

MEET YOUR 2023 CANDIDATES

EXECUTIVE

2023

✓ VOTE

ELECTIONS



Manifesto Booklet

Education Officer Candidates



EDUCATION OFFICER

LEWIS RUDDOCK

(HE/HIM)

Hey everyone! I'm Lewis (he/him) and I'm running to be your Education Officer! Following years of studying at UOL I have a varied experience of how teaching and learning operates. There are some changes that I'd like to make in order to improve the experiences and satisfaction of students in all courses at all stages of their studying.

I have experience working with the SU using the ideas system, being on scrutiny committee and most recently being a student trustee, supporting representation of students at the highest level in the SU where policy, strategy and financial decisions are made. Alongside this, I have worked as the National Director of Sexpression:UK, a national charity working with student volunteers to teach in schools.



NINA WALKER

(SHE/HER)

Hi, my name's Nina Walker and I want to be your Education Officer! I'm running for the position because I want to make positive changes to the university I love. I am running my campaign on three main goals.

Firstly, to encourage increased communication of student needs. The strikes have made it clear that better conversations need to be had about the needs of students and academics alike. I want to start more feedback groups and expand on the course rep system, to gather more varied perspectives.

Secondly, I want to improve on the university's awareness of the effect of mental wellbeing on academic success. University can be an extremely stressful time and I want to work with the Wellbeing Officer to make sure your time here is happy and rewarding.

Finally, I want to build upon previous Education Officers' efforts to decolonise our learning, by going beyond just acknowledging the problem, ensuring we take active steps to diversify wherever possible.

I believe that I would be a passionate and caring presence within the Student Union. With the help of your input and ideas, I'm certain we can make university life better for everyone.



PRACHI BHATT

(SHE/HER)

Dear fellow students,

My name is Prachi Bhatt and I am running for the position of Education Officer in our university. As a Master's student in the Cloud Computing course, I understand the importance of quality education and its impact.



If elected, I will focus on the following key areas:

- Providing access to online learning resources: As an education officer, I will work to provide access to a wide range of online learning resources by working with the faculties that will help students to learn and grow beyond the traditional classroom setting.
- Ensuring quality education and promoting student engagement: This includes working with the faculty to make sure that the curriculum is up-to-date and relevant to the current industry standards and organize workshops, seminars and events that will allow students to network and learn from experts in their fields.
- Supporting student mental health: I understand that a student's mental health is just as important as their academic progress. As education officer, I will work to ensure that students have access to the resources and support they need to maintain their mental well-being.

I am committed to making our university a place where every student can thrive academically, socially and personally.

YAHIYA KASERI

(HE/HIM)

As a candidate for Education Officer, I am committed to improving the academic experience of students at this University. I believe in the importance of having a strong and dedicated Officer to represent our academic interests, and I am excited to share my manifesto for this position in the upcoming University elections.

My top priorities will be to promote the academic interests of students by representing them in University policy meetings, improving the Academic Representation system, and bridging the gap. With my experience as a Course Representative, I am able to advocate for academic policies and procedures that promote fairness, transparency, and academic excellence. I am committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to academic opportunities and resources. I will also work to ensure that students from all backgrounds have access to the same opportunities and resources.

Additionally, I am excited to experiment new things & hear from you by regularly engaging with students and seeking feedback on your academic experiences and concerns. I am the right candidate for the position of Education Officer. I will work tirelessly to represent your academic interests and ensure that your voices are heard. Thank you for considering me for this position.



Manifesto Booklet

President Candidates



BILAL HUSSAIN



Who is Bilal?

My name is Bilal Hussain and I am nominating myself to be the Students' Union President.

I'm currently a Psychology student and the President of ULISOC, one of the biggest societies at UoL! Some of my hobbies include history, archery and gaming.

I am nominating myself as I have worked closely with the Students' Union as well as other university departments over the last couple of years as a committee member. I believe I can continue my work on improving life on campus for everyone by taking on this role!

What are my goals?

