



meet the candidates

MANIFESTOS | MICHAELMAS 2019

cusu elections

elections@cusu.cam.ac.uk | vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk

Welcome to the manifestos booklet for the 2019 CUSU Michaelmas Elections.

This academic year, the winners of these elections will be running some of the key campaigns within CUSU, impacting the Unions, the University, the city and on a national level.

Their manifestos are your way of deciding who you want speaking for you - so please do spend a little time reading through them before casting your vote. Remember: in every election, if you are not happy with any of the candidates, you also have the option to vote to re-open nominations ("RON"). If RON wins an election, nominations for that position will be re-opened and a by-election held in due course.

Voting is online-only via www.vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk. The ballot will open at 9 am on Monday, 18th November, and close at 5 pm on Thursday, 21st November. You are able to check that you are on the electoral roll at the same address until 5 pm on Sunday, 17th November.

We hope you enjoy the elections!

-CUSU Elections Committee
elections@cusu.cam.ac.uk

WHAT IS RON? (RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS)

If you are not happy with any of the current candidates standing for election, you can vote to Re-Open Nominations (RON). RON appears on the ballot and votes for RON are counted in the same way as those for candidates. If RON is declared the winner after all votes have been counted, the election will be held again. The original candidates are allowed to run again in the new ballot, but it gives the opportunity for new candidates to run.

If nominations are re-opened for one of the NUS-Delegate positions, then representatives from the colleges and faculties will vote for those positions at CUSU Council. NUS delegates elected through CUSU Council will have to vote along the lines of CUSU policy when they attend NUS Conference.

WHY VOTE RON?

Voters may choose to vote RON for one of the following reasons:

- They do not think any of the available candidates should be elected.
- They would rather have more choice and be able to select from a greater number of candidates (not a guaranteed outcome).
- They have already ranked some candidates, but feel that none of the remaining candidates should be elected.

VOTING RON IN STV/AV ELECTIONS

The CUSU Cross Campus Elections are counted using the Single Transferable Vote system (STV) which becomes Alternative Vote (AV) for positions with only one place. Put simply, this means you will be able to rank candidates in order of preference, instead of only voting for one candidate. When counting votes, if there is no outright winner, the losing votes will be re-distributed according to voters' second preferences (and then third, fourth and so on) until there is an outright winner. You can rank RON first and still rank other candidates afterwards, so your vote is not wasted if Re-Open Nominations is not successful.

You do not need to vote for RON in an election, so if you think all of the candidates are better than no candidate, don't put a number next to RON on your ballot!

More information about STV can be found on the CUSU website.

www.cusu.co.uk/takeaction/elections





Nus Delegates

CANDIDATES

GRADUATE UNION PRESIDENT

ALESSANDRO CECCARELLI

VOTING PERIOD: 18-22 NOVEMBER 2019

FOR NUS DELEGATE

FOCUS AREAS AND POLICIES



POSTGRADUATE FIRST
FOR **EQUALITY,**
RESEARCH RESOURCES,
AND **ENVIRONMENTAL**
SUSTAINABILITY

WHY VOTE FOR ME?

HI, I AM ALESSANDRO CECCARELLI (HE/HIM). I AM THE CURRENT GU PRESIDENT AT CAMBRIDGE.

I HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE ACROSS EUROPEAN AND ASIAN UNIVERSITIES, OFTEN AS OFFICER OF STUDENTS' UNIONS (E.G. PG STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON).

PREVIOUS TO CAMBRIDGE, I HAVE BEEN WORKING IN SOUTH ASIA FOR THE PAST 9 YEARS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH CHARITIES AND NGOS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE. I AM AN LGBTQ+ PERSON, AND I AM AN ACTIVIST FOR LGBTQ+ RIGHTS.

EMAIL: ac2045@cam.ac.uk
WWW.ALESSANDROCECCARELLI.COM

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES AND STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITIES' INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY TEND TO CONCENTRATE ON TWO ASPECTS: (A) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES WITH A RESEARCH FOCUS; AND (B) REVENUES, FINANCE, SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - SORT OF CASH COWS. HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE A CLEAR GAP AS THE UNIVERSITIES ARE NOT LOOKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION IN TERMS OF HUMAN CAPITAL AND THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS AND STAFF.

3.5 PhD FUNDING (PHD3.5)

UNIVERSITIES HAVE A DUTY TO IMPROVE THE PhD STUDENT EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE, AS WELL AS QUALITY OF ACADEMIC WORK. HAVING 3 YEAR FUNDING SCHEMES SETS UP UNREALISTIC AND TOXIC EXPECTATIONS THAT HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH AND FINANCES OF PGR STUDENTS.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY (E&D)

THE POSTGRADUATE POPULATION AT UNIVERSITIES TEND TO BE MORE DIVERSE THAN THE UNDERGRADUATE SIDE, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. THIS OFTEN RESULTS IN A GREAT VARIABILITY OF IDENTITIES AND BELIEFS. UNIVERSITIES SHOULD ACTIVELY UPDATE THEIR POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES, WOMEN AND NON-BINARY STUDENTS, AND TRANSGENDER AND LGB STUDENTS. THIS ALSO INCLUDES FAIR PAY, FAIR ALLOCATION OF JOB POSITIONS AND ACCESS TO FAIR PENSION SCHEMES.

