



LEADERSHIP
ELECTIONS

MEET THE CANDIDATES



WELCOME

Welcome to the manifestos booklet for the 2025 Cambridge SU Leadership Elections. From July this year, the winners of these elections will be your representative for students. This year we will see a change to the Sabbatical Officer roles and will now be electing the following:

- President (UG)
- President (PG)
- Vice President (Education & Widening Participation)
- Vice President (Student Community & Societies)
- Vice President (Liberation & Welfare)

As well as the part-time voluntary position of University Councillor up for election which any student can run for and do alongside their studies.

Their manifestos are your way of deciding who you want speaking for you - so please do spend a little time reading through them, listening to what they have to say before casting your vote.

Remember that in every election, if you are not happy with any of the candidates, you may also vote to re-open nominations ("RON"). If RON wins an election, nominations for that position will be reopened and a by-election held in due course.

Voting is online via www.cambridgesu.co.uk/vote. The ballot will open at 9 am on Monday 23rd February, and close at 3pm on Thursday, 26th February. Provisional Results will be announced from 7pm on Thursday, 26th February, with the Official Results being confirmed later.

We hope that these elections are enjoyable for you, and that you can engage with them as much as possible!

The Returning Officer for the Election will be **Sonia Cottrell**

The Deputy Returning Officer for the Election will be **Jamie Burrell**



SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

WHAT ARE STV ELECTIONS

Under STV (Single Transferable Vote), voters rank candidates in order of preference by marking 1, 2, 3 and so on next to the names of candidates on a ballot. A voter can rank as many or as few candidates as they like or just vote for one candidate.

Each candidate needs a minimum number of votes to be elected. This number is calculated according to the number of positions and votes cast and is called a quota. The first preference votes for each candidate are added up and any candidate who has achieved this quota is elected.

If a candidate has more votes than are needed to fill the quota, that candidate's surplus votes are transferred to the remaining candidates. Votes that would have gone to the winner instead go to the second preference listed on those ballot papers.

If candidates do not meet the quota, the candidate with the fewest first preference votes is eliminated and the second preference votes are transferred to other candidates. These processes are repeated until all the seats are filled.

The winner is the candidate who reaches the 'quota' first.

The quota for each of these elections is $50\%+1$ of all the votes cast in that ballot.

STAGES OF COUNTING

1. First preference votes counted
2. If no-one reaches the quota, last-place candidate is eliminated
3. The second preferences of voters who chose that candidate are redistributed among those remaining
4. This continues, if necessary repeating these steps, until someone reaches the quota



CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER

President (PG)

Jeeves Rohilla
Olivia-Chineze Riddle
Roman Shainskyi
Sonia Fereidooni

President (UG)

Melanie Benedict
Nesar Rafiq
Sophia Choudhury

Vice President (Education & Widening Participation)

Corrine Kola-Balogun
Jessica Asiedu-Kwatchey
Martin Varga
Maya Karthikeyan
Sarah Misraoui

Vice President (Liberation & Welfare)

Talulla Harris
Yuqing Yang

Vice President (Student Community & Societies)

Olivia Ledger
Stella Wilkinson

University Councillor

Abel Mavura
Beth Watson
Nmesoma Kamula

Candidates without Manifestos

Vareesh Pratap



VOTE

JEEVES



FOR POSTGRAD PRESIDENT

& SAY NO TO COLLEGE INEQUALITY

CAMBRIDGE IS AT A CROSSROADS AND WE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD. WE NEED A STRONG VOICE THAT IS WILLING TO SAY: THIS IS NOT RIGHT.

EXPERIENCE

Lucy Cav MCR

President: As

President, I worked to provide students with short term relief during Cambridge's ongoing cost of living crisis, but the truth is that the challenges faced by Lucy students and other less wealthy colleges is systemic and needs addressing.

Also, as you have probably guessed by the branding of my manifesto, I am a BIG fan of **the Mayor of New York!** I basically want to try & do a similar thing here for Cambridge.



PROTECT SOCIAL MOBILITY: Social mobility at Cambridge is **UNDER THREAT**. As recent headlines have shown, some colleges are reversing years of progress aimed at making Cambridge more inclusive and accessible to students from all backgrounds. As a student body, we need to confront this head-on **AND SAY NO**.



AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL: Access means nothing if Cambridge is unaffordable once you get here. Social mobility and affordability go together. Right now, some of the colleges with the highest numbers of students from less advantaged backgrounds are also the most expensive to live in, including the college where I am MCR President, Lucy Cavendish. That is not right. No student should be struggling financially just to exist at Cambridge, no matter what college they are in.



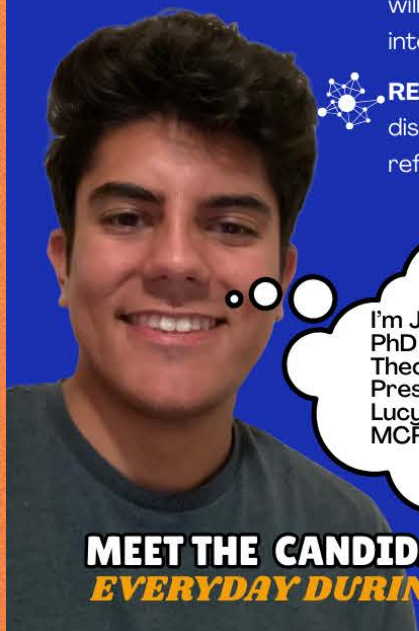
EQUALITY ACROSS COLLEGES: This is not just about hardship funds, although they really do matter & I will push to strengthen them. The problem is structural. Huge wealth gaps between colleges create very different student experiences, from higher rents & more expensive canteens to less funding for sports clubs & research. Colleges with less money often end up costing students significantly more. I will campaign for an expanded College Fund, a college wealth redistribution mechanism that already exists, asking wealthier colleges to contribute more each year to less wealthy colleges & for the creation of a new fund that can be used by less wealthy colleges for operational costs, such as rent subsidies so all students have access to affordable accommodation & food.



SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: International students are central to life at Cambridge. **I WILL NOT** stand by while migrants to the UK are demonised and othered. At a time when national rhetoric & public demonstrations have created a hostile climate, I will ensure the Cambridge SU is a clear and vocal force pushing back, standing up for international students & reaffirming our commitment to internationalism.



RE-ENGAGE ALL J/MCRs: The SU cannot represent students if students feel disengaged. I will rebuild links with JCRs & MCRs across Cambridge so Student Council reflects real student voices.



I'm Jeeves, a PhD student in Theology & President of Lucy Cavendish MCR.

IF YOU HAVE EVER WONDERED WHO TO ASK ABOUT MAKING CAMBRIDGE BETTER, WELL... YOU CAN ASKJEEVES

FOLLOW 4 CAMPAIGN VIDS & UPDATES

@JEEVES4PRES

VOTE

JEEVES

FOR POSTGRAD PRESIDENT

23rd - 26th FEBRUARY

**MEET THE CANDIDATE: 1-2PM AT SIDGWICK
EVERYDAY DURING ELECTION WEEK**

OLIVIA-CHINEZE RIDDLE FOR PRESIDENT (PG)



ABOUT ME

First-generation University Student | BA from University of York

I'm the first in my family to go to university, let alone pursue a master's. I know how isolating higher education can be, the financial barriers that keep students from pursuing higher education, and how scary starting at a new university (especially one as renowned as Cambridge) feels. As a STYC/STYM and as Linguistics Rep, I've learned that real support isn't just career fairs and wine & cheese events; it's genuine connection and approachable information. That's what Cambridge postgraduates need.

EXPERIENCE:

- Postgraduate Representative for Linguistics
- President, Tipsygate Readers Society (York)
- STYC/STYM (Second & Third Year Contact/Mentor, York)

**Opportunity.
Connection.
Resources.
Vote OCR.**



**Voting Opens
Feb 23rd 9am
and Closes Feb
26th 3pm**

CONTACT ME

 @actually_liv

MY PLEDGES:



1. ABOLISH THE MASTERS APPLICATION FEE

Previous Presidents cut the PhD application fee; I'll expand that to the master's fee as well. Higher education should be accessible to all, especially in these financially trying times. By cutting this fee, it will aid in removing a financial barrier for students from underrepresented and low-income backgrounds who cannot afford to spend unlimited funds on applications.



