with course/content leaders to improve accessibility; providing support when faced with discrimination).
- Leading campaigns on behalf of student raised issues to improve both accessibility and student satisfaction.
- Improve accessibility in university managed accommodation sites on the most important issues affecting students (e.g. moving in day procedures; returning to accommodation; lift maintenance; blue badge parking).



# DISTANCE LEARNING OFFICER

## CHLOE JADE WILLIAMS

My name is Chloe Williams.

I am currently studying the Forensic Science and Criminal Justice Part Time Masters course. I currently studied law at Keele University.

I work as a Legal Secretary at MFG solicitors and would love the opportunity to do some volunteering work for you.

I was Vice President of the Law Society and Secretary in my previous university and feel this role would work nicely with me studying part time as I understand the efforts we all put in to studying. We all have other commitments and so I feel like I would know this role well considering I am one of these students.

I have a lot to offer and a lot of ideas to help us part time study students to interact and make friends. So please vote for me.



# PRECIOUS KEMKANMA EZEKWU

Dear fellow students,

I am Precious Kemkanma Ezekwu, a Nigerian distance learning student pursuing an MA in Human Rights and Global Ethics. My values are resilience, social justice, and peace. I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Distance Learning Officer (DLO) position.

I understand the challenges and unique circumstances of studying away from campus. If elected, my primary focus will be to advocate for the rights and concerns of fellow distance learners.

Studying from a distance can be isolating, but it does not have to be. My goal as the DLO is to foster community among distance learners. Through virtual events, we can create a community where learners can connect, share experiences, and support each other. I plan to develop virtual study and discussion forums, webinars, networking events and career fairs, book clubs, movie nights, and more to help bridge the gap between distance learners and create a sense of belonging.

Finally, I am committed to making the distance learning experience at the University of Leicester as seamless and enriching as possible. I would be honoured to have your vote and trust in bringing about these positive changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Precious

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# NATALIE HAYWARD

I'm running for Distance-Learning Officer as I believe I can help implement changes which would make distance learning less isolating and easier to access.

## About Me

Full-Time distance learner

- Final year BA Ancient History and Classical Archaeology
- Current course and school rep in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History

## Projects

- Re-introduce Distance Learners Day
- An on-campus day for distance learners which stopped running several years ago. This would offer a chance to meet other distance students and explore the campus
- Better access to study skill sessions and workshops

Many distance learners have had academic breaks for several years, if not longer, and this is overlooked in most areas. I believe better access to these would help a transition back into education.

- Continue with the creation of a DL Society
- I aim to continue the previous officers work, as I believe that will help combat the isolation that a lot of distance learners can feel.
- Work with the SU and other distance reps to ensure inclusion

I hope to work with the SU to improve the inclusion of DL students. I also hope to work with other distance-based reps to ensure they're able to participate fully in the feedback process.



# YASIR ALWULAYI

Distance learners, including international distance learners, have diverse needs and aspirations, and I am committed to representing them. I understand how important it is to implement initiatives that benefit students directly.

As a Distance Learning Officer, I will prioritize the development of student-centered programs and services tailored to distance learners' unique needs. Whether it's organizing virtual study groups, establishing peer mentoring networks, or offering academic and personal support, I am committed to supporting students to thrive in their educational journey.

Additionally, as a student stepping into this role, I recognize the significance of advocating for the voices and interests of my fellow distance learners. I will actively engage with student communities, seeking feedback and insights to inform university decision-making. By serving as a dedicated advocate and representative, I aim to bridge the gap between students and university administration, ensuring that distance learners' concerns are heard, valued, and addressed. Together, we can work towards building a more inclusive and student-centered distance learning experience at Leicester University.

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# INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

## DHRITI BARDHAN

Hi everyone, I am Dhriti Bardhan, an international student from India.

I am taking a stand in elections as I would love to help and represent ALL international students at the University. I have recently, worked as the Curriculum Consultant focusing on diversity and inclusion. I have also worked as a Study Buddy, students from Japan to settle into the university. My first and foremost reason in deciding to study abroad in the UK was to meet new people from different cultures and countries. I have never once abandoned any opportunity to meet, help and represent students at the University through the roles I have taken at the University as I love to socialise and learn more about the students who reach out to me. I am confident in taking responsibility for the position I am taking a stand in.

I love to explore new cuisines and (binge-watch dramas) in my spare time.





# MAHSIMA MAHDIPOUR

I believe that international students bring a unique perspective and enrich our campus community with their diverse backgrounds and experiences. As International Officer, I will be a strong advocate for their rights and well-being, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are met.

I am committed to building strong relationships with international student organizations, faculty, and staff to create a supportive network that empowers international students to succeed academically and socially. I will also work closely with university administration to implement policies and programs that benefit international students and promote their success.

