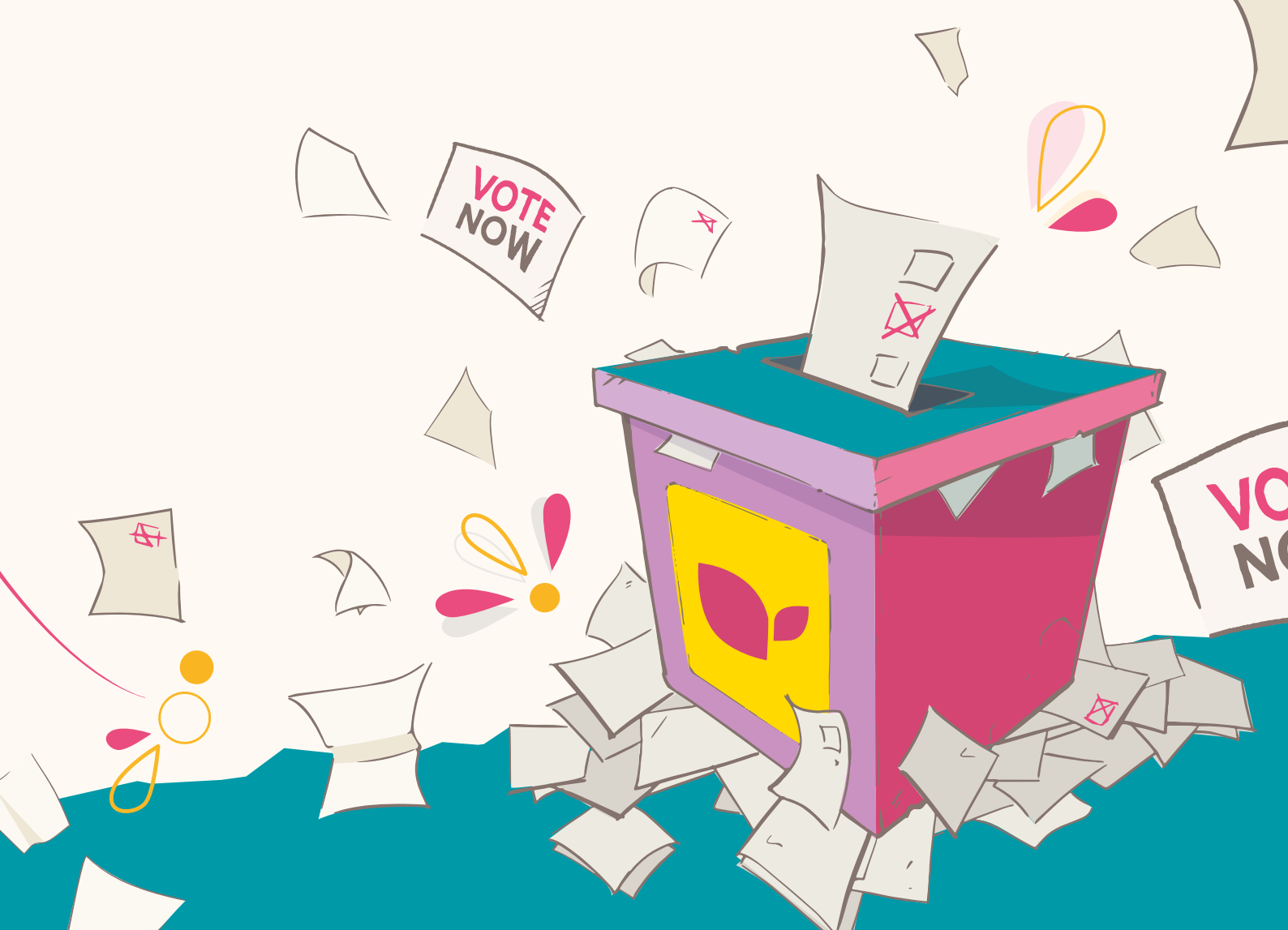




# SUSSEX STUDENT SPRING ELECTIONS 2023.



**CANDIDATE MANIFESTOS**

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# Niamh Tickner

I'm your new..

## Student Living and Sustainability Officer

*I'm running alongside some amazing and dedicated candidates on a slate called Another Sussex. We have a collective vision of the changes needed to create a Sussex that is better for students and so, if you support my campaign, please vote for all of us; vote for 'Another Sussex'!*

Hi I'm Niamh (she/her), and I am running to be your next Student Living and Sustainability Officer!

I have been working alongside students to lobby the University for change in relation to Housing, Environmental and Cost of living injustices. I'm often navigating University bureaucracy, to make sure that student voices are brought forward and that the University is held accountable. As we face the cost of living crisis and colliding climate and ecological crises, often it's like feeling like a small fish in a big pond. However, together as a collective we can bring about the changes we want to see, starting with Sussex.

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# Niamh Tickner

**Below are some highlights of my work as Student Living and Sustainability Officer:**

1. Established a Cost of Living Working Group at the Students Union
2. Demanded compensation for students on campus impacted by the West Slope construction works
3. Secured commitment from the University for the Community Kitchen project
4. Progressed city-wide housing and transport campaigns with Citizens UK
5. Established the Housing policy collaboration group between the Students' Union and University
6. Chaired the Sustainability committee, collectively launching the 'Take Actions with your Transactions' campaign and co-writing the ethical and sustainable careers policy.
7. Supported the establishment of the Conservation Collective (Roots, Rewilding Sussex, Chalk grasslands project and the Forest food garden)
8. Lobbied the University for ethical and sustainable procurement alongside Squat the Slope and Mitie Must Fall Campaigns
9. Co-created an SU Food Policy with the Plant based university campaign, Access Sussex, International Students Committee and the BAME Officer
10. Organised lots of fun events during Climate Justice Week, Freshers and Refreshers, e.g. the Knepp trip, the Permaculture trip, Carbon colonialism talk (my diss), the green garden get together, clothes swaps, the sustainability tour & more!