POSTGRADUATE ACCESS AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION (AWP)

AT THE POSTGRADUATE LEVEL, AWP STRATEGIES ARE STILL AT THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. WE NEED TO URGE EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY FOR UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS. THIS INCLUDES SETTING UP TARGETED PG FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINORITIES, AS WELL AS OUTREACH PLANS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND HELP POTENTIAL CANDIDATES APPLY FOR A PG PROGRAMME.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUELS, AND, IN PARTICULAR TO ENCOURAGE UNIVERSITIES NOT TO INVEST THEIR FUNDS IN COMPANIES WHICH EXTRACT FOSSIL FUELS.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

IN HIGHER EDUCATION, NORMALLY UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS ARE THE FIRST OWNER OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. OUR CONCERN IS THAT STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER HOW THEIR WORK IS USED, SO AS TO ENHANCE AND PROTECT THEIR PROFESSIONAL STANDING AND GET A FAIR REWARD.

VOTE KATE

FOR NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SAVING NUS LIBERATION

At last year's NUS Conference, NUS Liberation came under attack in efforts to save money. The liberation campaigns were only narrowly saved from having their funding slashed and their full time officers changed to part time volunteers. This year, NUS management are again turning to liberation as the first place to make budget cuts. This would be disastrous for NUS' liberation work and its ability to work for and represent marginalised students. I'll vote against any plans to cut liberation, and make sure it remains at the heart of what the NUS does.

HOW I'LL VOTE

I'll vote in line with the platform I ran on for CUSU Women's Officer and with existing CUSU and WomCam policy, and vote for candidates for national election who share these priorities

- Supporting cut the rent campaigns
- Opposing the racist Prevent duty
- Campaigning for universities to divest from fossil fuels and the arms industry
- Free education and resisting marketisation
- Better support for survivors of sexual violence
- Dismantling the hostile environment

Sally for NUS Delegate



1 IMPROVED STUDENT WELFARE

Rent prices are at a record high, mental health provisions for students are abysmal and sexual violence procedures are ineffective. I promise to campaign on the issues that affect students' everyday lives.

2 ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ANTISEMITISM

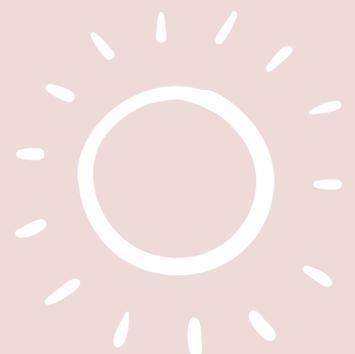
Antisemitism should have no place in the student movement, yet it continues to rear its ugly head. I'll continue to pressure our national movement to combat antisemitism in a meaningful way, as well as calling out Islamophobia and hatred in all its forms.

3 TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

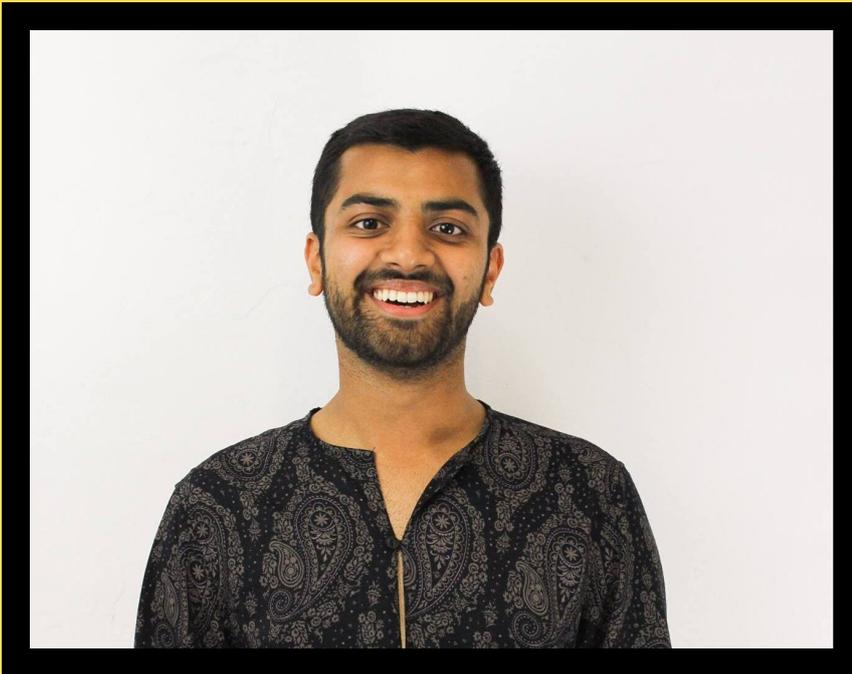
Every student should feel safe on campus. However, universities refuse to take reports of sexual harassment and assault seriously. In particular, I will lobby to support BME, LGBT+ and trans students who face even greater hurdles when accessing support.