2. OVERHAUL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Redesign the postgraduate websites to be intuitive and accessible. Departmental information should not be scattered across the web and vary in quality. I will emphasise the need for a postgraduate information central hub, where each departmental course is linked, and information can be easily accessed and controlled to ensure equal quality.

Furthermore, I am to create a centralised funding guide with all information on scholarships and grants in one place, with an updated, user-friendly interface.

Essential information should not be hard to find.



3. BUILD REAL POSTGRADUATE COMMUNITY

Establish a peer mentoring system (STYC/STYM-style) to create stronger connections between master's and PhD students, fostering an informal support network.

Organise genuine social events, not just academic career fairs. Master's and PhD students can have fun too! Social interaction and community are the backbone of success.

Strengthen the MCR-President collaboration through regular forums.

Champion cross-college access to facilities and social spaces.

Connect postgraduates with the wider Cambridge community, organisations and businesses; this city is more than just the University.

Be an approachable, friendly face, not another bureaucratic barrier. Cambridge can be an isolating, intimidating place, but kindness can transform not only the city but also people's educational experience.



4. TRANSFORM THE POSTGRADUATE WELCOME

Develop a comprehensive welcome guide covering academic expectations, the Cambridge traditions and systems and guidance on living in Cambridge. I want to ensure genuine social induction from day one, making the transition less scary for students arriving from other universities across the country and abroad.



5. EXPAND POSTGRADUATE ACCESS

Launch targeted outreach to underrepresented groups and working-class communities. Work with schools and universities to show postgraduate study at Cambridge is achievable.

Continue campaigns for deferred Master's entry. Life is unexpected; you earned your place, and that should be honoured.

Campaign for increased hardship funds and better support for self-funded students facing financial hardship. Cambridge is expensive; everyone deserves to live well.

I will listen. I will act. I will fight for every postgraduate student.

SHAINSKYI ROMAN



CANDIDATE FOR POSTGRADUATE PRESIDENT

I built my financial independence from a young age. Today, I run a company with over 200 active tutors while completing my Master's in Entrepreneurship.

I understand pressure.
I understand responsibility.
And I understand what it takes to build something real.
Now I want to bring that mindset to Cambridge.

1. Cambridge as a Startup Ecosystem — Not Just a University

Postgraduates should not wait until graduation to start building.

I will:

- Introduce practical startup workshops across colleges and departments
- Bring founders and operators to mentor students
- Create accessible "idea development" pathways
- Ensure every student understands what funding, grants, and incubators already exist

Opportunities at Cambridge are everywhere — but many students don't see them.
I will make sure they do.

2. Financial Independence While You Study

Postgraduate life should not mean financial stagnation.

I will:

- Expand structured, skill-based income opportunities
- Build stronger bridges between students and real-world projects
- Promote student-led ventures in VC's international circles.

Your studies should empower your independence — not delay it.

3. Academic–Enterprise Integration

Entrepreneurship at Cambridge should strengthen academic excellence — not distract from it.

I will:

- Encourage closer collaboration between faculties and industry
- Support applied research with real-world impact
- Promote dissertation pathways connected to innovation
- Ensure entrepreneurial activity complements academic achievement

Cambridge should remain academically rigorous — while becoming more practically powerful.

4. International Exposure

Cambridge should be globally integrated.

I will:

- Build collaborations with international institutions
- Organise more innovation trips and shared startup camps
- Connect Cambridge postgraduates to global ecosystems

We should not only be world-class — we should be world-connected.

5. Growth in All Dimensions

Cambridge is not only academic training.

I believe in building environments that push you to become stronger:

- Better access to sports and performance spaces
- Workshops on leadership, focus, and resilience
- Events that foster real connection and ambition

If you choose me, you choose someone who believes in developing the whole person — academically, financially, mentally, and socially.

6. Proven Leadership Under Pressure

Running a multi-hundred-person organisation while studying has taught me:

- How to operate under stress
- How to make decisions
- How to build systems that work

I will bring that execution mindset to the Postgraduate community.

Cambridge gives us knowledge.
Let's make it give us momentum.
If elected, I will use my experience, network, and energy to make postgraduate study not just a degree — but a launchpad.