This role is a whirlwind, but is soooooo rewarding... It's incredible to support students and student campaigns, see them come to life and watch them win!! With the experience and knowledge that I have gained, here's my plan for the upcoming year:



# Niamh Tickner

## COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- Campaign for a less invasive, more accessible and wider publicised hardship fund, including eligibility for international students
- Lobby the University to widen criteria for the Sussex Bursary including students whose bursaries have been cut, e.g. first generation scholars
- Lobby the university to absorb any unnecessary 'overheads' to reduce rent on campus
- Establish a Community Kitchen as soon as possible
- Campaign for affordable/free transport
- Hold regular clothes swap events, swap shops and pop-up repair cafes
- Fund a network of students to share their skills and support other students, i.e. haircuts, beauty treatments, bike repairs, clothes repairs etc.
- Set up a 'Pay it forward' scheme, offering students discounts across campus
- Provision of free period products across campus
- For the SU and Uni to offer nutritious, accessible options that are under £3 (e.g. Gluten Free, Vegan, Dairy, Allergen Free)
- Create an information hub about how students can access money via different schemes and benefits
- Lobby the university to hire students as part of their insourcing project, upskilling students, supporting them financially and creating a greater sense of community
- Increasing SU funds available to student groups & activities
- Establish a bike initiative, encouraging more students to cycle to uni
- Better support for Food Waste Cafe to continue providing students with affordable food
- Establish an SU Pantry and provide non-perishable food at Free Wednesdays
- Reach out to local food providers for surplus food to be donated to students
- Organise a pantry drive and competition between sports teams - Who can bring in the most food?



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# Niamh Tickner


## CAMPAIGN FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

- Lobby the University to absorb any unnecessary 'overheads' to reduce rent on campus and to freeze these rents.
- Support the Lewes Court Campaign and secure appropriate compensation for residents impacted by the West Slope construction works.
- Continue supporting the city-wide Citizens UK Housing Campaign.
- Rework the disability housing payments to be more inclusive of different disabilities
- Review housing allocations process for students of faith and students of colour
- Create a deposit dispute guide, equipping students to know their rights and challenge these claims
- Ensure there is student representation where maintenance decisions are made by establishing a maintenance collaboration group between the Students' Union and University
- Lobby the University for a clearer, simpler, more streamlined maintenance process to achieve faster response times, quicker repairs and a way to flag recurring maintenance issues
- Create an international student housing support guide for prospective students alongside the International Students' Officer
- Review, expand and promote the University Rent Guarantor scheme



# Niamh Tickner

## EMBED A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY AT SUSSEX

- Lobby the University to recognise, protect and support the Conservation Collective
  - Arrange more trips for students to be in nature, especially for marginalised groups
  - Ensure the University delivers the Just Transition that they promised to Roots
  - Decolonise and embed sustainability in the curriculum
  - Establish a community composting scheme in collaboration with Roots
  - Support the 'Take Action with your Transactions' Campaign, encouraging students to switch to ethical banks
  - Reduce waste on campus including food waste, single use plastic and packaging waste, electricity waste etc.
  - Pilot a recycling scheme working in partnership with the local Brighton community & Sussex students
  - Increase students' access to sustainable and zero waste products by having Sustainable vendors at the Falmer Market
  - Bring back the University's Sustainability Committee
  - Establish a Students' Union Sustainability Strategy and Net Zero plan
  - Support the University in embedding ethics and sustainability into their practices, i.e. investments, procurement, university pensions and the careers department
  - Equip students to deliver carbon literacy training using the 'train the trainer' method
  - Improve education around waste and the waste hierarchy: Refuse first then reduce, refill, reuse, repair and lastly recycle
- 



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## Steve Jackson

I'm your new...

## Sports, Societies and Events Officer

*Hello! I'm Steve and I'm running to be your next Sports, Societies and Events Officer. I'm running alongside some amazing and dedicated candidates on a slate called Another Sussex. We have a collective vision of the changes needed to create a Sussex that is better for Students and so, if you support my campaign, please vote for all members for 'Another Sussex'!*

There's a very limited amount of words I can use here, so please drop me a message on instagram [@vote.steve](https://www.instagram.com/vote.steve), or email [sj406@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:sj406@sussex.ac.uk) if you'd like more information about anything below!

I'm 26 and I'm a third year International Relations and Development student. I have heaps of professional and voluntary experience, and loads of knowledge of how the SU works (and doesn't work). I believe I have the ideas, skills, and drive to be an excellent Sports, Societies and Events officer, and I hope that after you've read this, you'll agree!

# Steve Jackson

## Before Sussex I:

- Spent 2 years at The University of Manchester, studying Ancient History (but that's all in the past, now).
- Spent 3 years working a career in the charity sector, managing youth programmes, both around the UK and around the world.

## During my time as a student I've:

- Been elected as Chair of Union [Council](#), Sussex SU's highest decision-making body.
- Led a national campaign which forced an airline company to stop deporting people - read about it [here](#), watch about it [here](#)
- Been a committee member on multiple societies (including winning 'Most Outstanding Society at the [SU awards](#))
- Started and led a successful [campaign](#) which made the University [commit](#) to ending the harmful practice of outsourcing.
- Worked as a regional organiser for the National Union of Students, supporting students and student officers across the southeast.
- Acted as a media spokesperson, carrying out many live TV and radio interviews - [here's](#) an example
- Been a key student organiser at Sussex supporting the UCU's strike action
- Launched the Southeast's first union [branch](#) for hospitality workers
- Helped organise Europe's largest political education [festival](#)

## Here's what I plan to do if elected:

1. A better functioning Students' Union
2. A place for all students to thrive
3. Life beyond University

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# Steve Jackson

## A better functioning Students' Union

Many students find our SU to be bureaucratic, hard to access, and slow-moving. I have a host of policies which I will enact if elected, to make our SU a better functioning institution.

- **Securing more funding**

So many issues we face within the SU come down to a lack of funding. I will secure more funding - check out my plan [here](#).

- **Improved systems**

I will carry out a top-to-bottom review of the SU's systems. We need faster response times, less bureaucracy and clearer processes.

- **Streamlining**

Explore where clubs can be combined, where policies can be streamlined, and where committees are unnecessary.

- **Transparency and accessibility**

Drop-in troubleshooting sessions, online Q&As, and prioritising replying to student queries, supporting students to navigate SU systems. Online information kept up-to-date.

- **Staff wellbeing**

An SU that works for students is also one that looks after its staff (many of whom are students!), to keep them from getting burnt out and overloaded. I will meet every staff member at the SU, surveying them to learn where support is needed, and where time is being wasted. I will work with the Union's CEO to trial innovative ways of working, such as a 4-day working week.

# Steve Jackson

## A place for all students to thrive

Sports clubs, societies, and other student groups are brilliant communities - key parts of student life. They're wonderful spaces to meet people, try new things, and have fun. Unfortunately, not all students feel they are able to access these spaces equally. Here's how I will work to change that.

- **Easier to access**

Supporting students to be able to more easily find what's on, attend sessions with a buddy if they prefer, and support clubs to host more introduction sessions.

- **Rewarding anti-discriminatory behaviour**

Expand the SU's Rewards and Recognition scheme. Better rewards for societies, more ways to earn them. Student groups will be able to earn rewards like discounted events, merch, and extra funding by adopting inclusive practices.