Address the Cost of Living crisis to improve life for all students.
Continue improving prayer facilities and access to halal food on campus, as well as introducing a greater diversity of food
Ensure students from all backgrounds are represented across all levels.
Your Campus: Your Voice.

Improve Sustainability on campus. This also involves reviewing purchasing to ensure funds are allocated properly as well as ensuring ethical investment

Develop SU-Student Group relationships. Not only by providing support for new societies, but also by improving current services, such as the room booking form, so events run more efficiently.

I hope you vote for me!

PRESIDENT

ARCHIE ROBINSON (HE/HIM)

Hey! My name is Archie, my pronouns are he/him, and I am running to be your Students' Union President for 2023/24! Last year I had the pleasure of being your Sports Officer, and I would love to continue representing your views at the next level!

As your President, I would have six key areas of focus of which I would work on throughout the year. These would include an advancement on a cost-of-living campaign to help students regain financial certainty, the development of a campus facilities plan to help us rebuild campus, and finally core work on Liberation, Education, Wellbeing, Sport and Activities to reinvigorate our community at Leicester.

For too long our students have felt a disconnect from the Students' Union and I am running to ensure all students feel as though their Union is their home away from home. As your President, I would ensure that your voice becomes a confident one, allowing us to hold the University to account together.

Re-elect Robbo to rebuild our campus, regain financial certainty and reinvigorate our community at Leicester!

#MarchWithArch



SHANNON FINLAN

(SHE/HER)

My name is Shan and I am a potential candidate for the position of President of the Student union Some of the things I am passionate about, and are not limited to, the conversation around how the strikes will affect students in the long term, the support and impact that societies and sports receive, a conversation around the treatment of students from staff (both lecturers and faculty members, and workers within accomdation), how international students can be supported during the times of strikes, how the cost of living can impact students and seeking support for this, the growing epidemic of domestic violence and coercive and controlling behaviour against ANY individual, a wider conversation on mental health, support for individuals susceptible to drug and alcohol and any other means of addictions and starting a wider conversation on men's mental health.

Thank you!



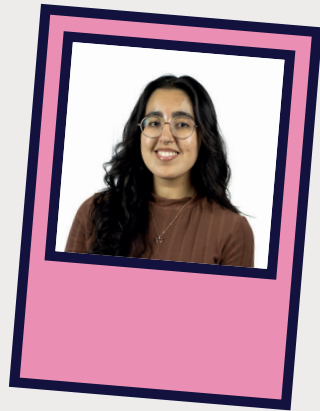
Manifesto Booklet

Liberation Officer Candidates



SAARAH BHALWANI

(SHE/HER)



My name is Saarah Bhalwani (she/her). I am on the MA for Modern and Contemporary Literature.

I am a British Asian Muslim Woman, who is extremely passionate about representing minority voices and diversifying our student experience.

My achievements:

- I ran an intersectionality LGBTQ workshop with our current liberation officer, Nic Farmer.
- I am the course rep for Modern and Contemporary Literature.
- I use my academic work to research British Muslim Literature, an underrepresented field within my subject at the moment.
- I ran debates and wrote blogs at my previous university as part of the English BAME student community.
- I write scripts to express myself creatively, specifically about my identity.

My manifesto covers my main 5 ideas, which are:

- **Accessibility:** Improving classroom accessibility for students with wheelchairs. Holding free British Sign Language classes to normalise communicating through sign.
- **Decolonising the canon:** Promoting more female, BAME and LGBTQ writers, poets, and academics.
- **Intersectionality LGBTQ training:** Continue holding workshops where we can discuss the experiences and struggles of queer people of colour and of different faiths.
- **Black and brown girl magic:** Celebrating and empowering black and brown women.
- **Hijab and turban appreciation days** and improving available prayer spaces.

LIBERATION OFFICER

JADE THOMAS (SHE/HER)



Hello Everyone, my name is Jade and I'm running to be your Liberation Officer for 2023/24!

Over the years, I have actively lobbied and campaigned to make the University a more inclusive place for all students. Some of my biggest achievements to date include getting the library to be open 24/7 and adding Period Pain as a valid reason for Mitigating Circumstances.

