

MEET YOUR 2020 CANDIDATES



EXECUTIVE

ELECTIONS



2020



EDUCATION OFFICER



GOWTHAM VEMURI

Hi, I am Gowtham Vemuri.

I am Participating in student elections as an education Officer. I promise all the students that I am going to serve my best whenever a student is in need. And I also give my word that I will be available 24/7 to provide my services to the students who need me.

Any issues regarding their academics or facing any difficulties with the subjects, I assure you that I will try my best to give you the best guidance. I can talk to professors and help you with subject issues.

I promise you I work with no racial feelings, being an international student I am from India, which is one of the world's largest democratic countries, I treat every single student the same and help them all I can.

Trust me the best part of your education begins with the my oth as an education officer.

ADNAN RAHMAN

Hi! I'm Adnan and I am standing to be your Education Officer for a second successive term!

Last year I pledged to get the ball rolling on decolonising the curriculum, hidden course costs, personal tutor reform, student representation and general access to education and I am proud to have delivered on each of those principles, but the work does not stop here.

This year we laid the foundations for change and with a second term, I am confident we can transform things and ensure that we all leave this university in a better place than when we found it.

For a liberated university, for a way of learning that is fit for purpose and for a transformative & empowering education, re-elect **#Ad4Ed!**

I will be standing on the following platform:

- Decolonising and Liberating Education
- Enhancing Employability
- Empowering Student Reps
- Mental Health in Education
- Celebrating Student Achievement

Get in touch via adnan.rahman4@gmail.com if you have any questions!



WILLIAM ASARE

I'm Will and I would like to be considered to represent you.

I am the best fit for this role as I am a gay black male who has experienced the struggles of being part of two minority groups. I would like to stress the fact that I know and understand how difficult it is to be a student, especially leaving home for the first time to face the world alone, an unknown venture with no one to help, nor a shoulder to cry on when the worse happens while trying to become a better version of yourself.

In the LGBT+ community it is common to feel alone and like nobody understands your ongoing daily struggles for just being who you are. In addition, to being from an ethnic minority, this can be even more alienating in the sense that we can get rejected by some family and friends for the lifestyle you have chosen.

I understand this and want to be the voice that allows you to be heard. Being part of these minority groups, often we can be the voice that echoes in a big room that nobody hears, and I want to let your voice be heard.



PRESIDENT

AHAMED MOHAMMED

Get to know me

Mohammed Ahamed Ali

Post Graduate IT Student

Professional Work Experience of 2 years

Nominated for the position of President
in the Students Union



My aim

Better Union

Better University

Better You

If I get selected

- As your President, I will abide by the laws of the United Kingdom and by the Union's Constitution.
- Maintain a healthy relationship between the Student Union and the Administration to achieve more benefits to the students.
- Introduce new innovative ideas with more campaigns, events and stalls to fulfill all the needs of the students.
- Represent the ideas, thoughts and views of the desired activities of the students to the management.
- Interacts with the Students and Union Executive Officers everyday to get a better outcome of any concern.
- Look to provide greater society support and clearer volunteering options including online accessibility.
- Guide you in Education, Sports, Activities, Volunteering and Raising Funds. Unite the students to bring the best among them.

Conclusion

I promise that i will use all my leadership qualities and skills to support each and every student to involve in making their own decision to have a better life in university.

MIA NEMBHARD

I'm Mia and I'm running to be your next President.

I'm currently your SU Sports Officer. This year has given me the insight and tools to champion student needs and represent our diverse cohort of students and their lived experiences; the Students Union' should be a safe space that represents you and constantly adapts to best do that.

As Sports Officer, I've already worked to increase participation through the Inclusion Fund, including free memberships for students. I've lobbied to reduce financial and social barriers to sport by listening to people's experiences and working to create an accessible, welcoming environment.

My manifesto points focus on: students in the city, on campus and their safety. It's important to create accessible spaces outside of campus, which is why I've focussed on nightlife safety and housing. Bad landlords have gotten away with sub-standard living environments and overcharging students for too long.