- **Tackling misogyny**

Sexism, assault, and inappropriate behaviour are widespread across Sussex. This is a deep, societal problem, but our Students' Union must do better. I will host events for men that tackle misogynistic behaviour, and make consent and unconscious bias training widely available and incentivised.

- **Spreading anti-discriminatory practice**

I will work with the rest of the officer team to make anti-discriminatory trainings available to all SU volunteers, from course reps to society committee members. Attendance will be incentivised, as will be spreading the training to other students.

- **More inclusive events**

There will be rewards for other steps such as: holding events in safe spaces for marginalised groups, inclusive language, group policies, supporting student-led liberation campaigns, alcohol-free events, and more!

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# Steve Jackson

## Life beyond University

Studying at Sussex isn't the only thing in students' minds. We have to think about life beyond University whilst we're studying, but also with an eye to the future.

- **Cost of living**

Students desperately need more support with living costs. I will push the University to provide it, whilst facilitating students cutting costs through events providing things like bikes, free haircuts, and food drives.

- **Students as workers**

I will support students to drive up wages and working standards in their jobs by establishing a Student Trade Unionists society, hosting Know Your Rights at work sessions, and building links with Trade Unions across the city.

- **Skills to change the world**

I'm a campaigner at my core, and will use my connections and experience to support students and SU campaigns with advice, funding, and events.

I have more to share, but unfortunately a very limited wordcount! Check out my instagram [@vote.steve](#) for more, and message or email me on [sj406@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:sj406@sussex.ac.uk) to chat!



# Rose Linehan

I'm your new...

## Education and Employability Officer

Hello hello !! I'm Rose (they/she) and I'm re-running to be your Education and Employability Officer this year. I'm running with five other amazing and dedicated candidates on a slate called Another Sussex. Coming to Sussex was a complete accident for me, I had plans to study abroad and then proceeded to flunk my A Levels (undiagnosed ADHD slay hehe). I took a year out to retake... pandemic... nevermind... hello Sussex Social Sciences foundation year !! As I said in last year's manifesto, my foundation year took place entirely online, while I was living in substandard accommodation, on a campus rampant with police and outsourced security – the dream. I've only completed my foundation and first years (Geography and International Development) at Sussex so far, so I'm still very much embedded in the student community

This year has thrown a lot at me! My dad passed away in October which, unsurprisingly, slashed my capacity drastically. Somehow I've still managed to achieve a decent amount in my time so far as an Officer, but I feel I've got a whole lot left to give to the role as I learn to deal with grief in a more healthy and sustainable way. I'm going to try and stick to a more focused and achievable manifesto this year, as I'm a lot more aware of what the job actually allows you to do.


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# Rose Linehan

## Previously on “Rose’s time at Sussex”...

- Helped to organise the rent strike in my foundation year, which won over £3 million from the university in rent rebates!
  - Elected as Chair of Union Council and as a Sussex Delegate for the past two NUS National Conferences.
  - Involved with the Mitie Must Fall campaign which moved the University to commit to ‘seek to insource as many services as possible’.
  - Represented USSU at the first cross-union panel at Sussex for a decade! The panel included all four recognised unions on campus that represent workers from all the sectors we have here. This really reinforced how important and beautiful solidarity among unions is... more on that later!
  - Facilitated a range of student focus groups to get direct feed in for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Student Submission to the OfS and gained essential insight into the experience of students from marginalised groups at Sussex.
- 

On top of all this, one of my main roles this year has been sitting on University Council – the highest governing body of the university – as the lone student representation. I sit on several sub-committees as well as Senate (jargon sorry lol), meaning that at least a third of my time is spent in high-level meetings (where I’m usually the youngest one there by 10+ years), advocating for what students really think. I want to continue to use these spaces to amplify student voices to those who wouldn’t ordinarily hear them.




This manifesto is a combination of my own ideas and the concerns of students at Sussex. I’ve separated my primary pledges into the two branches of the role below.



# Rose Linehan

## EDUCATION !!

- Continue to lobby the university for a commitment to a form of hybrid learning in university spaces to guarantee that people with disabilities and other marginalised groups won't have to decide between their health and their education.
  - Continue to represent students in the timetabling restructure that is currently underway to achieve more manageable timetables for students.
  - Alongside this, work towards a better exam system which prohibits weekend exams and cluster exams.
  - In terms of Exceptional Circumstances claims, I will support the Invasive No More campaign in achieving their demands, as well as work with the Wellbeing Officer on a better system that addresses issues that aren't considered "sudden and unforeseen" but still have a massive impact on students.
  - Continue to facilitate focus groups (like the aforementioned TEF ones) to ensure Officers are representing marginalised groups in accordance with what they say rather than what we might assume.
  - Aim to provide the University with research and proof to demonstrate the need for more bursaries, as well as for less bureaucracy and invasive evidence to be required for hardship fund access.
  - Explore provisions for all teaching staff to receive disability training to combat ableism.
  - Expand the Race Equity Advocate scheme to all Schools to help close the BAME awarding gap and hold the university accountable.
- 



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# Rose Linehan

## EMPLOYABILITY !!

- Student workers need unionising !! I am going to work with a variety of unions and organisations to facilitate this and provide students with the skills needed to organise a workplace to secure better working conditions on a citywide scale.
- Continue work on a new project called 'Solidarity Corner' where I will talk to union representatives (on and off campus) about their ongoing disputes, how students can show solidarity and what students going into their field might expect.
- Ensure there are several 'know your rights' training sessions per term, at least until everyone's unionised!
- Continue to expand my 'Yellow Pages' project from last year, running skillshare events for students and making community building easier.
- Set the groundwork for the SU to pilot a four day work week structure to improve staff wellbeing and efficiency, as shown in a huge number of pilots around the world.
- Student reps are an invaluable part of our Sussex community – I will work to provide better compensation for their labour.
- Explore options for employability training at the SU, prioritising students of colour, disabled, and LGBTQ+ students in order to combat discrimination in recruiting processes.
- Work alongside the Student Living and Sustainability Officer to form connections with smaller, local, sustainable businesses for student employment and networking opportunities.
- Educate about the radical history of our university and Students' Union, use it to contextualise the current forces of marketisation and learn how we can imagine a future model for a university as a public good.

If you support my campaign, please vote for all members of 'Another Sussex' #1 !!



## Riko Kunisue

I'm your new...

## International Students' Officer

The University is increasingly hostile to international students - unaffordable and exploitative tuition fees, lack of pastoral & financial support, and unequal academic experiences... As an Officer, I will tirelessly fight for better treatment of international students and work towards equity and inclusivity for all.