Feb. 23rd - 26th

Voting Opens

Organising Power, Protecting Postgrads



VOTE
Sonia for
SU
President
(PG)



Background

Hey, I'm Sonia, a second-year international PhD student in the Digital Humanities. I'm currently the President and Chair of the Gates Cambridge Scholars' Council. I previously co-founded Gates Against Genocide, where we launched the Palestine Educational Initiative, and continue to advocate for arms divestment of the Cambridge University Endowment Fund (CUEF) in collaboration with the University's Arms Working Group.



Empowering Student Voices

I will centre the SU as an engine for student activism and liberation work. That means rebuilding strong, formal links between the Student Union and grassroots groups led by marginalized students, ensuring they have access to funding, rooms, communications channels, and institutional backing. I will push for clear mechanisms by which liberation campaigns can feed directly into SU policy, so that their organising is reflected in formal positions, negotiations, and university-level committees.



Arms Divestment

I will work for arms divestment of the CUEF. My work with Gates Against Genocide and college-level campaigns has shown that arguments grounded in financial risk, governance stability, and reputational integrity can shift decision-makers. As President, I will bring that strategy to the SU, coordinating college, faculty, and scholarship campaigns around a unified demand for an end to investments in companies manufacturing weapons defined as illegal or controversial under UK and international law. I will also work to secure transparency around exposure to the defence sector so that students and staff can see clearly where their fees, labour, and philanthropy are being deployed.



Ending Casualisation

I will prioritise ending casualisation for postgraduate workers. Many of us are simultaneously students, supervisors, demonstrators, and researchers; we carry core teaching and research workloads on rolling, low-paid, and opaque contracts. I will strengthen the SU's coordination with UCU, J4CS, and college reps to push for guaranteed minimum pay and hours, timely contracts, paid training, protection from overwork, and a framework that makes clear that teaching and research labour performed by postgraduates is recognised, contractual, and fairly compensated.



Support for International Students

I will make support for international postgraduates a non-negotiable priority. As an immigrant myself, I know how visa precarity, discriminatory border regimes, and sudden geopolitical crises can wipe out people's financial plans and sense of safety overnight. I will push the University to expand hardship funding, legal and immigration advice, interruption and extension policies, and accommodation guarantees for students affected by war, occupation, authoritarianism, or hostile immigration policy, and to begin a serious review of overseas fees that recognises the structural inequalities they reproduce.



Green Policies

I will work towards more ambitious and coherent ethical divestment on fossil fuels and adjacent extractive industries. Building on the existing 2030 fossil-free commitment, I will push for stronger exclusion criteria, clearer timelines, and student representation in any new ethical investment advisory structures. My goal is that Cambridge's financial practices align with its own research on climate and environmental justice, and that postgraduate researchers in climate, energy, and the Majority World are not forced to see their work undercut by the very funds that sustain the institution.

Melanie Benedict for UG President

A President that Cares, An SU that Delivers

I have the experience and the work to show for it.

As the **current VP Liberation and Welfare** of Cambridge SU I have:



- Rebooted the **SUpermarket**: a **free food provision**.
- Put **Access to Lecture Recording** back on the Table.
- Supported **College Divestment** Organisers to make tangible progress.
- Supported Consultation Work on the **University Counselling Service** and negotiated changes.
- Organised activist, welfare, Decolonial, feminist and disability justice events in **collaboration with students and societies**.
- Set up the **Trans-Inclusion Working Group** and campaigned for students in committees.
- Ensured local MP's attend **Parliamentary Discussions for Duty of Care**.

Fairer Rents

- Supporting JCR Presidents in advocating for **rent increase pauses** and against annual rent increases with Senior Collegiate Staff.
- Support **student rent strikes and bargaining** using my past experience as Magdalene JCR President.

Access for all

- Ensure more departments move to **default lecture recording access** and **minimise student workload**, using projects like the Pathways to Inclusive Practise.
- **Improve Anti-Racism training access and reporting** for more safe spaces in University.
- **Protect Trans Students** inclusion in sports and spaces.
- **Expand the SUpermarket** to provide essential goods, clothes and other goods.

A More Ethical Institution:

- Support **Climate Activism** at Cambridge and developing **commercial carbon reduction pathways**.
- Continue supporting and building **Collegiate Arms Divestment Campaigning**.

