Hi! I’m Joe, a second year Philosopher. I’m running for NUS delegate because having been involved with CUSU Council for almost a year now, I feel that the work they do in representing students is essential, and that by taking on this role, I can ensure it happens at a national level.

I have the experience: I’ve worked representing students at both a college and university-wide level. I have consistently been one of the most vocal members of CUSU Council, and am not afraid to speak out for what is right. I’ve influenced policy on several occasions, and made a number of procedural amendments to ensure the democratic process always puts students first. I have also sat on the panel appointing CUSU student trustees, and taken an active role in groups discussing policy on difficult issues like drinking societies. In college, my role as a JCR Vice-President has meant I am constantly engaging with students. Throughout the role I have listened to what students have to say about topics of all scales, and have provided a strong voice to ensure these views are heard.

My track record is strong: I have always tried to work at resolving problems in the best way possible. Often this means working on several levels so that solutions are found for all students. In last year’s UCU strikes, not only did I join marches and picket lines in solidarity with lecturers, but also communicated the non-partisan facts to students in my college, and worked closely with the college to ensure that students could avoid crossing picket lines by relocating supervisions from faculties.

I stand up for students: At the NUS Conference, I will focus on what affects students by presenting motions, and scrutinising those presented by others. Issues I care about include improving mental health and welfare provisions for students, widening access to higher education (including post-admission), and ensuring that education remains a right for all, not merely a product we are sold. Beyond this, I’m not afraid to engage with unfamiliar matters which students bring to me, and will always be open to dialogue on emerging debates. The role also gives me a position on CUSU’s executive, and I will use this role to ensure that CUSU remains open and accountable to all students. This is something I have done over my time on council, and something I feel it is essential to continue.

I’m committed to the role: Positions like this require dedication, and that is something I will provide. The NUS is our opportunity to be heard nationally - it’s students working together to drive change in our society. By listening to what Cambridge students have to say, and reflecting this on a national scale, I will work to make us part of that change.

Representing students is something I care deeply about, and as an NUS delegate this will guide all the decisions I make. With that in mind, I hope you will consider voting for me!