Hey, I'm Riko (she/her) and I'm running to be your International Students' Officer with an amazing bunch of activists called Another Sussex. I study Anthropology and International Development and I'm going into my final year.

### What have I done?

Last year, I worked on various projects as the International Students' Officer (22/23).

### Worked towards closing the international student awarding gap

- Set up the working group in the Union to tackle the gap as an institution
- Advocated for better, tailored academic support for international students and decolonising the assessment criteria
- Helped English Languages for Academic Study (ELAS) to receive more funding and improve its service, and more

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# Riko Kunisue

## Helped to improve international students' housing insecurity

- Made York House available as an emergency accommodation for international students with insecure housing situation
- Helped the University Housing Service to produce a booklet for international student families in different languages
- Advocated for expanding and making inclusive the University guarantor scheme, and more

## Actively helped to promote a sense of community and wellbeing

- Helped to organise a number of events, including the [Solidarity with Ukraine Meet Up](#), [Wellbeing Check-in](#), [International Food Party](#), and more!
- Produced the [International Students' Checklist](#) to help navigate settling in UK, and more

## Others

- Supported the International Students Committee so the Union has a better representation of intl students
- Worked towards making the Union democracy more inclusive and increasing democratic engagement from intl students
- Lobbied for abolishing the International Masters Deposit
- Advocated for better financial support for intl students, and more

## What will I do?

If elected, I will build upon and continue working on things from last year and start new projects.

### 1. Work towards closing the international student awarding gap

International students are often made to “catch up” to do better in their academic study - use grammarly, spend double or triple the time to read an article, or just get used to the UK higher educational system without support. The onus shouldn't be on students to tackle the awarding gap. The issue needs institutional change and an educational system that is inclusive and accessible for those marginalised.



# Riko Kunisue

If elected, I will;

- Reform the assessment criteria especially Language Proficiency as a category, so students who speak English as an additional language will be less disadvantaged
- Make assessments inclusive and accessible for intl students
- Continue to lead and help expand the awarding gap working group
- Continue to work with ELAS and help provide better, tailored academic support for international students
- Continue to work towards making the Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Claims inclusive and accessible for international students
- Actively support Hybrid Learning so international students can receive education from their home country if needed

## 2. Promote a sense of community and wellbeing

- Coming from different cultural backgrounds, international students particularly find it challenging to find community and feel belonging.
- If elected, I will;
- Work towards getting more funding from the University for cultural and religious student groups for more events and festivals
- Actively make UCU strike actions more familiar and relatable to international students community so we don't feel out of the loop about it
- Work with Citizens UK to achieve affordable, descent housing at a city level
- Continue to organise and support events for international students including One World Week
- Continue to work towards re-establishing the on-campus support office dedicated to international student for better pastoral support
- Continue to support the International Students Committee so international students are heard, represented and feel part of the Union
- Continue to help the Students' Union get licenced for visa sponsorship so the Union can become more diverse and inclusive as an institution



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# Riko Kunisue

## 3. Reduce financial burden

Sussex University only sees international students as financial assets. The University vacuums money from international students, but consistently fails to provide support particularly in relation to the Cost of Living Crisis.

If elected, I will;

- Work towards creating an Overseas Emergency Fund which supports travel to the home country for passport renewal, voting, family reasons, etc.
- Work towards making separate Hardship Fund for international students so it'll be more accessible
- Continue to work with Career Equity Project on career events, webinars, and trainings so it'll help with more and better career opportunities for intl students
- Continue to support the campaign Student Payback and help students navigate seeking financial compensation due to loss of learning during strike actions
- Continue to work towards lowering international tuition fees
- Continue to work with Citizens UK for cheaper/ free transport

**If you agree with this manifesto, vote for me as well as all wonderful dedicated candidates on Another Sussex #1**

**Another Sussex is Possible. Elect Us All #1**

# Maozya Murray

I'm your new...

## Diversity Access and Participation Officer

VOTE FOR ANOTHER SUSSEX

Hola todxs!!

I am [Maozya](#) (she/her), a graduating International Relations & Development student running to be Diversity, Access and Participation Officer along with [Another Sussex](#). I've grown increasingly frustrated with, and driven to tackle, Sussex's profit-focussed policies which undermine the needs of students & staff. This, exacerbated by repeated losses of learning throughout Covid-19 and ongoing UCU strikes, has exposed a consistent failure to support students.

Of course, marginalised students are most impacted, with BAME students, for example, 14% less likely to receive firsts than their white counterparts. I will work towards dismantling institutional barriers and advancing equal opportunities for students regardless of faith, ethnicity, disability, gender, age, or other excluded identities and to make Sussex a space for learning, exploration and community, where ALL can succeed and thrive.

### WHAT HAVE I BEEN UP TO?

- President of Sussex Student Action for Refugees (STAR), actively dismantling the hostile environment, leading workshops, campaigns and protests and winning 'Most Outstanding Society' at [SU awards](#).
- Volunteer coordinator at [Common Ground](#), providing meaningful outdoor activities for marginalised groups.
- Student representative on the [University of Sanctuary](#) (UoS) committee

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# Maozya Murray

- Leading campaign engagement (Student Payback, BLM, Kill The Bill, Mitie Must Fall and Stop TUI)
- [Novara Media](#) writer on climate justice
- Current [Widening Participation Ambassador](#), removing barriers to higher education for underrepresented groups.
- Student organiser around UCU strike action

## WHAT WILL I DO?

### DIVERSITY

Celebrating the diversity of cultures, identities and religions at Sussex is vital to building a joyful university community and raising awareness of global issues.

### More funding for liberation work

1. More funding from Schools for the Race Equity Advocate (REA) scheme to help close the [BAME Attainment Gap](#)
  2. More funding for cultural & religious events to build community at Sussex
- Lobby the University to fund student-led cultural events such as Diwali, Holi, Black and LGBTQ+ history month.
1. More funding and wider criteria for the Sussex Bursary, ensuring education is accessible to all students, especially in the cost of living crisis.
  2. More scholarships for refugees
- Continue working with Mosaik Education, STAR and UoS to pilot an innovative student-led refugee scholarship - currently being run in Canada.



# Maozya Murray

## ACCESS

Sussex considers itself 'progressive' but structural oppression is rampant, stopping underrepresented students from flourishing.

