



# lgbt+ elections

**VOTE**

## Candidate Manifestos!

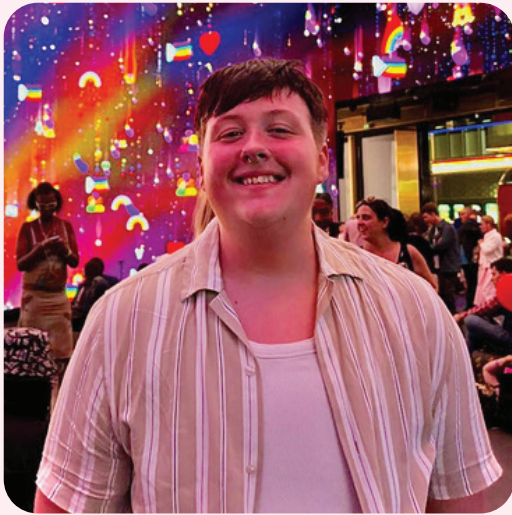


The views expressed by the individual candidates are not necessarily the views of the Students' Union. We encourage you as a student to carefully consider what the candidates have stated in deciding whom you wish to cast your vote(s) for.



LEICESTER  
STUDENTS'  
UNION

# Vote Nate for LGBT+ Officer



## Who am I?

Hi, my name is Nathaneal Smith, but I go by Nate! I am a first-year Law with Politics student. I am a gay man, I play wheelchair rugby, and I love theatre.

Fun fact about me: I love reading and have lost count of how many books I own. I'm currently reading 'Felix Ever After'.

## Why vote for me?

I am running for LGBT+ officer because creating an environment that is safe and inclusive for LGBT+ individuals requires real action. I want to make sure that the sense of community that exists during Pride Month and LGBT History Month extend into the rest of the year.

For many people, university is the first place they are able to experiment with their identity, so it is crucial that our university is a safe and welcoming place to do so.

This starts by ensuring that the SU has adequate resources for students relating to LGBT+ identities and issues. The LGBT+ handbook for students has not been updated since 2018. There is little guidance for societies on how best to create an inclusive environment. This needs to change.

# **Vote for Nate for LGBT+ Officer**

## **My pledges:**

### Sexual Health Awareness:

I will collaborate with C-Card and local NHS services to provide LGBT+-specific sexual health workshops on campus, focusing on inclusive sex education.

### Intersectional Spotlights:

I will run a "Queer & [X]" campaign (e.g., Queer & BAME, Queer & Disabled, Queer & International) to highlight the diverse experiences within the community.

### "Leicester Queer Map":

I want to create a map of Leicester's LGBT+ hotspots including bars, cafes and other local businesses.

### LGBT+ Library Corner:

I will work with the library to make a dedicated LGBT+ Library area and Resource Hub, stocking queer literature, zines, and historical archives.

**Don't Leave Progress To  
Fate, Vote Nate!**



**LGBTQ+ OFFICER**

**SANJANA ANAND**

## **ABOUT ME**

HELLO, I'M SANJANA, A SECOND-YEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY WITH COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE. LIKE MANY OF YOU, I'VE NAVIGATED THE CHAOS OF BALANCING INTENSE ACADEMIC PRESSURE, LIVING ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THE CONSTANT SEARCH FOR IDENTITY, ALL THE WHILE TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH MY EVER-GROWING LIST OF ABANDONED HOBBIES.

COMING FROM A BACKGROUND WHERE I COULDN'T SAFELY EXPRESS MY BISEXUALITY, I KNOW HOW ISOLATING UNIVERSITY LIFE CAN FEEL.

ALTHOUGH, I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET QUEER PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN THIS UNIVERSITY. BEING AROUND SUCH A DIVERSE GROUP, INCLUDING MANY NEURODIVERGENT PEERS, WHO ALL HAVE VARIOUS STRUGGLES, SHOWED ME THAT WE NEED MORE LGBTQ+ SPACES THAT ARE WELCOMING, ACCESSIBLE, AND INCLUSIVE.