MY EXPERIENCE

- Current NUS NEC Member
- Women's Officer, St Edmunds College
- Equality, Liberation and Access Officer, Bristol SU



Vote Shadab #1 for NUS Delegate



Having been elected NUS delegate last year, I would like to use that **experience** to help the other delegates on their first conference, and ensure that we can **represent students** in the most effective way possible!

Last year at conference, I:

- Voted in favour of motions to **protect** the **Liberation Campaigns**.
- **Campaigned successfully** for candidates who stood **against** the **marketisation of Higher Education**, were committed to calling on the government to seriously tackle the **climate emergency** we face and **tackle** our **mental health crisis** at its structurally embedded roots.
- Voted for **support** from the NUS on **rent strikes** and general campaigning **against** the **rise of living costs**.

This year at conference I will:

- **Support** the other delegates to write motions, make amendments, speak on motions at conference.
- Vote in **favour** of motions that will **improve access** to universities for working **class** and **BME students** and **eliminate attainment gaps**.
- Campaign for candidates who will fight for the **abolition of tuition fees**, a **reintroduction of maintenance grants**, **reduction of the extortionate interest rates** of student loans whilst they exist.
- **Collaborate** with other delegates and **unions** for a cohesive network to fight against unfair working conditions to improve our educational system.

Shadab #1 for NUS Delegate - vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk

VOTE STELLA

FOR NUS DELEGATE #1 - [VOTE.CUSU.CAM.AC.UK](https://vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk) - 18TH TO 21ST

...for a commitment to joined-up approaches to the systemic issues affecting students, from the climate crisis to how we counter cultures of sexual violence in our universities.

WHO IS SHE?

As the **current Welfare and Rights Officer for CUSU and the GU** I've got a good idea of the main issues affecting students' welfare at Cambridge, as well as experience campaigning for positive change on these at a university level, running training sessions for students and staff, and platforming student organising in my full time job as a sabbatical officer.

I also **campaigning as a student** on issues from cutting the rent to strike solidarity to opposing Prevent. I've worked on linking up our campaigning with local groups, as well as Anglia Ruskin and national campaigns, because I know that we are most effective when we work together for change.

At National Conference I'll be voting for motions and candidates who reflect a commitment to NUS support and action on the following areas...

WELFARE IS POLITICAL

- **Opposing the racist Prevent duty**
- Linking up with the NUS Women's Campaign's work on **supporting survivors**
- Centring **support for student sex workers**
- Continuing support for **cut the rent** campaigns

DIVEST / DISARM / DEMOCRATISE

- Universities should not be funding, or funded by, industries that cause global destruction either through their fossil fuel extraction or their support of the global arms trade.

FREE EDUCATION

- **Against Marketisation**, continuing opposing harmful metrics like the NSS
- **Decolonisation** - linking up with our Decolonisation Network to make sure students can feed into national policy.
- Making sure **post-graduate voices** are heard at a national level.

UNION SUPPORT

- With the UCU strikes approaching, it's clearly very important that **students' unions are closely linked with other workers' unions**
- I'll work to make sure that campaigns for the unionisation of cleaning staff are supported by the NUS, and that we are actively seeking links with other trade unions.



Nus Liberation Conference Delegate

CANDIDATES



Jess O'Brien

FOR NUS LIBERATION CONFERENCE



Experience

Through my work this year as the head of the CUSU Disabled Students' Campaign, as well as on the LGBT+ committee, I have spent every day actively fighting for the liberation of our students

Prioritising Liberation

I strongly believe that liberation politics should be at the forefront of all we do, and will work to amplify the voices of all marginalised groups within our communities

Disability

I have a wide and in depth knowledge of disability politics, hence why you elected me to be your Disabled Students' Officer! I want to bring that knowledge to the national stage at the NUS Conference.

Attainment Gaps

I will ensure that the NUS puts challenging the attainment gaps which exist for Black and Disabled students at the top of its agenda.

Mental Health

Welfare is a political issue, and I will ensure the NUS challenges the structural causes of our mental health crisis, including workload.

VOTE KATE

FOR NUS LIBERATION CONFERENCE

I'm running to represent women students at NUS Liberation Conference as your CUSU Women's Officer! Here are a few policy highlights I'm working on at CUSU and would like to see the NUS take up at a national level and provide support for SUs on:

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

- NUS WomCam to lobby for a national model of best practice for sexual misconduct policies which all universities must adopt
- NUS to continue its research into sexual violence in higher education and maintain supporting survivors as a campaigning priority

STUDENT PARENTS

- In 2009 NUS published research on student parents in their 'Meet the Parents' report
- I'd like to see the NUS conduct more research into student parents, recognising that women are more likely to have childcare responsibilities
- Provide tools for SUs to lobby their universities to improve childcare provision and for the national government to improve funding for students with dependents