Better Transparency, More Support

- Improve the visibility of the work of the SU by **meeting students where they are**.
- **Improve the wellbeing support of Tutors** by creating a **single source signposting** document that helps tutors direct their students to the right services instead of having to keep trying different services.

Follow my Campaign on Instagram: **Melanie4SUPres**
Ask me a Question: **MB2518@cam.ac.uk**

NESAR RAFIQ

VOTE NESAR

Nesar for Undergraduate Student Union President, Cambridge University

Cambridge University for the Many Not Just the Few

Make your voice matter www.votenesar.co.uk

Reach out, call, text or WhatsApp 07340403110



A Stronger Voice for You

As President I will empower you to live your best student life. I will improve student engagement and advocate for both mental health and financial support. We are in this together.

I will be your voice; loud, clear and impossible to ignore! I will fight for better funding, fairer loans and a system that supports the most vulnerable.

The SU should be a space for real representation. I will work with fellow students and staff to promote transparency, justice and meaningful action on your key issues. I give you my word that I'll fight tooth and nail to get you a better deal for you. Your vote counts. Step up and start to make change happen.

Mental Health Support Your wellbeing comes first Student wellbeing is a top priority across the whole University. I will expand mental health services and anti-burnout initiatives.

Equality and Inclusion It's time to make change Many of us are deeply concerned about housing, politics, and international affairs. I will work with UCU and local organisations to ensure all students feel represented. I will:

- Campaign for the right of every student to be treated equally, with dignity and respect.
- Lobby for decolonising the curriculum, the right to demonstrate freely and widening participation and access to work.
- Promote community-building events to connect JCRs/MCRs and reduce isolation.

Environment and Ethics We will not be silenced Students are aware of their societal role, from local activism to global issues. One of the most pressing concerns has been solidarity with Palestine, yet the SU has been actively discouraged from protesting against the genocide. I will:

- Support student-led campaigns for divestment and reinvestment in Palestinian students, academics and scholars.
- Support direct actions like occupations or boycotts while ensuring student safety.
- Oppose punitive measures against students advocating for justice.
- Demand student representation in University decision-making on divestment and ethical policy.
- Demand university divestment from fossil fuels.
- Demand living wage policies for staff.

MY COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are sick of the self-serving getting into power and pivoting away from their promises and commitments. I give you my word that I'll fight tooth and nail to get you a better deal. We can do this together. My lived experience gives me a deep understanding of academic, financial and mental struggles.

Your vote counts. Start to make change happen.

Hi! I'm **Sophia** and I'm a final year Geographer at Fitz! As your **UG President**, I hope to bring **your voice** to decision-making bodies and create a student-first governance culture. I want to give back to the community I've spent the last three years campaigning and advocating with, extending my work to all students with intersectionality at its heart. Vote for me as **your voice in the SU**.

Experience

- President of **CU Palestine Solidarity Society** 25-26
- Events Officer 24-25
- Access Officer **CU Islamic Society** 24-26
- Welfare and Charity Officer **CU Bangla Society** 24-25
- Successful International Campaign Lead **GAZA40**
- Successful **NUS-disaffiliation** Campaigner
- Cross-College **Divestment Campaign** Coordinator

VOTE

Vote Sophia for UG PRESIDENT

First choice for the student voice!
www.cambridgesu.co.uk/vote

Education

- **Student Health Over Uni Wealth:** Advocate for a student-first policy for endowment and budget expenditure and increase the bursary in line with inflation.
- **Ethical Investment and Careers:** Campaign for full divestment towards a transparent and ethical investment policy and Careers' Service.
- **Lecture Recordings and Modernised Accessibility:** Build on the campaign for subject-wide lecture recordings and support students accessing education-related adjustments.

Equality

- **Fight for Rent Affordability:** Fight for rent freezes, rebates, subsidy schemes and rent contract flexibility across colleges.
- **Safer Communities for All:** Create Safe Hubs across colleges for all students, strengthen society welfare work and standardise staff inclusivity training.

Empowerment

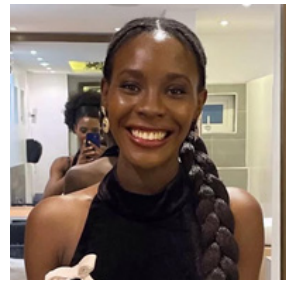
- **College Collaboration:** Strengthen SU-JCR partnerships, empowering cross-college campaigns through an info-sharing infrastructure including rent, welfare, divestment and more.
- **UK-Wide Advocacy:** Work with national networks to campaign on shared student issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, employability concerns, repression of student activism on campus and more.