### Break down institutional barriers for marginalised groups

1. More inclusive and ethical employers at careers fairs, and employment opportunities for marginalised groups
  - Strengthen employability training for BAME, Disabled and LGBTQ+ students, tackling discrimination in the hiring process.
  - Specialist advisors to help students navigate workplace discrimination, from hiring to employment.
1. Extend the student-staff 'Co-producing the Curriculum' program to all schools to ensure modules include a diversity of teaching methods, assessments, and readings.
  - Establish a permanent student-staff working group to make this work sustainable.
1. Reform Exceptional Circumstances (EC) process, ensuring students in difficult situations are not academically penalised.
  - Work with Invasive No More campaign, widening criteria to cover hate speech, crime, and visa issues.
  - Ensure a diversity of members on the EC approval board
  - Extend claim and evidence deadlines.

### Make the University and SU more accessible

1. A permanent hybrid learning option available to all students across all schools, ensuring that disabled and other disadvantaged groups are not forced to choose between their wellbeing and their education.



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# Maozya Murray

- Work with Access Sussex, lobbying the university to implement the Hybrid Learning
- 2. Extend accessibility reps to all schools, ensuring accessibility issues are appropriately represented at the school level
- 3. A more accessible campus.

Push for:

- More step-free access across campus
- Campus Accessibility Map
- Free campus parking for disabled students.
- Quiet/low sensory rooms in all buildings
- 4. An expanded, diverse and accessible counselling service.
  - Restore the number of counselling sessions available to students
  - Work towards more disability aware counsellors and counsellors from a diversity of backgrounds.
  - A process where students can request a certain demographic of counsellor.

## Cost of living support

- 1. Free, accessible bus travel.
  - Push the University & City Council for free buses to uni for all students, ensuring they are wheelchair accessible.
- 1. More affordable, nutritious, and culturally diverse meals on campus.
  - Work towards implementing a food policy that pushes the SU and uni to offer under £3, nutritious, and culturally varied meals.
- 1. Affordable rents and housing support for students from marginalised backgrounds.
  - Review the housing allocations process, and expand disability payments.
  - Work with letting agents in the city to create a network that ensures students are prioritised for affordable housing.



# Maozya Murray

## Push for:

- The University to lower and freeze rents on campus.
- Housing advisors for Disabled and International students, helping them to find off-campus housing - prioritise disabled students for accessible housing.
- The University to act as guarantor for international and estranged students.

## Participation

Although Sussex has the potential to be a fantastic hub for student activity incidents of discrimination leave many students from underrepresented backgrounds feeling dissatisfied, unwelcomed and even unsafe in student activities.

### A well-functioning SU that works for ALL students

1. Equal treatment for all societies and students, including allocation of funding, support, and recognition.
  - Review student facing processes with a focus on equity and diversity.
  - Implement strategy to ensure all groups receive equal treatment.
2. Tackle incidents of discrimination in the SU and societies
  - Review and streamline incident reporting process for discrimination, and strengthen the Zero Tolerance Policy.
3. Anti-discrimination training for all SU staff, volunteers and societies
  - Strengthen and add to existing anti-discrimination training for all SU staff and volunteers, including making consent, active bystander, unconscious bias training available to everyone from officers to course reps and society committee members.

### Support students through the strikes

1. Financial compensation for lost learning from strikes
  - Continuing working with UCU reps and Student Payback campaign, pushing university management for fee reimbursements.
2. A guide for students on how to navigate seeking financial compensation.
  - Design and publicise an accessible pack of resources outlining steps students can take to demand financial compensation.
3. Strengthen student-staff solidarity group to strategise around strikes, deepen relationships, and re-imagine the University away from the profit logic.

Please **check out more** about my campaign, and if you support, vote all the great activists on **Another Sussex #1!**



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# Naina Bahl

I'm your new...

## Wellbeing Officer

Hey, I'm Naina and I'm running to be your next Wellbeing Officer! I'm a third year Law student, current Women's Liberation Officer (I represent the student voice in the Union's Sexual Safety Working Group). I'm also a key part of the Wellbeing Steering group at the Students' Union, and feedback from my role as Women's Officer and Nightline Coordinator, a listening support service for Sussex students that I set up and have been running for the last two years! I have worked as a campaign lead for Under the Sheets to implement the Sexual Safety referendum and for Access Sussex to embed accessibility into the functioning of the University and the SU.

I'm running alongside some amazing and dedicated candidates on a slate called Another Sussex. We have a collective vision of the changes needed to create a Sussex that is better for Students and so, if you support my campaign, please vote for all of us; vote for 'Another Sussex'!

### Prevention and Harm Reduction

Students often don't get help until they reach a crisis point, and I will work with the University to create better preventative measures.

1. Drug, Alcohol and Addiction support
  - Set up an SU x Uni working group to create a policy and procedure to offer confidential and non-judgemental support and advice, and ensure security is trained in offering emergency support
  - Set up a support group for students
  - Provide free drug testing kits around campus
2. Mental Health Support and Suicide Prevention
  - Work towards creating a policy and process for supporting students in crisis and ensure support is clearly publicised and available

# Naina Bahl

3. Sexual violence
  - Work to bring back Consent workshops and Active bystander training for all students and ensure it is regularly reviewed and updated with feed-in from Survivor's Network
  - Ensure SU and University publicise their safety measures in venues and partner with companies who prioritise the safety of students
  - Work with the University to create a policy and process for preventing and supporting students with incidents of hate speech, microaggressions and hate crimes
4. Streamline current processes to ensure students don't fall through the gaps
  - Support whilst on waiting lists for counselling or support - including regular check ins
  - A process for students to be able to request extensions following traumatic incidents
  - Ensure staff who are in contact with students are trained in signposting
  - Work on emergency support so students in crisis are fast-tracked to services

## Building back the Community after Covid

1. Culture
  - Lobby the University for more funding for cultural groups and support students in organising more events to create a sense of community and stay connected to their culture
2. Peer Support groups
  - Support groups for activists to find solidarity and reduce burnout
  - Continue the support group for Trans, Non-binary and Intersex students and the Men's connection group
  - Establish a Bereavement support group
3. Communal spaces on campus
  - Review the spaces on campus to ensure accessible spaces for students
  - Support hosting regular diverse and inclusive events that include alcohol-free events
  - Spaces for student parents and childcare centre on campus

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# Naina Bahl

## Cost of Living Support

1. Hardship Funds
  - Work towards making it accessible to international students
  - Lobby to lower the evidence threshold
  - Widen the criteria so more students are able to access the hardship fund and ensure there are no restrictions on how many times students can access them
2. Supporting students who work part-time and have other responsibilities
  - Work with schools to create flexible timetables for students
  - Lobby to end any classes after 6pm
3. Cheaper campus and city
  - Work on establishing a free pantry and community kitchen on campus
  - Lobby the University to provide free breakfasts, a saver menu for meals under £3 and work towards providing affordable meals catering to all dietary restrictions
  - Lower parking costs on campus for students and
  - Work with the University to freeze rents and ensure that some campus accommodation blocks are under £120 a week
  - Work with the University to get a free bus for students between campus and Brighton and work with the Council to lower bus ticket costs