WORKING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN STAFF

- Support campaigns for universities to become living wage employers, recognising that low paid employees are often women
- Continue to work closely with UCU on issues like casualisation and workload, recognising that these are gendered issues
- Lobby for universities to publish data on their race and disability pay gaps as well as the gender pay gap

Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

BME Officer

CANDIDATES

Flamur Krasniqi

FOR GU BME OFFICER

Over the last 4-5 years, Cambridge has made some excellent strides forward to addressing the problems and issues presented to BME students when applying to Oxbridge more generally. But, there remains a lot of hard work to be done. Everybody who comes to Cambridge, knows that it is a fantastic place to be, with the opportunities for your future career almost endless. These opportunities should be as open an accessible to everybody. Yet, unfortunately, BME students, which also happen to come from some of the most economically deprived places in the country, do not enjoy the same opportunities.

One of the first things that I would strive to propose is having a stand alone section/stand/event advertising for BME students during the annual summer & winter graduate open day. In addition, I would seek additional funds and support for organising a stand alone BME open day event for graduate students dedicated to issues and problems that are most pressing and important to them. I believe that such events would not only go a long way to demonstrating Cambridge's dedication to encouraging BME students to apply, but would also make the University itself more accessible to students and show them that it understands their predicaments but that this should not preclude anybody from applying.

As the BME officer, not only do I believe that I have the right ideas to help address these issues, I also have my own personal experience to understand the difficulties of these issues. Coming from a disadvantaged background that included a lifelong reliance on social government housing, lack of local opportunities and a school upbringing that wasn't the best, I had to fight harder and more consistently to make it to Cambridge as a graduate student. Now a second year PhD student with the personal history of overcoming many of the challenges that BME students experience, my own experience will help to fuel better and more efficient outreach ideas and programs that can be of great benefit to aspiring BME students.



Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

Disabilities Officer

CANDIDATES

SIYANG WEI *for* DISABILITIES OFFICER

I'm Siyang, an MPhil Sociology student at Newnham (where I also did my undergraduate degree). Having spent so much time here, I'm very familiar with the issues faced by students, and my experience in student organising means I understand how to **address the structural causes**. I want to put my experience to use as the GU's Disabilities Officer, and ensure **access and justice for disabled graduate students** at Cambridge.



WHAT WILL I DO?

GRADUATE ACCESS & FUNDING

- The availability and accessibility of funding presents huge **financial barriers to graduate study** at Cambridge, which has a **disproportionate impact on disabled students**.
- The **marketisation of the graduate degree** and **lack of graduate bursary support** also have negative mental health effects for students.
- I will continue my work on access and funding to ensure **security** for disabled graduate students and **rights** for graduate students to **access the support needed** to complete their degrees.

DEGREE HACKS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

- CUSU's Disabled Students' Campaign has produced some great resources for incoming students which **demystify the Cambridge degree** and offer **advice for disabled freshers**.
- I will create a similar pool of **resources for incoming graduate students**, with the understanding that the problems faced in graduate study are often quite **different from undergraduate life**.

A UNIVERSITY FIT FOR GRADUATE STUDY

- A recent report commissioned by the GU found that the University is '**structurally configured to support undergraduate students**.' Disabled graduate students are put at **huge risk of falling through these gaps**.
- I will ensure that the needs of graduate students are put at the heart of discussions about issues such as **rent** and the '**hidden costs**' of Cambridge, **counselling** and **student disability support**, and Cambridge's **academic culture**.

WHY ME?

I was a **CUSU BME Campaign** committee member for 2 years, and was BME Officer on **Newnham College JCR**. I helped organise the 2017 General Election student effort as **Labour Club Co-Chair**, and have been active in **Decolonise**, **Cut the Rent**, and **UCU strike solidarity** campaigning across the University. I conducted an **investigation into financial support for students on intermission** for Varsity, and have written about my **experiences as a student with ADHD**. As a **GU Open Portfolio** officer this term, I have worked to improve **access and funding** for graduate students.

#VOTESIYANG — FOR GU DISABILITIES OFFICER!

Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

**Environmental
Officer**

CANDIDATES

Bonni Jee

FOR GU ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

- I am doing an MPhil in Environmental Policy - it doesn't get more relevant than that!
- Prior to this I was the Environmental Officer for Nottingham Students' Union, representing over 30,000 students, while studying Natural Sciences (specialising in Environmental Science) There, I was also Environmental Rep for two years on hall JCR committees
- My previous achievements there include improving sustainability of our students' union by tackling disposables and single use plastics, improving recycling at halls of residence and student housing, diverting unsold food to a local food bank, and leading my halls of residence to win the NUS Student Switch Off competition, coming third nationally (behind Oxbridge colleges!)
- I believe I have the skills and experience to deliver for the graduate students at Cambridge
- I believe that as graduate/mature students, we have a lot of knowledge and experience that we can bring to the environmental movement here at Cambridge - it doesn't have to be monopolised by fresh undergraduates...
- I would like to ensure that all colleges have a decent environmental programme, be it sustainability societies or green impact teams, so that everybody, at every college, can get involved locally
- I pledge to ensure that graduate students aware of all of the opportunities that are available regarding sustainability, from the University's green impact team to Extinction Rebellion
- More opportunities for students to give their feedback regarding sustainability - as graduates we come from a wide range of universities and countries - many of which admittedly do sustainability better! I want to hear from you!
 - We stand on the shoulders of giants here but when it comes to sustainability there is often much left to be desired, whether its investment in fossil fuels (at Nottingham we achieved full divestment), inefficient old buildings and lack of recycling schemes
 - So please, vote for me - the experienced candidate with a track record of delivery.