YOUR VOICE IN THE SU

CORRINE KOLA-BALOGUN

Education at Cambridge is world-leading. But the experience of being here (understanding how it works, feeling confident in it, and feeling like you belong) isn't the same for everyone.

I'm running for Vice President for Widening Participation and Education because widening participation doesn't stop at admissions. It must continue in the lecture hall, the supervision room, the society meeting, and the informal spaces where students intermingle. Getting in is only the beginning. What matters just as much is what happens once you arrive.



I care about this because I've seen how much of a difference the right support can make. Over the past few years, I've worked closely with students applying to Oxbridge, mentoring them through personal statements, interviews, and admissions tests. Through the Oxbridge Launchpad HSPS programme, I've supported students one-to-one, many of whom were the first in their families to consider applying. What I saw again and again is that ability isn't the issue. What people often lack is clarity, reassurance, and someone to tell them that they are capable and that they belong.

Since coming to Cambridge, I've tried to continue that work here. As Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of Oxbridge Africas, I've helped create spaces where students feel able to share their ideas and take themselves seriously as thinkers. Whether that's through publishing student writing or organising events with academics, I've seen how important it is for students to feel that their voices matter, not just as learners, but as contributors.

If elected, I want to focus on three things: clarity, continuity, and care. First, clarity. Cambridge can feel difficult to navigate, especially if you don't already know how the system works. I want to make academic expectations clearer through: better guidance on supervisions, revision, or assessments to ensure that students aren't left trying to figure everything out on their own. This will be done by collaborating with JCRs, student reps, and academic staff to demystify Cambridge education.

Second, continuity. Too often, widening participation stops once students arrive. But support needs to continue throughout your degree, especially at challenging points like first-year exams or thinking about postgraduate options. I will push for support that doesn't disappear after the first year, but stays with students throughout their time here.

Third, care. Students' experiences should shape education policy, not the other way around. I want to listen to students, especially those from state schools, minority backgrounds, disabled students, and those facing financial or personal pressures. I will make sure their concerns translate to real, practical changes and swift SU action.

I'm running because I believe Cambridge can be a place where every student feels confident in their right to be here. Not just admitted, but supported. Not just present, but able to grow. Education should open doors, not make people question themselves.

As Vice President for Widening Participation and Education, I will work to help make Cambridge a place where every student feels they belong, and has the support they need to succeed.

JESSICA ASIEDU-KWATCHEY

FOR VP EDUCATION & WIDENING PARTICIPATION



Vote me to be your
2026/27 VP
(Education & Widening
Participation)!

Contact ja778@cam.ac.uk
or [@jessica4cambridgesu](https://www.instagram.com/jessica4cambridgesu)
on Instagram
to find out more!



My name is Jessica, I previously studied Education at Christ's and I have the privilege of being Cambridge SU's current VP (Education & Widening Participation)

Working in this role for the past 6 months and being able to step into spaces where I have the power to amplify students' voices, as well as fulfil my passion of contributing to impactful widening participation work, has been nothing short of an honour and has provided the best opportunity to utilise my experiences to bring meaningful change to the SU & the wider university!

So, I would love for you to re-elect me to serve another year in this role so that I can continue effectively representing your academic interests and essential needs to the University, ultimately making it a better place for all undergraduate, postgraduate, current and prospective students :)

AS YOUR CURRENT VP (EDUCATION & WIDENING PARTICIPATION),

I HAVE SERVED YOU SO FAR BY:

- Representing the UG & PG student body across 27 University committees, including presenting papers to the Academic Standards and Enhancement Committee, as well as the Undergraduate Bursary Scheme Committee
- Chairing the Academic Rep Forums & working alongside subject/school reps to make students' voices heard on topics such as lecture capture and assessment
- Successfully supporting another year of the SU's Shadowing Scheme & contributing to the programme's review for future improvement
- Working to strengthen relationships with J/MCR Access & Class Act Officers through termly meetings, frequent communication and an Officer forum & social event
- Bringing a discussion paper on Bridging Weeks to Student Council to gain student feedback to share with Senior Tutors
- Collaborating on Undergraduate Financial Support Guides (to be launched next term!) with J/MCR Officers to improve transparency of support available across colleges
- Beginning the process of renewing content in the SU's undergraduate Alternative Prospectus to make it a more useful resource
- Launching surveys to collect data which will inform my research on the awarding gaps affecting Black & Bangladeshi students
- Supporting veterinary students in the midst of uncertainty and advocating for them at General Board And SO much more....