Best regards,

Mahsima



# RUQYAH SWEIDAN

Greetings to all my schoolmates! My name is Ruqyah Sweidan, and I am excited to be standing for International Students' Officer. After studying for a year as a graduate student in the department of Politics & International Relations, I am eager to help others in attaining the fulfilment I have found as an international student.

Our campus is rich in diversity, home to students from across the world contributing to our extraordinary student life through academic achievement and social participation. I also understand that our International Students face an array of unique challenges: many of us work to support ourselves; many of us need extra academic support; we may be unsure about our futures following graduation; we may struggle to find our social niche. In all these scenarios, I am here to serve you; not only would I make sure you have the resources you need, but I would also advocate for the inclusion of your ideas to generate new resources. In addition, organizing cultural activities, increasing our representation (especially of our students studying remotely), sharing your concerns related to international social and political issues, and emphasizing our wellness are among the priorities I'd be proud to propel as officer.



# VENKATA KOLAPARTHI

There are some international students don't know exactly what is going on the university and how to apply online registrations, whom to contact and there are some things which are suffering. I am going to take all the feedback from and take it to the higher officials and resolve everything.

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# LGBT+ OFFICER

## MAEVE GODDARD

My name is Maeve Goddard and I'm a second year Criminology student. I am running for the role of LGBT+ part-time officer because I want to create an understanding, welcoming environment, and a secure support system for all. If I am elected, I will work passionately and enthusiastically to ensure:

### REPRESENTATION

- Represent the opinions, feelings and ideas of students who self-identify within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Push for inclusivity and equality within the university's policies and attitudes.
- Help celebrate our community by planning a variety of events.
- Ensure that students of all genders, sexual orientation and identity feel seen and heard.

### SUPPORT

- Provide support to those who need it, working to make sure no one feels excluded, unseen or discriminated against.
- Work to improve signposting to support services and push for the university to set up specialised support groups.
- Dedicate myself to better the university experience for all!

### EDUCATION

- Provide a platform to educate concepts such as gender identity, in order to combat misinformation and discrimination.
- Raise awareness of different issues faced by the LGBT+ community.
- Increase education and accessibility to inclusive safe-sex products, such as mouth



# SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

## JAMES CHICK

As the world as we know it treads into uncharted territory, students like you and I fear what may happen to the futures we are all working so hard for. Many of us suffer from a lack of motivation to study for a future that may well look very different. That, however, can be put to bed if I am elected.

As a lifelong rail enthusiast, I champion sustainable travel yet know it is not as available to us. Hence, I will pursue my SEED project with the Student Union to make Leicester's rail connections more efficient and cheaper as per my stall at Go Green Week.

I will fight hard for more sustainable yet equally enjoyable options in the uni's facilities to cut its carbon footprint with the sharp katana of student-led change, from the food outlets to the heaters and everything in between.

I will help the shellshocked off their feet and encourage all their own ways of delivering a sustainable uni environment, for the environment. It all starts with your vote, for me, James, a first year Politics and International Relations student awaiting the green light to lead us into a future we long for.



# TRANS AND NON BINARY

## JAMIE HYLAND

My name is Jamie Hyland and I am running for the Trans and Non-Binary Officer. I am running to be this officer because as a trans person who in the past has labelled myself as non-binary, I feel that the transgender and non-binary community has very little representation and support in the university. This leads me to want to run for the Trans and Non-Binary Officer so students in university who identify as transgender and non-binary can have a community and representation within the university.

If I was the Trans and Non-Binary Officer, I would advocate for quicker name changes on official documents such as ID cards and on systems such as registers and MyStudentRecord. I would also advocate for more gender neutral toilets because there are only a few gender neutral toilets in the Sir Bob Burgess and Percy Gee Building.

You can vote for me on [leicesterunion.com/vote](https://leicesterunion.com/vote) from the 11th to the 15th of March.



# WOMEN'S OFFICER

## ANTARA NAGE

As your Women's Officer, I'm dedicated to cultivating an inclusive university environment. My mission is to champion women's rights, amplify voices, and ensure every woman feels heard, valued, and empowered.

### Resource Hub:

- Provide women with information, support, and guidance on academic, professional, and personal matters. This includes safe spaces, self-defense, travel safety, and survivor support.

### Tailored Campaigns:

- Launching targeted campaigns to address challenges faced by female students, focusing on emotional wellbeing and mental health.

### Safe Spaces and Dialogue:

- Facilitating open discussions for women to share experiences, fostering a community that values diversity and inclusivity.

### Women's Network Events:

- Organizing inclusive events celebrating achievements and promoting collaboration. Supporting young mothers, mature students, and transgender students.

### Join the Movement:

Let's create a university where women flourish academically and personally. Vote for a future where equality is a lived reality. Your voice matters. Together, we'll shape a brighter, inclusive tomorrow. #EmpowerHerFuture



# CIARA E.J. ROBINSON

I am Ciara, a 1st year studying aerospace engineering, eager to champion gender equity on campus. Elect me as your women's officer for positive change.