STANLEY QUEK



Reduce **EMISSIONS**
Increase **BIODIVERSITY**
Tackle **GREENWASHING**

MY EXPERIENCE!

I am running for GU Environmental Officer because I am very concerned about the state of our world and our lack of action. I specialised in conservation while doing Part II Zoology. I am now doing an MPhil on ecological networks in my home country of Singapore. I have worked with experts within the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and can tap into the vast experience and knowledge of these experts.

For further queries:
STKQ2@CAM.AC.UK

WHAT I THINK

The university has taken positive steps. For instance, it has trialled removing the labels on vegan and vegetarian food items and presenting them as equivalent food choices, and this has increased the uptake of these environmentally friendly options without removing alternative choices.

However, much more remains to be done. I read with horror the report published by the Cambridge Zero Carbon Society, a succinct, easily understood summary of the deeply intertwined nature of the university's relationship with the fossil fuel industry. 70% of emissions are enabled by only 100 companies, and this is deeply unsettling. I feel a paradigm shift is necessary in tackling this issue. Who provides the demand for this? In addition, this institution contains perhaps the highest density of environmentally conscious individuals, and yet, we are involved in so many overseas conferences which translates into a higher air mileage than the average consumer.

Most of the people involved in the environmental movement are not experts and are subject to media sensationalisation. Many companies are cognizant of the demand for "sustainable" alternatives, and yet, lack the will or ability to make concrete changes. A lack of understanding by the general consumer has allowed greenwashing to flood the market, instilling a misplaced sense of fulfilment in the hearts of consumers while giving the companies license to operate business as usual.

WHAT I PROPOSE

REDUCE EMISSIONS!

- ✧ I will call for heavy investments to improve our connectivity and broadcasting capabilities so that conference calls become a viable and acceptable alternative to travelling for conferences
- ✧ I will call for an increase in travel grants for train journeys to conferences within Europe
- ✧ I will continue to push for divestment
- ✧ I will also push for increased investments and ties with companies that seek to provide preferable employment alternatives for current workers in the fossil fuel industry so that the transition will not unduly penalise these workers

INCREASE BIODIVERSITY!

- ✧ I will use research to make informed interventions which will increase the biodiversity of college grounds and the university as a whole
- ✧ I will set up a task force to explore a university wide, coordinated biodiversity initiative which can implement large scale interventions, such as provisioning corridors, informing the location of green nodes and a community outreach program

TACKLING GREENWASHING!

- ✧ I will set up a task force to expose greenwashed labels
- ✧ This will reward companies and communities that are genuinely making a difference and disincentivise spending on those jumping on the bandwagon solely to protect their profits

Graduate Union
part-time student Exec

Faculty Liason Officer

CANDIDATES

Emmanuel Addo Sowatey

FOR GU FACULTY LIASON OFFICER

Generally, unions are stronger when their sub units have strong coordination of drive and purpose. But mobilizing both individuals and collectives for a common purpose is not necessarily guaranteed. It is partly accomplished through strong coordination. This is where my strength lies.

Over two decades, I have acquired experience in building and maintaining strategic partnerships for strong coordination among multiple actors. In this vein, I have demonstrated experience in how to leverage on the strength of partners through tact and diplomacy. My experience working with CSOs, governments, supra-national organizations like ECOWAS and UN places me in a unique position to deal with diverse players who are critical to the achievement of desired outcomes. For example, I assisted the Electoral Commission of the Graduate Union at the University of Ghana in 2000 when I was a graduate student. This exposed me to student issues in great detail.

Although contexts differ, the experience at various levels and working with different actors has equipped me with rich lived experience to enable me perform as a Faculty Liaison Officer (FLO). This position of FLO is key in the face of the new student union where the needs of graduate students and others require strong coordination. Experience in effective and efficient strategic coordination is vitally important in this position and this is what I bring.

I am available to respond to questions and hope you give me your vote.



Jeffrey Rubel

FOR GU FACULTY LIAISON OFFICER

The power of the GU and Cambridge comes from the force of the collective. The University is run by many different systems—colleges, departments, etc.—but bringing these groups together can further a greater good.