AFTER PREVIOUSLY FEELING AFRAID TO EXPRESS MY IDENTITY BACK IN INDIA, MEETING QUEER PEOPLE HAS GIVEN ME THE CONFIDENCE AND THE MOTIVATION TO HELP MORE PEOPLE FEEL SAFE, HEARD AND RESPECTED.

## **MY VISION**

BUILD AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOUR QUEERNESS IS A SOURCE OF POWER, FREEDOM, AND JOY, AND NOT A BURDEN OR SOMETHING YOU NEED TO HIDE. LET'S MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO THRIVE AND MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR UNIVERSITY JOURNEY.

# MY PRIORITIES

## → BEING VISIBLE, APPROACHABLE, AND EASY TO REACH

- REGULAR DROP-IN HOURS (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE).
- CREATING ANONYMOUS WAYS TO REACH OUT, SO STUDENTS CAN ASK FOR SUPPORT WITHOUT PRESSURE OR FEAR.

## → IMPROVING AND EXPANDING LGBTQ+ SPACES

- THE LGBTQ+ SOCIETY ALREADY PROVIDES A STRONG FOUNDATION OF INCLUSIVE EVENTS. I WANT TO BUILD ON THIS BY MAKING THESE SPACES FEEL EVEN MORE WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY FEEL UNSURE ABOUT ATTENDING.

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF COLOUR, I WILL PRIORITISE CREATING SPACES THAT FEEL INCLUSIVE BY:

- SUPPORTING SMALLER, MORE COMFORTABLE DISCUSSION SPACES.
- DEVELOPING A “COMING TO THE UK AS LGBTQ+” ONBOARDING RESOURCE FOR ALL STUDENTS.
- IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION SO INTERNATIONAL/EXCHANGE STUDENTS FEEL CONFIDENT NAVIGATING EVENTS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS.
- WORKING WITH RELEVANT SERVICES TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENTS BALANCING DIFFERENT CULTURAL CONTEXTS.

## → MAKING INCLUSION WORK FOR NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS

- PROMOTE SENSORY-FRIENDLY AND LOW-PRESSURE EVENT OPTIONS.
- WORK WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER OFFICERS TO IMPROVE AWARENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY WITHIN ACADEMIC AND WELLBEING SUPPORT SERVICES.

## → ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT AND LASTING RESOURCES

- DEVELOP A CENTRALISED LGBTQIA+ STUDENT RESOURCE HUB, BRINGING TOGETHER SUPPORT SERVICES, GUIDANCE, AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ONE PLACE. ALSO INCLUDE ALL KINDS OF LGBTQIA+ FRIENDLY SOCIAL SPACES IN LEICESTER.
- PARTNER WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, HOUSING, AND CAREERS TEAMS TO ENSURE LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS RECEIVE INFORMED AND INCLUSIVE SUPPORT.
- BUILD LINKS WITH LOCAL LGBTQIA+ ORGANISATIONS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTORSHIP, INTERNSHIPS, AND EXTERNAL SUPPORT.

## → ACCOUNTABILITY, SAFETY, AND REAL CHANGE

- ADDRESS HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AFFECTING LGBTQ+ STUDENTS.
- IMPROVE AND MAKE GENDER-NEUTRAL FACILITIES LIKE WASHROOMS EASIER TO LOCATE.
- REGULARLY GATHER FEEDBACK THROUGH SIMPLE AND ACCESSIBLE FORMATS, E.G., SOCIAL MEDIA.
- SHARE CLEAR UPDATES ON ACTIONS TAKEN, SO STUDENTS CAN SEE WHAT HAS CHANGED.

# Rosie Lane

For Part-time LGBTQ+ officer



## Why vote for me?

**I'm a confident individual, always smiling and would love to work with the university to improve the experience of our LGBTQ+ community.**

**I want inclusion, support and more opportunities!**

## My Goals



.Maintain the effective communication with the university on providing social opportunities for the LGBTQ+ community.

.Confidently manage a budget to create events to showcase Leicester's pride especially during key months!

. Create exciting freshers events to welcome new students to help them feel supported and seen. It's scary so I want to ease that transition an help all students feel at home.

. Become a signpost to answer any questions, be approachable and represent all parts of the community.

. Ensure every student feels safe!

