

Alex Nutt

FOR

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Elect me as your Academic Affairs Officer and I will ensure the Students' Union provides the best student experience, the best academic experience and the best representation.

My involvement so far:

Postgraduate student in International Relations and World Order	2009-2010 Badminton Club Captain	Proposed By: Kirsten Dyer Academic Affairs Officer 2008-2009
American Studies Graduate	2009-2010 Sports Executive	
2005-2009 American Studies Course Representative	2008-2009 Badminton Club Vice-Captain	Seconded By: Tom Wilmot Sports President
2007-2008 Year abroad in the United States	2009-2010 LUSH member and presenter of the 'Nutt and Mini-Nutt Show'	
2008-2009 American Studies Course Ambassador	2008-2009 Students' Union Promoter	
2008-2010 Union Council Officer	2006-2007 Branding Team Member	

What I Pledge to you:

To give students the best preparation and skills for entering the workplace: If elected I plan to introduce a new 'Involvement and Mentoring scheme' involving alumni of the university and employers. They can provide extensive advice and experience which would undoubtedly aid students' development and provide them with skills that can be taken into employment. I will introduce guidance workshops which will benefit the University twofold by increasing involvement of past students and help current graduating students.

To aim to secure more comprehensive exam feedback: Feedback is crucial to the personal development of students, highlighting the areas necessary for improvement. Whilst feedback is given for essays and other projects, receiving exam feedback would ensure that students could improve their exam techniques and would add to their development. Understanding what constitutes a good essay is crucial to personal development and I would campaign to achieve comprehensive exam feedback if elected.

To widen the Course Representative Leicester Award Scheme: Students receive significant advantages from this award scheme after leaving university as it is highly regarded by graduate employers. I will expand this scheme to benefit more students and develop the skills for the future by increasing the involvement of the Students' Union in the scheme and working with the staff of the Student Support Development zone.

To conduct a review into the effectiveness of Personal Tutors: The services offered by Personal Tutors is extremely extensive, however, these are not always used by students. A review and enquiry needs to be conducted in order to establish the problems with the system, with the intention to increase effectiveness. I would encourage students to have frequent meetings with their tutors, which may therefore have an impact on improving the level of feedback which was the worst performing indicator in the 2009 National Student Survey.

To Increase Postgraduate and International Student participation in the Students' Union: As a postgraduate myself, I can identify with the diminishing role that the Students' Union plays in our lives. Postgraduates make up 50% of the student population, whilst international students from outside the European Union make up 18% of the full time undergraduates. The Students' Union needs to work to increase its relevance to these students. I will work to increase the representation and involvement of international and postgraduate students by working with the appropriate bodies to achieve this.

To improve the effectiveness of the Careers Service: There are continuing problems with the Careers Service which I will address and resolve if elected. Major issues include the effectiveness of assistance to students regarding future prospects and the knowledge of what services the Student Development Zone actually provides. In the current economic climate advice on careers has become more important than ever before and it is imperative that students obtain the best advice possible. Accessibility is also a crucial aspect and I aim to increase awareness of it amongst students so that all the services can be taken advantage of.

To increase the participation in the National Student Survey: 72% of the University of Leicester Undergraduate student population participated in the 2009 Survey with an overall satisfaction of 91%. These figures are good. However, I have the ambition to work towards achieving even greater participation from students and even higher student satisfaction. I will also address the problems that were raised, primarily regarding feedback; with the intention of establishing the University as the principle institution for providing students with the best education experience.

To develop a Widespread Education Campaign: This year saw a highly successful education campaign implemented on a limited budget. I will create a larger campaign that would be far more widespread, with the aim of reaching out to a larger number of students of all types, providing information regarding the practices of the Education Unit, the services that are available and accessibility in the new building.

To extend the good relationship with the university: A good relationship with the University is imperative in order to achieve a high level of cooperation so as to provide the student body with the best student experience. If elected I will work to achieve higher levels of collaboration whilst keeping the interests of the students as the top priority.

To continue to develop the Course Representative system: The system has undergone substantial development over the past year with a drastic increase in participation in elections and significant improvements in course-rep training. However, this work needs to be maintained and developed to further increase the participation of students in this system and ensure that these representatives make themselves accessible to the larger student population. I aim to make these representatives an extremely important asset to student development, making them more accessible to students, increasing their effectiveness and providing students with the best education experience.

To ensure that the new building is successful and provides students with the best experience: It is imperative that the new building is a success after its years of development. If elected I would work with the other Sabbatical Officers to fulfil the building's potential in providing students with the best experience possible, and make it central to every students' life be it through support, representation or services.

Go NUTTS For NUTT!

