

HELENA BLAIR

for

CUSU ACCESS & FUNDING

Hi! I'm the **current** CUSU Access & Funding Officer. Coming out of a general election, **next year will be critical for Access**, so it's important to have someone in the job who immediately and comprehensively knows what's going on. It'll be the first year of **A Level Reform**: with AS Levels gone, Cambridge has to reform its admissions procedures, and there could be **huge Access implications**.

EXPERIENCE

A year's experience at CUSU is invaluable. Speaking for students on University committees, leading campaigns, launching and running schemes and social media projects, conducting research and learning from every prospective applicant, student and staff member I meet - I have **a wealth of nuanced knowledge** regarding Access at Cambridge and throughout Higher Education.

I put all I can into Access, and the results are clear. Some **BIG WINS** have included:

CUSU ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS: I have won nearly £30,000 to redevelop the Alternative Prospectus into a dynamic, interactive and student-led website.

CUSU SHADOWING SCHEME: With 415 shadows, this year's Shadowing Scheme was the largest yet (20% bigger than 2014, and 1000+ people involved). The feedback has been extremely positive! I know in detail what works and what should change, and I'm ready to run another that can only be even better.

TARGET SCHEME WEBSITE: I have launched target.cusu.co.uk - it's now fully active and has nearly 200 students signed up!

As well as CUSU Access & Funding Officer, I have years of other Access experience: The **first from my school** to study at Oxbridge.

JCR ACCESS: I ran Homerton's first ever college-specific Shadowing Scheme.

CAMBASSADOR: I represented the University at Access events, and even progressed to represent the CAMbassador programme.

STUDIED EDUCATION: I studied access issues.

POLICIES

My priority campaigns will spread Access even further throughout the University.

A LEVEL REFORM: I will extend student consultation throughout the student body as further decisions are made. We must also reach out to prospective students, guiding and reassuring them as they make choices about their future.

MATURE STUDENTS: Prospective mature applicants face many barriers applying to Cambridge, and have always been underrepresented in student-led Access efforts - I will engage students in tackling these issues, through discussion, projects and campaigns.

ACCESS & SOCIETIES: CUSU can support societies' Access initiatives too! I will encourage more societies to invest in Access, offer training and support, and foster wider Access networks.

ACCESS INSIDE THE UNIVERSITY: Support, increase and act upon the growing awareness of financial and cultural disadvantage that affects students studying here.

NEW CUSU ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS: The funding is for next academic year! I'd like to see this exciting project through and involve many students in its development and launch.

Next year, the CUSU Access & Funding Officer needs as much knowledge of the University's decision-making journeys as possible: **I have seen and influenced the conversations taking place**. Please help me continue to relay the student voice, utilise everything I'm learning this year, develop student-led Access, and **do the best I can for prospective applicants facing disadvantage**.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME BETWEEN 2ND AND 4TH MARCH