On campus, I will fight for us to move from extra-curricular to a co-curricular culture, having Wednesdays dedicated to your personal development.

I've worked closely with student survivors and will continue working with the University to make processes and policies more victim-focussed.

Vote for me and you're investing in dedication, diversification and dependability.





DANIELLE WATKIS

Hi, I'm Danielle and I'm a Psychology student. I work at the Students' Union, empowering course reps to create change.

I want to be your SU president **because you matter**. I want to create a community where everyone can thrive, without limitations.

I've already been working behind the scenes for you in the last 3 years to create meaningful change, like pushing departments to have reading weeks or allowing snacks in the library! As president, I want to lobby the University to create changes that will benefit you academically, socially and emotionally.

- Launch a year-long **Conversation Campaign** to promote discussion about things that matter to us: mental health, racism and discrimination, sexuality and gender. Let's create a supportive campus by breaking down stigmas.
- Be on the front-line of a **Research Revolution**: imbedding inclusive research in our curriculum. Let's make us stand out by pushing our academics to cater for a diverse student body - both in what they teach, but also how they teach.
- **Money Matters**: lobby the University to financially invest in us. Let's make student life more affordable by expanding the hidden cost bursary; making Team Leicester membership accessible; and enable students to buy food at discounted prices."

MARIA MATUSZYK

Hey, my name is Maria Matuszyk, I am passionate, hardworking and bubbly individual and I would love to be your new President.

As President I aim to:

Burst the ambiguity of where our tuition fees are spent

- Pushing to provide every single student with information on how their fees are spent – allowing accountability of the University to its students and staff.

Reform University's approach to mental health

- Inputting preventive strategies such as mental health workshops and action strategies from the onset of student's studies.
- Ensuring all students are aware of the challenges they may encounter, how to effectively address them and the support available [#YourHealthIsOurHealth](#)

Ensure digital accessibility of learning materials for disabled students

- E.g. subtitles on lecture recordings.

Space Utilisation Motive to increase availability to study spaces

Support student access to Sports through increased Bursary funding

Increase campus security - Installation of CCTV in Library

Push for greater diversity of counsellors and mental health support staff



To learn more of the positive changes I will make as your President read by manifesto and follow my social media campaign

(Twitter: @PresidentIMaria ; Insta: @maria.moire ; Facebook: MariaForPresident)

[#MARIAFORPRESIDENT](#)



GLORIOUS LEADER

- Get the damn bar on campus immediately, with full effect, we've waited for long enough!
- Campaign for more lighting in Victoria Park, there are still paths that are not lit up at night
- Bring back white t-shirt socials, but make it mandatory that for every person that attends, the society must donate £1 to a charity
- Make International Disabilities Day more known and celebrated on campus, last year only 2 societies held events for it
- Declare war on the imperialists of DMU and seize their campus for ourselves
- Install a sensory garden on campus for those with disabilities, as those in city living do not have access to one unlike Oadby
- Reform societies so that committees are proportional to the member base, and eliminate unnecessary positions
- Replace the glass in the Students Union with a stained glass tribute to Terry Crews
- Replace Friday Club with Shabang, and force LetsDisko to update its playlists more thoroughly, we're tired of the same songs
- Execute Garry the Griffin for crimes against the state
- Fund the creation of a massive block of cheese to see if it can be grated along the Attenborough Tower
- Nationalise LeicFest
- Declare David Attenborough as Chancellor Eternal

ACTIVITIES OFFICER



ELLE PHIPPS

Hey! I'm Elle, I'm the current president of Pro Bono and I am running to be your Activities Officer.

If elected, I will:

- Make a real commitment to inclusion and accessibility in activities through face to face workshops and a transparent complaints system.
- Increase engagement with societies by producing a help guide for finding 'your' society; linking groups based on focus, commitment and opportunities.
- Lobby for funding for religious and cultural groups to host important events throughout the year.
- Simplify society management by unifying forms and providing guides for handovers, events planning and issue management.
- Change the climate change narrative on campus; focussing on climate change as a race and social justice issue.
- Support societies to lower carbon footprints and integrate the new role of sustainability officer.
- Inform on HEAR accreditation, how to achieve it and what it means for future prospects.
- Champion student volunteering and reform the volunteering portal to be reflective of what students want.
- Improve the careers experience for liberation groups; working with other officers to host relevant employability events.
- Secure local work placement opportunities in competitive sectors to provide accessible employment experience.