## Who am I?

Hi I'm Rosie, I identify as bisexual and I'm running for LGBTQ+ part time officer.

I'm a first year student studying law LLB.

## Facts about me

.I ran my LGBTQ+ society at sixth form for students age 11-18.

I helped reshape the R/S curriculum to be more inclusive and representative.

I've been out since I was 12 years old, I'm proudly bisexual and I have a boyfriend.

I love travelling, reading and baking!



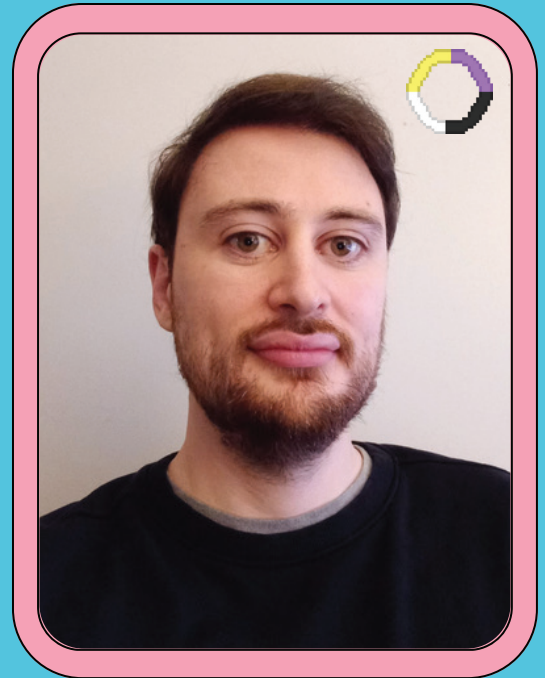


# ***LGBT+ Officer***



## **About Me**

My name is Jack Duggan, I'm non-binary (they/them), queer, and neurodivergent. I'm a mature student researching my PhD in the History of Psychology; I look at historical marginalisation of communities including LGBTQIA+ people to try and tackle future prejudice and discrimination. I love nerdy hobbies like Dungeons and Dragons, fantasy novels, and video games, and I enjoy hiking and swimming.



## **Why Vote For Me?**



I'm very passionate about the representation of marginalised communities and I've got lots of relevant experience for this role! I was a Student Rep in both my degrees, giving me years of experience in advocacy, representation, and making real change.

I've been employed full-time in a university Student Experience team. In this role, I organised lots of events for hundreds of students, invited guest speakers, managed budgets, and liaised between staff and students. I also created a publication which enabled students from marginalised communities to share their experiences and increased the visibility of the 'Student Voice'.

If elected, I would prioritise making the experiences and concerns of LGBTQIA+ students more visible to staff and students to facilitate positive change. See the next page for how I'd do this!



# ***My Priorities***




## **LGBT+ Voice Publication**

We hear a lot about the ‘Student Voice’ and how important it is, but many of us don’t have a platform to be heard. I would create a publication for LGBTQIA+ students to tell your stories, positive and negative, and work to bring it to the attention of staff and students. I would lobby for the University to acknowledge what is and isn’t working according to you, and to meaningfully respond to any concerns and complaints.

## **Creative Workshops**

I would set up Creative Workshops to bring LGBTQIA+ students together and provide a space to discuss, share, and create. This could include auto-biographical writing, poetry, art, or whatever medium allows you to tell your story. You would not be obligated to contribute to the Voice Publication, but if you did want to then this would be a great way to create and develop your story in a friendly community environment.

## **Community Events**

I would work closely with the LGBTQ+ Society to collaborate with them and to complement their events programme. I would organise seminars and workshops with guest presenters from the LGBTQIA+ community to give you the chance to interact and network in a safe, supportive setting. I would ensure there were events for sexualities, sexes, and genders, to represent all of us who come together under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. 

If you have questions, you can contact me at [jd566@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:jd566@leicester.ac.uk)

# Full list of candidates



Jack Duggan  
Nate Smith  
Rosie Lane  
Sanjana Anand



**Who will be your next  
LGBT+ Part-Time Officer?**

Visit [leicesterunion.com/elections](https://leicesterunion.com/elections)  
for further details