## Accessible Campus and City

1. Work on embedding Accessibility in the Union
  - Create an Accessibility Working Group to review the functioning of the Union
  - Ensure all events are run in line with accessibility guidance and support student groups in running accessible events
  - Work towards establishing low sensory and quiet areas in SU spaces
2. Campus
  - Create Accessibility reps in all schools and work with them to create accessible areas in all schools
  - Work to reform emergency phones, PEEPs, fire safety doors and step-free access across campus, and publicise accessible routes and map of campus
  - Work on publicising accessible routes
3. Education
  - Hybrid Learning: Ensuring students are able to access their education online, even on a one-off campus without requiring any evidence

# Naina Bahl

## Sexual Safety

### \*Content Warning: mentions of Sexual violence

Working to implement the OFS Sexual Misconduct recommendations

1. Sexual Health
  - Continue Free Wednesdays, offering STI testing, condoms and pregnancy tests
  - Work on a campaign to reduce the HIV stigma
2. Support for survivors
  - Establish a confidential Survivors Support Group with Survivors Network
  - Work with the University to improve their precautionary measures and ensure processes are in place if those are broken
  - Ensure Security is informed and trained on referrals to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and overnight support after sexual violence
3. Continue working on the Safer Spaces campaign
4. Reporting processes
  - Ensure reporting processes are regularly reviewed and trauma-sensitive
  - Students should have access to support within 24 hours of reporting
  - Transparency in reporting and disciplinary processes

### More funding, transparency and streamlining systems

1. Disabled students support
  - Translation of diagnosis letters and support in accessing disability support for intl students
  - Ensure RAs are discussed with students about their individual needs - tailoring to needs
  - Ensure there is a better process for students to be
2. An International Student support unit that supports students with visas, induction and settling in
  - Clearer information and guidance surrounding visas, immigration and working in the UK
  - Centralised support for housing, a guarantor scheme



# Hanin Barghouthi

I'm your new...

## Women's Officer (part-time)

**VOTE HANIN FOR WOMEN'S OFFICER!**

### ABOUT ME!

Hi everyone, I'm Hanin (she/her) and I'm running to be your next Women's Liberation Officer!! I'm a second year Sociology and Cultural Studies student and the current Welfare and Inclusivity Officer for FemSoc (the feminist society).

As a key part of FemSoc, working with them as their welfare and inclusivity officer, I deal with difficult situations often and I try to find justice and peace always! It has not been an easy role but it has taught me SO much about patience and how to work with the SU to find fair resolutions.

I am also currently the year 2 sociology student representative and have been in communications with the uni to make the curriculum better, as well as creating fun socials for year 2 sociology students. Last year, I was the Union Councillor for the school of LPS (which means I sit on the highest decision-making body in the Students' Union), where I voted FOR hybrid learning to continue, as accessibility is super important.

Now more than ever **we need a university that respects women** and SHOWS that it respects women by funnelling money into bettering resources surrounding our **wellbeing**, our **safety on campus** and affording us **better access to period products**. Furthermore, we **need a university that shows it cares about our mental health** by making exceptional circumstances much more accessible and much less invasive



# Hanin Barghouthi

The university needs to grant the students union a bigger fund pot so that it can adequately support the needs of all students – we are not paying 9k/18k a year for an unsafe, unhappy campus!! **We are deserving to live and reside and occupy uni spaces that are safe, inclusive and comfortable** – this is our home for at least 3 years, let's make it feel like home!

**Inclusivity and intersectionality** are at the heart of my campaign and will drive my work as women's officer; I pride myself on always thinking critically and inclusively in encompassing all communities, and offering safe spaces for all marginalised people.

My manifesto highlights the work I plan on pushing through at the university to progress our welcomeness here, because how are we 100% safe, happy and content if we are not afforded spaces and items and understanding that would let allow us to be ourselves in our highest forms.

I have **16 actions** I am **committed** to holding the uni accountable on to transform our lives - curating a much better, kinder, and safer space for all.

**Bare with me, I promise all 16 actions are super important and DOABLE!**

## WHAT I PLAN TO DO:

- 1) IMPORVING WELLBEING
- 2) CREATING A SAFER CAMPUS FOR ALL WOMEN ON CAMPUS
- 3) PERIOD CARE
- 4) REIMAGINING EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

## WELLBEING

1. For uni students seeking therapy to be afforded at least 10 sessions; currently the uni offers 6 sessions, which is being limited to 2. This is ridiculous and very insulting!



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# Hanin Barghouthi

2. For the University to partner with Survivors Network and provide counselling services for survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse through those professionals as the University does not have the resources to provide adequate and quality services to students in distress!
3. Need diverse range of therapists + cultural sensitivity
4. Need diverse range of therapy types (sand play, art therapy, group therapies)
5. Continue running weekly Pillowtalk sessions

## SAFETY ON CAMPUS

1. Trans women only space (collab with t&nb officers)
2. Consent and active bystander training mandatory for ALL students
3. Lights in the evening on campus ESPECIALLY secluded area e.g. in forest, around the Sports Complex, ALL bus stops, and Library Square.
4. Better tool for reporting sexual violence, support occurring in the 24 hours once reported
5. Women and marginalised gender identities only space once a month with queer DJ

## PERIOD CARE

1. Period products available in every single bathroom and reception areas of all buildings (We NEED to end period poverty!)
2. Period disposal bins available in every bathroom regardless of gendered bathroom
3. Pcos, endometriosis to register with DSU and receive RAs, especially non attendance.
4. Make available menstrual cups available at free Wednesday.
5. Transform Free Wednesday into Free EVERY day

## REIMAGINING EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Exceptional circumstances need to be easier and more inclusive to get (abortion, pcos, endometriosis)

Who has the power to give allowances and why?



# Hanin Barghouthi

## TO CONCLUDE...

I am ready to be your women's officer because I am committed to putting my whole heart into working for you, making this uni as safe and inclusive and comfortable. I am devoted to making this uni a place we are deserving to reside within!

Follow my Instagram election page for updates and more info! @ votehanin

**VOTE HANIN FOR WOMEN'S LIBERATION OFFICER!**

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A portrait of Simran Bhatia, a young woman with dark curly hair, smiling and looking slightly to the right. The photo is framed with a yellow border and has a pink paperclip graphic at the top right and a pink flower graphic at the bottom left. There are also some white paper scraps with red 'X' marks scattered around the photo.