Vote [#ELLEFORACTIVITIES](#) for a real commitment to your societies, your sustainability and your future.

ANISH KULANDAISAMY

- Organizing inaugural functions for clubs where they can showcase the specialties of clubs, to expose students about available clubs and activities.
- Hosting a University-level cultural festival a platform for arts and media clubs to showcase their talents. Also, like-minded people can combine and showcase their talents.
- Promote local Volunteering projects to improve the relationship between students and the community.
- Help to connect student groups, University committees, club night organizers, photographers, visual artists, etc and promote student's creative talents across the University.
- Better acknowledgment of the amazing efforts and skills of students in all student groups.
- Improved sustainability and the environment in the University campus.





OLA DAŁEK

Why me?

- International Students' Officer 2019/20
- Equality and Liberation Champion for Geography 2018/19 and 2019/20
- Lead Mentor 2018/19 and 2019/20
- Secretary General of HeForShe, Wellbeing Ambassador of UNICEF
- Vice President and co-founder of Yoga Society

My aims

- **Sustainability that empowers**
Ensure that sustainable actions undertaken by the University do not disadvantage any students; Improve the bike scheme on campus; Push for discounts in food outlets when you bring your lunchbox.
- **Inclusivity and involvement**
Focus on mature students, commuting students, part-time students and international students and improving their involvement in events and activities on campus; More volunteering options in the local community; Ensure that there is a Quiet Space in Percy Gee building after the redevelopment; Improve inclusivity in societies and reform the way that committees access information; More support with housing (Moving Out campaign, Rate your Landlord scheme).
- **More opportunities**
Investigate existing fund options to help students who want to get qualifications associated with their interest such as Personal Trainer Course/NPLQ/Photography Course etc; Enable students who are not in any society to organise events on campus; Develop artistic opportunities for students.

SUDHA SAJI

Hey, Sudha here!

Given this being my postgraduate campus days, I already have a wealth of experience in working for the union during my most memorable undergraduate days, and I have your interests at heart.

From cultural activity and technical event coordinator in first year to University Proshow event organizer during the fourth year I have come a long way representing my people. With your voices behind me, I can use the knowledge I have gained of the workings for the Leicester Students' Union to best represent and implement your ideas.

The best way to make people involved is through activities and various interactions. It has always been a happy moment to see new people make bonds and knowing you have also been a reason for it.

Campus days are in which you grow your network the most and various activities and events play a key role in making people get out of their rooms and meet new ones.

So if you like what I hope to achieve, I would be most appreciative of your support! I can't wait to meet you all and have some fun together.





TOM HAYES

Creation of a recognition/rewards system for societies active involvement in SU projects, charity campaigns, and other cross society events, using extra grant funding and more regular prizes such as O2 tickets as rewards. Culminating in a competition for a large prize at the end of the year for the society that has been the most involved overall.

To allow students to be more involved in what SU activities are chosen within the SU, by holding monthly meetings to allow for student input.

Creation of an online room timetable on the students union website for room bookings, to make it easier for societies to see what facilities are available and when, both within the students union, and across campus.

Creation of compulsory regular seminars on mental health for Society wellbeing that are also open to all other students if they wish to attend, The function of which will be to raise awareness, and provide key information to society leaders on how to deal with their members who they suspect are having issues with mental health, therefore utilising the large number of wellbeing officers to help address the issue of mental health on campus.

WILLIAM ALLEN



I am running for this role this year as I want to represent the students and make sure that their individual student voice is heard and also that the overall student experience continues to improve year on year. I know that I've had an amazing experience here so far at Leicester and I want the students to be able to have a great experience here as well.

