

Ben Margolis for CSU President

Making Cambridge education work for everyone

- Work with faculties to reduce student workload during term and vacations, including a week 5 reading week and no contact hours on Wednesday afternoons.
- Work on standardising supervisor training, ensuring that they are informed on how to appropriately respond to welfare issues.
- Ensure there is equal and adequate mental health provision across all colleges, advocating a counsellor in every college, whilst working with the DSO to fight for vital funding to the overstretched Disabilities Resource Centre and University Counselling Service.
- Ensure that the safety of college members is always put first by formulating a standardised safeguarding framework for academic appointments across all colleges.
- Work with Womcam to increase the scope of Breaking the Silence, by lobbying to ban the use of any confidentiality agreements in the case of sexual misconduct.

Making representation work for everyone

- Bridge the divide between postgraduates and undergraduates with a proposal for standardised roles on JCRs and MCRs across colleges, so the two bodies to work together effectively.
- Improve communication between the student union and the wider student body by considering the implementation of CSU liaison officers across JCRs and MCRs.
- Work across JCRs and MCRs to standardise bursary funding across colleges, ensuring that no students are unfairly disadvantaged by financial insecurity.
- Collaborate with the postgrad team and Cut the Rent campaigns on a pledge for colleges to limit rent increases to inflation level yearly for new tenants, with no increases over the length of qualifications.

Making the university a positive social force for everyone

- Pursue a fossil and arms free university, lobbying on university council for full divestment, and ending funding and sponsorship.
- Scrutinise the implementation of new Prevent legislation, ensuring that any training is counteracted by anti-racial bias training, and that tutors and counselling staff do not compromise confidentiality by government requests for reports.
- Lobby key figures in the university to support free education, including an end to fees, protecting academic staff working conditions, and the restoration of maintenance grants.
- Push with the Living Wage Campaign for workers to have a Real Living Wage, fair conditions and fair representation, working with local trade unions

My experience

- A year as undergraduate faculty board representative for the History faculty.
- CUSU Education Campaigns Officer since June 2019.
- Involved in Fossil Free Campaigning since 2018.
- Core organiser in Robinson Living Wage Campaign.
- Core organiser in Robinson Cut the Rent.

