

MEET YOUR 2024 CANDIDATES



ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER

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.



DISTANCE LEARNING OFFICER

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.



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.



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 from the 11th to the 15th of March.



WOMEN'S OFFICER

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





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