I have a genuine passion and care for all students, and constantly work behind the scenes to help improve student life, both on and off campus. If elected, some of the key areas I intend to work on include:

- Lobbying the University/SU to allow sick pay for all student staff who have passed their probation
- Increasing support for international students, including creating resources in their home languages
- Lobbying the University to make the gyms more accessible, including extending opening hours

If elected, I promise to continue to make positive changes for all, acting as YOUR voice to create YOUR ideal University.

Dare to Dream... VOTE JADE FOR LIBERATION!

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Sports Officer Candidates



SPORTS OFFICER

JOE HYETT (HE/HIM)

Hey everyone! My name is Joe (He/Him) and I am currently running to be your Sports Officer for 2023/2024! I am a current physics student who has been a part of the Men's Rugby Union for the past three years and the vice chair of your Sports Council this year. I am running for this position because I would like to see all students benefit from university sports and make improvements in key areas that will support players and clubs.



I feel multiple issues need to be addressed within Team Leicester, specifically player safety and welfare, finance, transparency, relationship with the kit provider and more assistance from Team Leicester with the clubs and committees. I believe I am the perfect person to solve these problems and promote the best environment for all students in their sporting performance. Most importantly I want every student to feel safe when playing sports and know that Team Leicester and their Sports Officer are there for them at all times!

I want there to be greater transparency between Team Leicester and its members and allow students to have a voice in what happens with decisions and finance. Don't forget your vote, your voice #GoVoteJoe.

Trishika Lachwani

(SHE/HER)

Hello there! I am currently a 2nd year student. I have played a variety of sports since I was a child. It was impossible to keep me indoors be it in the bleak winters or the hot summers. I came to Leicester to build a future and believe I am getting there.

My friends would say I am too energetic and ambitious for my own good. I have a reputation of taking up more than I can handle, probably because I work better under pressure. If there is one thing I have learnt about myself is that I never look at failure negatively but as a learning experience, to do better next time, and that my only competition is myself leading to a high level of resilience.



Manifesto Booklet

Wellbeing Officer Candidates



WELLBEING OFFICER

AANANDI BANSA (SHE/HER)

Career pressure, homesickness, or insecurities, it is important to talk about all this because your well-being comes first. Hello, I am Aanandi Bansal (she/her), an international student currently pursuing my master's in mass communications. I am running for the position of well-being officer to improve the student's learning experience at the University of Leicester. Students' well-being and academic growth are interrelated and by taking care of their well-being, we can make sure about the best possible growth of students.

I deem myself fit for the position of well-being officer because being a student myself, I understand what challenges students go through and how they can be improved. There are a few things that I would like to change and some things that should continue like the activities during the de-stress week which was a big success. I became a course representative for the same reason. It is not just a job but a responsibility to make sure that students have access to all the information and resources that the university provides. I want to become the student's voice and also make sure that international students are also being considered as because of them, our university thrives in diversity.



HOOR PATHAN

(SHE/HER)

Hi, I'm Hoor (She/Her).

I'm your current Wellbeing Officer and a Law Graduate!

I am re-running to be your Wellbeing Officer - I've previously worked with European Governments on youth participation and I'm an avid Football & F1 fan!

As Wellbeing Officer I have:

- Delivered daily Free Breakfast to help with Cost of Living, with 5000+ students attending – this was covered by BBC News.
- Secured University commitment to remove gendered language from free period product dispensers.
- Working with University to reinstate Sexual Violence and Harassment working groups to investigate conduct/support.
- Worked with Security on Drink Spiking Awareness, working on having testing kits available on campus.
- Delivered De-stress week with 1000+ students!
- Delivered Sexual Violence Awareness Week with events and external organisations.
- Lobbied University to ensure lowest rent prices for accommodation.

If re-elected I will:

- Lobby University to commit to another year of Free Breakfast.
- Secure Financial commitment for expansion of free period products.
- Increase support for survivors of sexual violence.
- Ensure lowest rent prices for accommodations.
- Improve committee training to include Cost of Living, consent, SV and alcohol awareness.

I hope you will re-elect me!

Thank you.