Also I am not just after the title of Activities offer, but I wish to set up and complete initiatives to further help the students. As being Social Secretary this year for Rugby Union I am not afraid of responsibility, this role has granted me insight into what needs to be done to enhance the students overall experience here at Leicester. This role has also given me many transferable skills such as leadership abilities, team working, ability to delegate, improved communication and negotiation skills. I feel these skills will allow me to thrive in this role and make me a successful Activities officer.

I hope you take these points into account and consider me for this role.

WELLBEING OFFICER

ENNA GUADALUPE

Hello! I'm Enna Guadalupe, I'm a 3rd year Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience student and a Research and Insights assistant for the SU. This year, I'm running for Wellbeing Officer.

University can be stressful and overwhelming – I understand that! Which is why I'm passionate about making changes that put the focus on your health and wellbeing. I want to maximise your student experience by tailoring support services to you, so that you can access everything you need, fast.

This includes:

- Introducing more diverse and inclusive Counsellors
- Tailored support plans for Distance Learners, BAME, LGBTQ+, International and Mature student groups
- Reformation of Mitigating Circumstances and Personal Tutoring systems
- Monitored "Chill Zones" free of noise, phones and distractions
- Introduction of Wellness weeks such as 'Find your Fit' – a week of healthy coping mechanisms
- Continuing vital campaigns such as #MeTooOnCampus to further increase awareness and continued support of survivors
- Holding the University accountable on promises to deliver mental health workshops, consent classes and reduce waiting times for support services

If you elect me as your wellbeing officer, I vow that your voices will be heard and acknowledged. It's time to put your health and wellbeing first.

[#GoForGUADS](#)

For more information, please visit
<http://facebook.com/goforguads>





KARLI WAGENER

I'm Karli and I'm running for Wellbeing.

I'm currently a 2nd year Geography student at Leicester. I was social secretary for UoLVC for 2 years and became club president in 2019/20. I co-founded #MeTooOnCampus and run workshops with students while negotiating regularly with the university. Check our website for info! I've been working in the SU for 2 years.

Here are some of my proposals:

- Tackle Male Mental Health with online blogs, workshops and talks.
- Overhaul mitigating circumstances to stop delays to graduation and consider pre-trauma grades.
- Personal staff support groups can be kept updated on situations to reduce repetition.
- Inter-university links to better support incidents involving students from other universities.
- Group counselling can reduce waiting times and connect with students having similar issues.
- Mandatory consent workshops run by the university.
- Finance management tools, such as an easy-to-use budgeting spreadsheet.
- Online renting guidance to help students find accommodation, set up bills and know their rights.
- Regular de-stress trips to get away from the stress of university.
- Student chatrooms which allow lonely or isolated students to connect anonymously and meet new people.
- Share-a-taxi scheme to help get home safer and cheaper from the O2.
- Accessible kettles in university buildings.
- Cat therapy.

NATHANIEL BROWN

My name is Nathaniel Brown and I am running for Wellbeing Officer for one reason; YOU.

I am a Year 2 Medical Biochemistry undergraduate and much like you, university plays a large part in my life plan. During the first year I found myself feeling isolated and overwhelmed by the unexpected challenges I faced in my course and general university-life: from meeting others I could relate with, to living independently for the first time.

After a very long learning curve, I realised that the only way for me to overcome these obstacles, was to seek help from YOU. To me: YOU are the friends I have found on my course, the societies I have joined and all over campus; YOU are the personal tutor and support services who encouraged me to do better. YOU stood by me and now it is my turn to stand by YOU.

As a Wellbeing Officer I hope to improve upon the quality, access and awareness of all support services offered by the university. However, I also wish to work closely with all other reps and union officers to unite our community through greater appreciation of all cultures, backgrounds, shapes and sizes here at UoL.





MYRA KIAMA

My name is Myra, I am a final year law student and I would love to be your next Wellbeing Officer!