That's why I'm running for Faculty Liaison Officer. I am excited to work closely with faculties across the University to address the issues on their mind and use their close ties to professors and students to further University-wide initiatives and create a stronger graduate community. In this role, I will seek to:

- Bring together faculty reps to identify common issues and develop shared solutions
- Create open dialogue across departments
- Further the mission of the Graduate Union through cooperation with departments

Beyond specific causes and issues that arise through conversations with faculty representatives, the causes I will personally champion include:

- Building opportunities for collaborative governance between students and faculty
- Furthering interdepartmental and interdisciplinary cooperation, including developing events to promote collaboration across disciplines
- Creating open channels of communication for students to voice comments or feedback about their academic experience (both anonymously and through forums)

To this role, I'd bring extensive management and higher education governance experience. The skills I can bring to this role include:

- Experience leading campus-wide committees
- Experience launching campus-wide campaigns/initiatives
- Understanding of how Universities function and how to make change on a campus
- Running projects for educational institutions
- A passion for higher education

As an undergraduate at Williams College (USA), I served as the student chair on the college's leading academic policy committee, a group of students and faculty overseeing the curriculum for 2,000 undergraduates. I worked closely with professors and students from across the institution to introduce new curricular initiatives (e.g., a pass-fail option), launch academic pilot programs (e.g., writing seminars), and manage all the College's course offerings. I often met with the faculty and student governing bodies to gather input and share program updates. Through this committee, I promoted cooperation and conversation amongst diverse stakeholders.

As an undergraduate, I also launched independent initiatives to drive change at my College. I created an academic engagement program that used hashtags, funny posters, and email campaigns to change student behavior (it was called "Your 32" for the 32 course credits required for graduation). The experience of launching this program, without administrative support, taught me how to create independent, meaningful change on a campus. Additionally, I have developed and led many academic programs. I've worked with local high schools to create science immersion days, and I've developed and taught a high school environmental science coach. Further, I'm coming to Cambridge after two years in management consulting, where I led a case team of seven consultants working for a tech literacy non-profit. I look forward to bringing my skills and experience to my work as Faculty Liaison Officer. I am excited to work with Faculty Reps to find common ground and further collective interest—all to make Cambridge a better place for graduate students.



Shant Karabajak

FOR GU FACULTY LIASON OFFICER

Having studied for over 15 years in 3 different colleges and universities in Montréal Canada, I have had the great opportunity to interact with faculty members of varying backgrounds and personalities. The rapport I have developed with them facilitated the academic success of myself and my peers. Furthermore, in 2017, I ran a political campaign during the municipal elections in Montréal.

My ability to build relationships, actively listen to my interlocutors and to engage in meaningful debate and consensus were thoroughly noted in local media. I am certain that I can bring my expertise to bear on the role of Faculty Liaison officer for the benefit of the University and my fellow students.



Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

International Officer

CANDIDATES

Elly Tai

FOR GU INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

I have been working with our amazing GU team over the past few terms as the International Officer. One of my main goals was to facilitate the issuing of CAS and visa application for our International GraduateS. After working closely with the Graduate Admission working group, we saw a significant improvement. Last year, many of us waited for a very long period of time to have our CAS numbers ready. This year, as continuing students, many of us received our CAS number just few hours after we met our conditions. I couldn't have done it without your support! The training I received from GU has made me capable of acting as a liaison among the students, departmental representatives and university administrators effectively.

The International Welcome events, International Graduate Brunch at different colleges and Academic forum with Nature's International Chief Editor are some of the activities I'd like to continue and expand in the near future.

I will devote ample time and effort to be reachable and deal with issues with my undivided attention. It would be an honor for me to help bring our graduate community closer together. Looking forward to working with you all soon!



Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

LGBTQ+ Officer

CANDIDATES

Howard Chae

FOR GU LGBTQ+ OFFICER

WHO AM I?

I'm Howard, a master's student at Magdalene College. As someone who also did their undergraduate degree here, I'm familiar with the issues that matter most to LGBTQ+ students, especially LGBTQ+ students of colour. Cambridge University is a great place to be LGBTQ+, but there's always more that can be done. I'm keen to build on the work of previous LGBTQ+ Officers to continue the GU's legacy as a space of support and community for LGBTQ+ students, and campaign for our rights.

WHY ME?

I have the experience to work together with others to effectively campaign for positive change and provide students with support.

- As LGBTQ+ Officer of the Cambridge University SU Black & Minority Ethnic Campaign, I supported LGBTQ+ students of colour and helped launch FUSE, a network for LGBTQ+ students of colour.
- As BME Officer of Magdalene College JCR, I organised socials and other events for BME students to build a sense of community.
- As a Student Rep on the Faculty Board of History, I worked with the UCU and others to support their successful campaign to end the History Faculty's use of unpaid teaching by grad students.
- As a Reporter and Section Editor for Varsity, the student newspaper, I've written about many of the issues that matter to students.

MY GOALS & PRIORITIES:

- Organise a programme of events for LGBTQ+ History Month in February, with a particular focus on how sexuality intersects with race, class, gender, etc.
- Work closely with the Women's, International, BME, Families, and Disabilities Officers to ensure that the GU supports and empowers all LGBTQ+ students (e.g. by running joint events).
- Acting as a point of contact for all concerns from LGBTQ+ students.
- Act on the findings of the recent 'Out at Cambridge' Report, working with the GU Sabbatical Officers to campaign for the University to improve its policies on discrimination.



Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

Open Portfolio

Officer

CANDIDATES

Megumi Asada

FOR GU OPEN PORTFOLIO OFFICER

Hi all! I'm Megumi (they/them) and I'd like to run for one of the Open Portfolio positions this year! My proposed project is related to issues of mental healthcare access particularly for students who aren't sufficiently supported by what's currently in place. My understanding (based on word-of-mouth) is that the UCS offers on average 4-6 sessions and the NHS max 12. For many students, including myself, 3 months of treatment is not anywhere near enough. I've been in therapy for three years (and counting!) and while I'm so proud of the progress I've made, it is very much necessary for my survival and health. This experience is not at all unusual. Moreover, the UCS and NHS both have—often, long—waitlists and in some cases, this means not getting an appointment until we've finished our MPhil or several months of a PhD.

But even if you don't have a chronic condition now, Cambridge is a tough place. No matter how healthy you may be when you get here, you may at some point struggle with insomnia, eating, getting out of bed, or oversleeping. It's hard to know who to go to when struggling with day-to-day tasks. It seems to be the norm here to rely on the kindness of individuals to catch us when we trip: college counselors, tutors, supportive students in DSc Facebook pages, etc. These resources are essential but we need a more robust system. I'd like to work towards developing clear guidance on what to do and where to go including when these individual safety nets fall through.

I had a really hard time adjusting and trying to sort out medical care having come from the U.S. where the medical system is completely different. It takes so much time navigating who to go to, how much to disclose, whether private care is worth it, and how hard to push when you're not taken seriously. I've helped friends navigate things here but it's likely that at some point you'll feel confused or concerned that you're not doing it right.

Collectively grad students have a lot of wisdom about these services but this knowledge is scattered and based on anecdotes and word-of-mouth. I want to find a way to make this knowledge accessible to everybody so that they'll have it ready before things get really bad.

I've done a decent amount of activism around mental health and sexual violence during my time in undergrad. I'm also very interested in improving the recovery resources available to survivors. I also have personally used/met with: the UCS, my college counselor, a private psychotherapist, a psychiatrist, the NHS, PRSIM, the Disability Resource Centre, my tutor, and Samaritans.

I am very aware of the immense time it takes to manage all this information. I'm hoping I can cut down the time you'd need to navigate all of this.



Yan-Yi Lee

FOR GU OPEN PORTFOLIO OFFICER

Hello all! I'm Yan-Yi Lee, and I'm a first-year Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Education. I'm running for one of the open portfolio positions— specifically, I'd like to put myself forward as an Academic Support Officer. Majoring in Education, I'm absolutely passionate about helping fellow students access their educational needs, and I strongly feel that this is something that deserves to be campaigned for in Cambridge. Hence, I'd like to take the first step by establishing this role in the university and running for it.

Having studied a Masters in both the University of Pennsylvania and Cambridge, I have observed some tough issues unique to graduate students. Despite the university being aware of these, however, students are often left to their own devices to cope. These might include:

- Technical support in research: difficulty identifying research participants; insufficient support in the use of statistical software for data analysis; insufficient support on technical language terms and culture when conducting research in countries unfamiliar to students
- Pastoral support: stress or difficulty maintaining motivation to finish the degree; lack of direction when applying for research funding;
- General guidance as an academic: lack of direction on plans after a postgraduate degree

I've spent much time thinking through what I will do as an Academic Support Officer for grad students, weighing the possibilities of these events being carried out with my connections and a very modest budget. I'd like to work on the following:

- Organise discussion panels on things like research funding, graduate student welfare, recruiting research participants, and/or postdoctoral life
- Organise student-led workshops on skills that may be of professional interest to students (e.g. coding, investing)
- Establish support networks for students having trouble executing statistical analysis for their research
- Negotiate with the language centre to reach out to students for stronger support on language for specific research purposes—particularly those doing fieldwork outside of North American/European contexts! (since the 'language for academic purposes' courses in Cambridge cover mainstream European languages only)

Of course, I'll also be open to hearing what else grad students need in terms of academic support and work on that as much as I can!

Carefully considering the nature of this position, I'm confident that I'll be able to deliver well. As an education specialist, I've always had a strong drive to serve the student body, and I also have extensive executive role experience both in Cambridge (the faculty and MCR) and beyond (university lecturing + University Director of Teacher Education in my home country). I see myself as a strategic communicator (putting efficiency first!) and a person that would act creatively and persistently to turn ideas into reality. I also have a network to facilitate the projects I've put forth: I've worked with the language centre previously, I've reached out to potential welfare speakers, and I also have a network of acquaintances in statistics and computer science here.

Please vote for me to enhance your learning experience here! Many thanks!



Graduate Union

part-time student Exec

Women's Officer

CANDIDATES

Julia Goldfeld

FOR GU WOMEN'S OFFICER

Go for the Gold and Vote Julia Goldfeld for your GU Women's Officer! Fellow graduate students - my name is Julia Goldfeld and I am an MBA student at Judge Business School. As a student I feel extremely lucky to have been awarded one of Judge's two Forté Fellowships, a scholarship granted to women pursuing their MBA in partnership with the Forté Foundation, an organization which aims to change the balance of power in the workplace by giving women equal access to infrastructure and opportunities. As a tribute to being awarded this scholarship I feel a strong sense to give back to the university and help make Cambridge a better place for women, so that our female graduate students feel they have the same opportunities and privileges as our male ones.