LOU LESLIE

(THEY/THEM)

Hi, My name is Lou. My pronouns are They/Them, and I am running to be your Wellbeing Officer.

Many third years may know me for running the University Rent Strike in 2021 which resulted in the relationship between students and the University being drastically improved . I was able to get 40% of students to withhold their rent, resulting in reimbursements and rent waivers. However my life of student activism isn't over and I want to maintain that this university grows in a direction that helps students blossom.

I am standing as Wellbeing officer to radically change how students are taken care of in this university and I want to range my policies from safe nights out to a radical change in our university complaint procedure. I want to offer

- A change in the treatment of those with academic disabilities. (including PMS as a valid mitigation)
- The liquidation of eating disorders and poor mental health on campus.
- Further support for those victims of sexual violence and bullying.
- A drastic change to the student life. Including a review of dorms and a night bus.
- For more information please read my manifesto

And I hope I win your vote x



Manifesto Booklet

Activities Officer Candidates

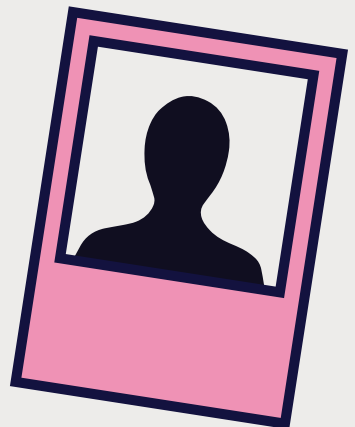


KUNAL KHANDELWAL

Hi, I'm standing for the job of Activity Officer and my name is Kunal Khandelwal. If elected, I'll make sure the University of Leicester is hopping with activities every day. Moreover, I'll work to keep people interested in the activities throughout the semester, so pack your boredom and toss it out the window as your new officer is taking over. For the activities and events that are held under my direction, I will take care of everything.

We shall attempt to disprove the adage "All work and no play makes Jack a dull lad" at the University of Leicester by planning activities that are both educational and entertaining.

Thank you for reading my manifesto and feel free to get in touch with me if you have any suggestions and questions. You can contact me at kk430@student.le.ac.uk



ACTIVITIES OFFICER

JACK MCDONALD (HE/HIM)

If I am re-elected as Activities Officer, here are my plans:

Develop the Student Group Pathways:

- Change our approach when encouraging students to create New Student Groups and promote it more clearly.
- Make the process for creating a new group as simple as possible and explaining the following steps so students know what to expect.
- Thoroughly review our affiliation documents and make them less of a barrier to the creation of new student group. (Did you know most of our new student groups this academic year didn't affiliate after being approved).
- Explore how our committee training can be more comprehensive and easier to refer back to for committee members.
- Review our current approach to the development and support of student groups throughout the year including things such as big events. Provide more guidance with committee elections, including potential training workshops.
- Provide a transition for out-going committee to see how the skills they have learned in their time on committee can be used and communicated for future opportunities.
- Work towards a more consistent and thorough committee handover for future committee members.
- I am also planning to work more on Sustainability, Volunteering and with the Attenborough Arts Centre.



Manifesto Booklet

Part Time Officer Candidates



PART TIME OFFICERS

BAME STUDENT'S OFFICER

HALEIGH GREGORY

(SHE/HER)

Since I have been able to form my own opinions about the world, I have always taken a stance in favour of ethnic minorities cries being heard. I have never been afraid to call something discriminatory out and I have always stood for change. Last year, I attended the Black Student's Matter conference with the liberation officer and BAME officer to hear the thoughts and opinions of black students across the country. It was shocking to see how many of our experiences were parallel, and to see how they differed.

This year, I have been in attendance of more meetings revolving around the university including, a student's council meeting, the Big Fat Gay Quiz 2023, a TEF focus group and course rep meetings. Knowing that 50% of students on campus identify as BAME it came as a shock for me to see the lack of BAME engagement. It's time for change. As your BAME officer I will collaborate with the university and student's union to make meetings/events more appealing to BAME students in an attempt to create spaces that we feel we belong. Let us stop being a statistic because it's time for change.



DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT'S OFFICER

SHEEBA ASAD

(SHE/HER)

My name is Sheeba Asad and I belong to a country which has a patriarchal society, and it wasn't easy being a female in a male dominated system, but I have kept moving forward with the stance to prove myself.

I started my education for Masters in Human Rights and Global Ethics at Leicester University last year.

My aim behind continuing my position as a Distance Learning Officer for the Leicester University is to keep making efforts to create a safe, comfortable, and inclusive space for distance learning students, who might not be physically present for their studies, but the diversity and contribution that they bring to the University is no less than the students who are physically attending classes.

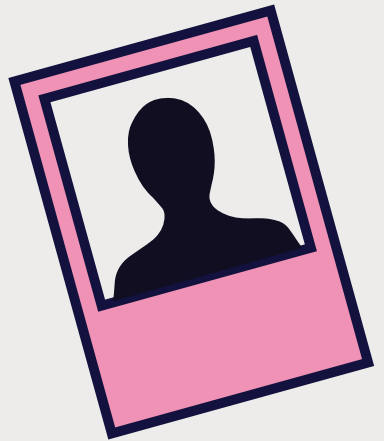
In my time serving as the Distance Learning Officer, I have addressed the queries, concerns, and complaints of Distance Learning students promptly, I have worked on making blackboard more interactive for DL students with reviving the blog and creation of separate discussion forums/messages for conversations beyond academics amongst peers. I am working on a virtual event for the DL students, also aiming to make career fairs virtually available for them to make remote working opportunities accessible for them.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S OFFICER

**ABDUL RAHUMAN
MOHAMED ZAFIR**
(HE/HIM)

Candidate did not provide 200 word summary of manifesto points.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S OFFICER

ANUVINDA THANGAVELU

(SHE/HER)

I'm Anuvinda Thangavelu pursuing MSc. Management, Accounting and Finance at University of Leicester School of Business. I'm an International student from India. I have 4 years of experience in Management had made me to nominate to the post of International student officer.

My proposals:

- More and frequent social allowing International students to meet one another to create bonds and strengthen family like connections in order to make international students feel more welcome.

Increase the International work opportunities offered to both foreign and national students.

- Spread cross-cultural ideas into future UOL events such as the inclusion of music and food from around the world.

- Plan events to fight loneliness, share experiences, of our diverse community, extending my reach beyond foreign students through cultural education.

- Will increase the opportunities to find accommodations as per the needs and wants.

- If I got elected I will make sure to put on all my efforts to fulfil my proposals.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S OFFICER

MD ABDULLAH AL SADID PROTIK (HE/HIM)

I'm running for this position because I believe that every international student should have the support and resources they need to thrive at our university. Here are some of the key issues that I will address if elected:

- I will work with the academic support services to create more resources such as additional tutoring, study groups and mentorship programs for international students who may be struggling with language barriers or cultural differences.
- I will work to create more opportunities for international students to obtain financial support such as scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial aid.
- I will work to promote cultural integration between international and domestic students. This will include organizing events that celebrate different cultures and creating opportunities for international students to share their cultures with the wider university community.
- I will work to create a safer and more secure environment for international students. This will include promoting awareness of issues such as hate crimes and xenophobia.

If elected, I pledge to work relentlessly for all international students to ensure our voices are heard and our needs are met. In the approaching election, I want to have your support.

Please vote for me at -
leicesterunion.com/vote



FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES

EDUCATION OFFICER:

Lewis Ruddock
Nina Walker
Prachi Bhatt
Yahiya Kaseri

PRESIDENT:

Archie Robinson
Bilal Hussain
Shannon Finlan

WELLBEING OFFICER:

Lou Leslie
Hoor Pathan
Aanandi Bansal

LIBERATION OFFICER:

Jade Thomas
Saarah Bhalwani

ACTIVITIES OFFICER:

Kunal Khandelwal
Jack McDonald

SPORTS OFFICER:

Joe Hyett
Trishika Lachwani



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**LEICESTER
STUDENTS'
UNION**

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