## Simran Bhatia

I'm your new...

## Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Officer (part-time)

Hello! My name is Simran, I am a 2nd year Liberal Arts student and I am running for the position of BAME Part-time Officer in the student union. As a queer, international, South Asian student, I understand the plethora of challenges that BAME students face, both academically and personally. I am passionate about representing your interests and your opinions on how we can make Sussex a visibly more diverse place. I know that I represent only a small part of the Sussex student body, but as BAME officer, I want to offer a safe space where change, whether big or small, can truly happen.

As the Head of Production for University Radio Falmer, I have had some experience in communicating with the student union, and I have a good understanding of the systems and processes that make change on campus a challenge. If given the chance to be your BAME officer, I believe I have the skills to bring our ideas to fruition.

Some ways in which I would like to support BAME students next year are:

- Bring about more BAME student involvement not only during campus events such as 'One World Week,' which is a great initiative, but also throughout the year and across societies to increase involvement and a range of perspectives within them. Such as encouraging and helping them to sign up for committee member positions across campus.
- Have a better selection of food in the student union bars and restaurants on campus.
- I will push for further decolonisation of our curriculum by advocating for updates to our reading lists and by pushing for additional weeks in our curriculum that focus on topics and perspectives that are representative of BAME students.



# Simran Bhatia

- And most important to me, would be advocating for BAME students' mental health, such as providing a space for drop-in sessions and group meetings to help students with shared experiences.

As BAME and international students make up a significant proportion of our student population, I want to engage and plan alongside them. I would do this through channels such as social media and Discord to be as accessible as possible.

In conclusion, I have experience with the student union and a few ideas that I would like to implement to make our university experience better. I am committed to representing BAME students and will work hard to ensure we have a supportive and inclusive environment. Thank you for your time and support!

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## Abigail Flowers & Beck Klecan

We're your new...

### Trans and Non-Binary Officer (part-time)

Hi, we're Abigail (she/her) and Beck (they/them). We are biochemistry and biology undergraduates respectively, and proud members of the trans and nonbinary community here at Sussex. We are dedicated to creating a more inclusive environment at Sussex for its trans and nonbinary students, either by heading these changes or helping to see them through if they have already begun.

We strongly believe that the simplest way to improve life for trans and nonbinary people at Sussex would be through creating a greater sense of support. We would do this through:



- **Regular meetings with trans and non-binary students where they can bring to light any issues they believe aren't being currently addressed.**
  1. This would give students a chance to bring issues directly to us, rather than having to deal with any intermediary processes.
  2. Additionally, this would give us a chance to connect with other students and get their opinions on topics that could be controversial, such as how an official pronoun system should work.
- **A page under the health and wellbeing section on the Sussex student website dedicated to resources for trans and nonbinary students, as we found that the most helpful information has only been by word of mouth. This would include:**
  1. A guide to changing your name legally.
  2. A guide to accessing the bridging prescription for HRT via the WellBN clinic in Brighton.
  3. Information about all upcoming events for trans and nonbinary students.



# Abigail Flowers & Beck Klecan

- Events, such as picnics, to create a better sense of community, especially for people without a support network at home.

**We also understand there are issues on the administrative level, we would combat this by:**

- Removing legal sex from the Sussex direct personal details page.
    1. We believe that this is a pointless measure of diversity, as it assumes that all trans people can obtain a gender recognition certificate, whilst also completely disregarding the fact that non-binary genders are not legally recognised in the UK.
    2. This could easily be replaced by asking what gender the student identifies as, since there is already a question on whether you are transgender.
  - Improving the system for changing your name to make it more streamlined.
    1. Currently, you can change your display name on the university digital services, however your email and login ID will still have your old initials.
    2. Unfortunately, there are technical barriers behind this, but we will lobby the IT department to implement the necessary changes to remove them.
    3. We will use the previously mentioned meetings to guide our approach to streamlining the system.
  - Implementing better training for staff.
    1. This would cover a range of issues such as how to combat transphobia when seen in their own teaching sessions, and how to keep professional boundaries when interacting with trans students.
    2. We would also strongly encourage staff members to include their pronouns in their email signatures.
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# Lydia Knowles & Yanna Erikson

We're your new...

## Disabled students' Officer (Part-Time)

### Introduction to Lyds (they/she) and Yanna (she/they)

Lyds is a second year Biology student. They are an active member of Access Sussex and have also been a loud voice in the campaign for hybrid learning. As someone with invisible disabilities, Lyds is passionate about raising more awareness around the experience of disabled students, advocating for those who are uncomfortable doing so for themselves. If elected as a Disabled Students Officer, they would continue their work with Access Sussex and strive to make the university community more accessible for disabled students.

Yanna is a second year Childhood & Youth Studies student. As a member of Access Sussex, Yanna has been a great advocate for autistic students, as well as those with anxiety. Yanna is passionate about challenging and re-thinking the systemic structures of education to make it an accessible and enjoyable experience for all. As a Disabled Students Officer, they would work to increase awareness around disability, therefore enabling a better university experience for disabled students at Sussex.

### Our main aims for mandate as Disability Officers are to:

1. Make support available for disabled students as accessible as possible. We will do this by creating more awareness for the support that is available and how to access these channels. Furthermore, we aim to break down the best course of action to gain support suited to each different need and present it in a way that makes the process as clear as possible.

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# Lydia Knowles & Yanna Erikson

2. Work with teaching staff and schools to build seamless communication channels that ensure reasonable adjustments are understood and maintained. Doing so should support the fostering of healthy relationships between teaching staff and disabled students.
3. Work with and support the Access Sussex Campaign.
4. Support the growth of the Sussex University disabled community, through creating and facilitating further platforms and social gatherings for disabled students to meet and socialise.
5. Strive to make the university campus more accessible.

## 1. Making support available for disabled students as accessible as possible.

A key aim of ours is to help disabled students receive the support they are entitled to. As disabled students, we are aware of the barriers and complexity that can be involved with accessing the support necessary to function in university life, and the challenges that come with trying to get by without. Currently, accessing support, knowing what support is available, and who to contact can be a messy, confusing and overwhelming process. Therefore, we want to help build more awareness about the support available and create an environment where no disabled student is left struggling and unsupported.

## 2. Working with teaching staff and schools to build seamless communication channels that ensure reasonable adjustments are understood and maintained.

An issue many disabled students struggle with is ensuring their reasonable adjustments are adhered to and met by staff. In many cases, relevant staff are not even initially made aware of a student's reasonable adjustments.



# Lydia Knowles & Yanna Erikson

We would like to work with staff members to ensure that disabled students are identified by teaching staff and their reasonable adjustments are met in a respectful and confidential manner.