I pledge to:

- Always be a friendly face for you to talk to.
- Continue to cultivate a safe environment for female students on campus by adding more lighting to darker areas on campus, distributing personal alarms to be added to key chains, and implement workshops and training sessions on bystander intervention and consent education.
- Organise monthly socials which will provide chances for networking, mentoring and support in order to develop a sense of community and solidarity amongst female students.
- Create safe spaces for women of colour, LGBTQ+ women and women with disabilities through workshops, seminars and awareness campaigns focused on intersectional feminism and the experiences of marginalised women.
- Work with the university provide weekly female only gym sessions to encourage more women to exercise comfortably.
- Advocate for enhanced training programs for staff, to prevent sexist attitudes among educators.



I want our university to be a place of equity and will work diligently to see this realised. By voting for me, you are endorsing this and supporting its implementation.

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# KEERTHANA GAJJALA

I am Keerthana Gajjala from MSc. Healthcare management nominating myself for the position of Women's Officer at the University of Leicester.

I pledge to champion the rights, voices, and needs of women across our campus community. My mission towards us is rooted in fostering an inclusive environment where all women feel empowered, respected, and heard.

I vow to :

Advocate for gender equality in all aspects of university life, from academics to social activities.

I will organize workshops, seminars, and campaigns to raise awareness about women's issues, promote gender sensitivity, and challenge harmful stereotypes.

Empowerment through solidarity is key to our success.

I will create networks and support systems that enable women to connect, share experiences, and uplift each other.

Diversity is our strength, and intersectionality guides our approach.

In collaboration with students, faculty, and administration, I will strive to implement policies and initiatives that advance gender equity and inclusivity.

Together, let us build a university community where every woman can thrive, achieve her full potential, and contribute to a more equitable society. Together, we are unstoppable. I end my quoting that .

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish." - Michelle Obama



# SARANYA NAMBIAR

My name is Saranya Nambiar and I'm running for the role of Women's Officer.

As someone who has organised self defence workshops for women during my undergraduate degree and being an active member of Women in Data Science Community, I know how underrepresented and unheard women are.

I aim to empower women to find their voice and ensure their voice is heard, work with women within the university to give them the confidence to voice their opinions and suggestions to the student union so the talents and ideas of many are heard and used.

If elected, I will strive to achieve equal representation of women within the university. Being a person in tech, I will promote Women in Tech to encourage the involvement of women in technology from our university. I will work my hardest to implement a system where students who do not feel comfortable can report incidents anonymously.

I would run campaigns to educate students on the achievement of treating men and women as equals, and how this translates to our wider society.

Being deeply passionate about gender equality and women representation, I am an ideal candidate for this role.



# FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES

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## EDUCATION OFFICER:

Dr Vaishnavi Chaudhari  
Ahsan Ahmed Khan  
Sam Walther  
Akshay Thimmashetty

## PRESIDENT:

Siya Bhatt  
Jade Thomas  
Ola Tomkowicz  
Kaushik Chodvadiya  
Mohammad Ismail  
Shannon Finlan  
Jobanjit Singh

## COMMUNITY & WELLBEING OFFICER:

Sudeepthi  
Reed James  
Sahar Buttar  
Meeraj Krishnamurthy  
Satya Kundurthil

## SPORTS & SOCIETIES OFFICER:

George Glossop  
Adam Bukacel  
Ajay Reddy

## LIBERATION OFFICER:

Aishwarya Kote  
Gelareh Ahadi  
Collins Poku Effah  
Selvakumaran Ramjibabu  
Madhavi Thanniru  
Sakshi Raina  
Aminah Chowdhury



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for further details

# FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES

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## **WOMEN'S OFFICER:**

Antara Nage  
Keerthana Gajjala  
Saranya Nambiar  
Ciara E.J. Robinson

## **ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER:**

Caspian O'Donnell  
Sian Worton  
Bhavan Bains  
Maria Ison

## **TRANS AND NON-BINARY OFFICER:**

Jamie Hyland

## **DISTANCE LEARNING OFFICER:**

Natalie Hayward  
Dr Precious Kemkanma Ezekwu  
Chloe Williams  
Yasir Alwulayi

## **SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER:**

James Chick  
J'dyl Vicker

## **LGBT+ OFFICER:**

Maeve Goddard

## **INTERNATIONAL OFFICER:**

Viraj Gopal Sure  
Mahsima Mahdipour  
Srinidhi Muralidharan  
Dhriti Bardhan  
Venkata Kolaparathi  
Ruqyah Sweidan

## **MATURE AND PART TIME:**

Avtar Singh

This list of candidates includes those who didn't submit their 200 words

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for further details



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**LEICESTER  
STUDENTS'  
UNION**

All statements and manifesto's in this booklet have been printed verbatim as supplied by the candidates.