The student body at Leicester is incredibly diverse and I have a range of ideas to ensure that their needs are catered for such as:

- Expanding the 'global cafe' concept and creating a similar space for mature students to ensure they are fully integrated into the student experience
- Utilising the university podcast as a means to raise awareness for the support services available through the university and student union
- Collaborating with other executive officers to address the BAME attainment gap, more specifically to ensure that the university provides more BAME identified counsellors who can fully support the needs of students
- Liaising with the Mental Health Awareness and Support Society to set up a drop-in clinic where students can communicate with me directly and raise any issues they may have, and discuss how the university can best support them
- Providing support for students regarding housing issues, and landlord as well as signposting to services such as the Legal Advice Clinic for specialised advice

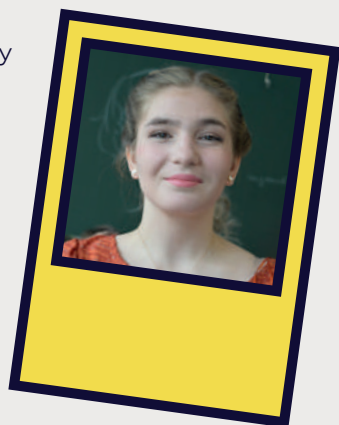
LEA BERTRAND

My name is Lea, I'm French and I'm a 2nd year LLB maîtrise student. This year I am standing as Wellbeing Officer. I have always been passionate about physical and mental health, helping others and I have always wanted to make a difference. I believe that a good university is where students feel welcomed, included and safe.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 2 years spent in Leicester, but I think the University and Students' Union can do more to improve YOUR wellbeing. As Wellbeing Officer, I will make sure you feel understood, heard and supported.

If I'm elected, my plans are to:

- Organise an event for international students to fight homesickness
- Prepare campaigns to tackle body shaming and toxic masculinity
- Implement shelves in girls' toilets to encourage donation of tampons and pads
- Improve the Peer Mentoring Scheme and Counselling Service
- Get easier access to sport facilities and healthy food
- Organise more destress activities throughout the year
- Set up destress picnics during Summer exams
- Implement relaxing rooms in the SU and library
- Ensure safety in accommodations
- Launch a new series of inclusivity events
- Offer self-defence classes



LIBERATION OFFICER



ABI BOWRAN

HAVING BEEN A STUDENT AT LEICESTER UNIVERSITY FOR 4 YEARS NOW, IT IS CLEAR TO SEE THE **DEVELOPMENTS** THAT BOTH THE SU AND UNIVERSITY HAVE MADE REGARDING EQUALITY AND LIBERATION IN THIS TIME. **BUT**, THERE'S STILL A LOT OF PROGRESS AND CHANGE THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN. AS THE FIRST EVER **FEMALE** EQUALITY AND LIBERATION OFFICER, I FEEL THAT I WOULD BE THE RIGHT CANDIDATE TO BRING A FRESH PERSPECTIVE TO THE ROLE; **BUILDING** ON THE PAST PROGRESS AND BRINGING **INNOVATIVE** IDEAS TO THE TABLE.

MY MAIN MANIFESTO POINTS ARE:

- TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY INTO SOCIETIES FOR ALL
- TO EDUCATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING INTERSECTIONALITY
- TO IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
- TO ADDRESS DIETARY NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS
- TO ENGAGE WITH STUDENT GROUPS WHO ARE OFTEN NEGLECTED
- TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF FEEL SAFE AND ARE COMFORTABLE BEING THEMSELVES

A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR **THE CHANGE WE NEED.**

TONY MAGAIA

My name is Tony and I am running to be re-elected as your Liberation Officer.

I believe that liberation should be at the heart of this university. Throughout this year as your first Liberation Officer, I've made it my mission to lead and challenge the university, ensuring that representation and your needs were at the forefront! No student should be denied a great experience based on their race, gender, sexuality, access need, religion and status.

YOUR DEVELOPMENT

Lobby for more work experience/opportunities for International Students

Lobby for increased funding for Liberation campaigns

Push for a review and reform of the Staff Equalities Training and LGBT+ Staff Guide

Continue to tackle the Gender Pay gap

Provide more Trans focused awareness training and support

YOUR SUPPORT

Provide better resources for students, particularly for, LGBT+, BAME, students with disabilities, women and international students

Provide a better process/support for reporting

Hate Crime and Sexual Harassment

Ensure that counselling and support services are inclusive and culturally competent

OUR COMMUNITY

Fight for an Accessible campus for our students!