Before coming to Cambridge, I spent 5 years working on the trading floor of major investment banks in New York. Although women in finance, particularly in sales and trading, are vastly outnumbered and outranked, I was able to thrive in a male dominated environment. I hope to give other women in the graduate community the confidence that they can similarly excel in whatever industry they choose. Post-MBA, my goal is to create my own women's workwear brand which caters to young professionals entering the corporate world. During my time in finance I served as a mentor to junior women and men, both at my firm and also to those looking to get into the financial industry. At Cambridge, I have similarly partnered with the Cambridge University Women in Business Society to establish a mentoring program which pairs interested undergraduate and graduate students with mentors from Judge Business School. During my time in New York, I also spent 3 years on the junior board of a non-profit that provided free math tutoring and mentorship to underprivileged middle school students.

I hope to use these experiences to be an advocate for women across the graduate community, wider university, and to ensure that women's interests are well represented by the GU. Some of my initiatives are to organize a Women Who Brunch event one Sunday quarterly to pair our female graduate students with professionals across a variety of industries in the UK. Of course, I would love for men to attend these events as well! Moreover, I hope to help plan an International Women's Day conference in conjunction with the various women's societies across

the University of Cambridge. If elected, I will provide a platform where both women and men can voice their concerns about issues of women's equality and advancement and I will aim to apply those suggestions, however best I can. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to reach out, whether I am elected your Women's Officer or not, I am always happy to meet more of my fellow graduate students! Your support is greatly appreciated.

Remember to Go for the Gold and Vote Julia Goldfeld for your GU Women's Officer!



Kofo Paul

FOR GU WOMEN'S OFFICER

Hi, my name is Kofo; I am law student at Lucy Cavendish and I want to be your next GU Women's Officer. I want to make sure that Cambridge is a place in which all women feel supported, safe and respected. In addition to this I want to use our platform and status as a university to push the conversation about equality for women forward in a wider context.

Sexual Harassment will not be tolerated

I will work to ensure not only that women are safe from harassment but also that as a university community we will be an example to push the conversation about sexual harassment and assault forward

Enrich our experience & Create a community!

My mission is to create events which are fun and memorable but also connect us as women to other powerful and successful women who have been part of our university community. Giving us the opportunity to empower ourselves

Pushing the conversation forward

I want to have quarterly campaigns which push the conversation about mental health, sexual harassment and intersectionality forward.

Minority Women

All women means all women; and this means intersectionality. As a women of colour I want to ensure that I represents women from all backgrounds especially those who are often ignored and left out of the conversations.

As graduates many of us are at a great position to compare and contrast our experiences at other universities to our time at Cambridge. This places us at a unique position to highlight the good and challenge the status quo.





NEW-SU

the referendum

MONDAY 18TH NOVEMBER - THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

have your say!

**VOTE NOW AT
WWW.VOTE.CUSU.CAM.AC.UK**



referendum

CANDIDATES

***There has not been an application
for a No Campaign Team**

New-SU (www.new-su.co.uk) is a proposal for a new, single students' union to replace CUSU and the Graduate Union - *Cambridge SU*.

Cambridge SU will be a stronger students' union that represents students more effectively and fights for student priorities.

Vote YES in the New-SU referendum
vote.cusu.cam.ac.uk



A STRONGER STUDENTS' UNION

UNITED VOICE: UGs and PGs will be able to speak with a united voice, putting student representatives in a stronger position to make student voices heard in the University.

COMBINED RESOURCES: A better-resourced and more efficient union that can fight for student interests and offer more opportunities to students.

SUPPORT FOR REPS AND SOCIETIES: With more resources and staff, Cambridge SU will provide greater support and resources to clubs, societies and student reps.

BETTER REPRESENTATION

IMPROVED POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATION: Two dedicated PG sabbatical officers, with increased staff support and a PG President. Equal representation of UGs and PGs in the structures of the SU Council, Exec, Campaigns and Trustee Board.

BME SABBATICAL OFFICER: A full-time BME sabb to improve BME representation and put the interests of BME students at the heart of the students' union's work.

FIGHTING FOR STUDENT PRIORITIES

GREATER FOCUS ON ACCESS: Two full-time Access, Education and Participation Officers (UG/PG) dedicated to improving access to Cambridge and furthering access post-admission in terms of financial, academic and pastoral issues.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: A Welfare and Community Officer to campaign on student rights and welfare, as well as issues such as homelessness and the Living Wage.

LIBERATION WORK: More resources and support for student liberation campaigns.



**don't forget
to vote!**

VOTE.CUSU.CAM.AC.UK

voting opens: 9 am on Tues. 30th Oct | closes: 5 pm on Fri. 2nd Nov