### **3. Working with and supporting Access Sussex.**

We are both active members of the Access Sussex Campaign committee and are passionate about improving university life for disabled students. As disabled student officers, we would continue our work with Access Sussex, working in conjunction to achieve our goals together.

### **4. Creating further platforms and social gatherings for disabled students to meet and socialise.**

It can be difficult to meet other disabled students and we are aware of how beneficial it can be to talk to other disabled students and share experiences. As disabled student officers, we would like to create more opportunities for disabled students to meet and socialise. This can be through coffee mornings and other accessible events. Following this, we would also like to help other societies become more accessible for disabled students by collaborating with them to make the range of opportunities that Sussex has to offer accessible to disabled students.

### **5. Striving to make the university campus more accessible.**

One of the significant issues many disabled students face is the accessibility of campus. Specifically, campus can have unexpected building works, noise and events. Without proper planning or warning, these can form huge barriers to disabled students and can be quite distressing. Additionally, building work and other disruptions can cause a physical barrier, making it difficult for physically disabled students to navigate their way around campus. If elected, we hope to provide more prior warning about disruptions on campus and encourage others to do the same. This would allow for a more accessible campus.



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# Lewis Wilson

I'm your new...

## Student Trustee

5 months ago I ran to become a Student's Union Councillor. Thanks to your guys' support and votes I won. Upon becoming a councillor I realised that my vision for what I want for the SU is exactly what the SU needs- greater connectivity with its members (that's you guys!).

To try and bridge this gap, and support as many students as possible, I have:

- Pushed for the Student's Union App (which should be now up and running!)
- Upheld and passed policy that aids with the smooth running of the students' union
- Helped pass motions to allow greater freedom for ALL societies
- Prevented policy that would make food more expensive during a cost of living crisis
- Voted to support the UCU strikes so that we can get the best education possible by helping teachers and supporting staff get a fairer deal
- Provided amendments and suggestions to policy to help disabled students
- Become the council representative to the communications committee to help put forward issues and ideas to those with greater experience and more direct power

I would like to be a trustee because:

- I want to empower students to make positive changes on our campus
- I want ALL students to be able to have their voices heard and their needs met
- I have experience of working within the SU already on both council and the communications committee, and a track record of helping get things done
- Being a trustee would give me a greater opportunity to implement changes that would better the student experience at Sussex
- I am dedicated to making Sussex the best it can possibly be
- Being a trustee relates to my studies in Equity and Trust Law, allowing me to use my education to support students and our SU



A portrait of Dannielle Smith, a young Black woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a black jacket over a green top. The photo is framed with a yellow border and decorated with paper cutouts like a pink paperclip, a yellow flower, and a small envelope.

# Dannielle Smith

I'm your new...

## Student Trustee

As an individual, I want my legacy to be one that is purposeful and charitable. One that is known to be dedicated to the protection of the welfare of others, especially in our very own student body. To achieve this, I am willing to put myself forward in each election until you, the vast majority of the SSU, recognise that I am the best candidate for doing just this.

For the sake of those who haven't read my past five manifestos, I will briefly introduce myself another time. My name is Dannielle Smith, and I am from the Turks and Caicos Islands (southeast of The Bahamas) in the Caribbean (not exactly but let's not debate geography right now). Throughout my A level career, I was vice president of the student council and a student mentor. During my time as vice president, I was able to work on toy drives and hurricane relief initiatives with various local charities. These activities were personally rewarding as I got to make someone else happier and their life a bit easier and I also gained delegation skills by assigning tasks to other council members involved to help carry out these commitments in a timely manner. My communication skills were also improved as I got to collaborate with external organisations from the school itself. When I was a student mentor, I was not only able to tutor my mentee, but also help them emotionally if they were feeling overwhelmed with schoolwork or life in general. This enabled me to actively picture things from their perspective and understand the root of most difficulties they were facing. In short, this experience built my ability to listen and sympathise with others which is crucial to convincingly convey the issues of the student body in meetings.

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# Dannielle Smith

Once appointed as Student Trustee, I would like to bring the critical viewpoint of a current student to Board meetings so that issues within the student body are communicated to higher administrative groups. I am aware that any of my competitors can carry out this role, but I believe I can do so more effectively due to skills gained after attending numerous public speaking workshops. I spent a lot of time in the last semester working on my time management techniques to prepare me for a role like this where I'd have to juggle many "orders of business" along side schoolwork and volunteering. Although I am physically terrible at juggling, I assure you that I am an ace at doing so figuratively.

If you'd like to meet me in person, you can usually find me wherever there's free food on campus. I tend to wear a cream-coloured beanie more than I should. I'd be happy to discuss whatever's on your mind that you need to be escalated especially in board meetings.

I know that the work of a trustee is long and tedious, but I believe that I've shown my dedication to serve the SSU through my many nominations in past elections. Just like the saying goes, "the sixth time's the charm."



# Taiwo Olaide Salami

I'm your new...

## Student Trustee

My name is Taiwo Olaide Salami, I am a student of Engineering Business Management and I am running to be the student trustee. If elected, I promise to bring a fresh perspective to the board and be an advocate for all students. My background as a student leader and my passion for social justice make me ideal for this role. As your student trustee, my goal is to ensure that all students are represented in the decision-making process. I fully understand the importance of being able to speak up and have a strong voice in the affairs of the school. I want to be the one to make sure that no student's opinion is ever overlooked or disregarded. I will make certain that all perspectives are heard and respected.

I am also committed to keeping students informed of the latest developments in the school and ways that they can get involved. I plan to use various communication platforms to share important updates so that everyone may stay informed.

Moreover, I promise to fight for equity and fairness for all students. I believe that everyone should have access to the same resources and opportunities regardless of race, gender, or economic status. As your student trustee, I will work hard to ensure that all students can succeed without being hindered by external forces or unfair policies.

I am also very passionate about the environment and sustainability initiatives. I am confident that with the right effort and dedication, we can create a better, more sustainable future for all of us. As student trustee, I will work tirelessly to ensure that our school implements eco-friendly practices and takes steps to reduce its negative impact on the environment.

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# Taiwo Olaide Salami

Lastly, I bring a wealth of experience in student leadership and advocacy to the table. I am presently on internship with Borgen Project as a political affairs officer I have been able to worked on a variety of projects that focused on making our community a better place and support the vulnerable people. In addition, I have spent countless hours organizing events and advocating for student rights during my undergraduate as a public relation officer in Nigeria. I believe that I am the right person to be your student trustee and I look forward to working with you all!

# LGBTQ+ Part Time Officer

No candidates. Nominations will re-open in **September**.

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