Rally nationally for decrease of International Student Fees

Tackle form of Hate Crime/Prejudice and ensure that staff are adequately equipped to support students

Introducing womxn's only gym sessions



SPORTS OFFICER

HANNAH BELCHER



- BEEN A **MEMBER OF A TEAM LEICESTER CLUB** AS BOTH AN **UNDERGRADUATE** AND A **POSTGRADUATE**
- HELD THE POSITION OF **'CHAIR'** AND **'INCLUSION REP'** ON **SPORTS COUNCIL 2019/20**
- REPRESENTED **SPORTS GROUPS** ON **SPORTS COUNCIL 2018/19**
- BEEN **CLUB CAPTAIN** OF **CHEER AND STUNT 2018/19**
- WON **'SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR'** AT THE ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS 2019

-
- **JOINT TEAM LEICESTER CLUB RAG EVENTS** THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
 - **FEEDBACK CONCERNS REGARDING BUCS PLAY**
 - **LIASE WITH VIPER 10 TO SET UP A WEBSITE** TO MAKE THE **PERSONALISATION OF STASH** EASIER
 - **COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR ITEMS UP FRONT** THEN WAIT TO BE REIMBURSED
 - **PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK** FOR CLUBS TO CONDUCT AN **INCLUSIVITY AUDIT**
 - **IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF PHYSIOTHERAPY SESSIONS** TO STUDENTS
 - **PROMOTE THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD** TO STUDENTS
 - **HELP SUBSIDISE THE COST** OF COACHING QUALIFCATIONS
 - **CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR UPGRADED GYM FACILITIES** BASED ON STUDENT FEEDBACK
 - **ALLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS A GREATER SAY ON WHAT THEIR FUNDING IS ALLOCATED FOR**
 - **ENGAGE POSTGRADUATES WITH SPORT**
 - **HOST A 'CAREERS IN SPORT' EVENT**

MARCO SOLDO

Marco Soldo VOTE MARCO SOLDO #1 FOR SPORTS

40years old 3rd year BSc (Hons) Human Resource Management
Leicester Award Gold holder Former DL BSc HRM Staff Liaison
Committee Course Rep Former professional dancer Body building and
fitness coach

MY SIX-POINT PLAN

- Increasing the Tea & Talk post Let's Do Leicester sessions.
- Diversifying the offer of the Let's Do Leicester sports.
- Placing the Sports & Active Life Gold and Gold + Memberships on the same plane.
- Adjusting Club membership fees (30GBP for each Sport Club)
- Spreading Sports & Active Life news through the LinkedIn.
- Fixing a period of time to apply for Sports Fund.

Voting Online – www.leicesterunion.com/vote 8am Monday 17
February to 3pm Thursday 20 February
<https://it.linkedin.com/in/marco-soldo-33aa03128>



FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES

EDUCATION OFFICER:

Gowtham Vemuri
Omar Abdi
Zain Khalil
Adnan Rahman
William Asare

PRESIDENT:

Maria Matuszyk
Andrew Briddock
Mia Nembhard
Danielle Watkis
Jermaine Koramoah
Ahamed Mohammed

ACTIVITIES OFFICER:

Elle Phipps
Giuseppe Pan
Sana Sajid
Anish Kulandaisamy
Ruben Paes Reynolds
Muhammad Imtisal
Ola Dalek
Thomas Hayes
Kushal Naidu
Mohan Pathipati
Sudha Saji
Sri sai phani Yarlagadda
William Allen

WELLBEING OFFICER:

Karli Wagener
Naomi Eyeoyibo
Lea Bertrand
Swetha Umopathy
Enna Guadalupe
Nathaniel Brown
Myra Kiama

LIBERATION OFFICER:

Abi Bowran
Tony Magaia

SPORTS OFFICER:

Abishek Meenatchisundaram
Sai Amman Vaaduka
Marco Soldo
Hannah Belcher





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**LEICESTER
STUDENTS'
UNION**

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