HOW WILL I CONTINUE TO SERVE THE STUDENT BODY IF I AM RE-ELECTED?

-Using my role to act as a bridge between the SU and J/MCRs and improve relationships with Access & Class Act Officers by: (1) introducing bi-termly newsletters to distribute resources; (2) circulating a database of initiatives to share useful ideas and (3) organising regular forums & socials

-Creating a version of the Alternative Prospectus & Funding Guides for postgraduate students to ensure equality of information across the University for both current and prospective students, particularly concerning financial provisions, college support, admissions and postgraduate student life

-Producing guides (designed for students by students) on internships, applications, interview training and careers, in collaboration with academic & professional development societies, as a widening participation initiative to support with finding opportunities and remove barriers to entry

-Carry out further research with students on issues such as progression to postgraduate study for underrepresented groups & enhancing support for students with mental health conditions, aligning with objectives outlined in the University's Access and Participation Plan 2025-29



SCAN TO VOTE

VOTE OPENS MONDAY
23RD FEB @ 9AM TO
THURSDAY 26TH FEB
@ 3PM

VOTE ON THE SU WEBSITE
AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.CAMBRIDGE
SU.CO.UK/VOTE](https://www.cambridge-su.co.uk/vote)

VOTE FOR JESSICA!

MARTIN VARGA

VP (Education & Widening Participation)



Hi, I am Martin. I am a fourth year Engineering student and I have really enjoyed my time at Cambridge, both socially and academically. Cambridge deserves its world-renowned reputation, but it does not come without flaws. There are clear areas where the University can do better, and through the SU I want to improve the experience of both current and future students.

A UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO EXAM RESITS

Currently, a single poor exam performance can have irreversible consequences for a student's entire degree. I believe this is neither fair nor educationally sound. I will advocate for a university-wide policy giving all students the option to resit an exam without requiring medical or personal mitigation. Exams are imperfect measures of ability, and one sitting should not permanently define academic achievement.

TRANSPARENCY IN EXAM MARKING

For many courses, a large proportion of the final grade depends on a small number of exams. Students should have the right to understand how their work was assessed. I will push for clearer marking criteria and improved access to feedback, allowing students to learn from their performance and trust the assessment process.

IMPROVED SCHEDULING FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Cambridge is academically demanding, but this should not come at the cost of student wellbeing. Practices such as Saturday lectures, late evening supervisions, and frequent weekend contact hours can unnecessarily limit participation in social, cultural, and sporting activities. I will work with departments and colleges to encourage more reasonable and predictable scheduling, with flexibility where students request alternatives.

ENCOURAGING APPLICATIONS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS

Many highly capable students never apply to Cambridge because they believe the University is not for them. I want to challenge this perception. I will support outreach and information campaigns that actively encourage applications from students of all backgrounds, across state schools, private schools, and international systems. You do not need an elite background or an olympiad medal to belong at Cambridge.

TRANSPARENT COLLEGE CHOICE

Choosing a college is a major part of the Cambridge application process, yet many applicants lack clear and comparable information. I will support the creation of an accessible resource detailing academic support, accommodation, welfare provision, and living costs across colleges. This will allow applicants to make informed choices and encourage colleges to maintain high standards.

Hello!

I'm Maya, an M.Phil student in Education. My engagement with questions of access at Cambridge comes from two places:

1. **my lived experience** as an international student from the Global South, and
2. **my academic training**, which has sharpened my understanding of how universities often reflect and reproduce unequal social systems.

I strongly believe that education should not depend on where one is born, who one knows, or the resources one has. As Vice President, I will work towards realising this belief by breaking barriers, reducing information asymmetries, and deepening access across the university.

What I Bring

- **Academic training in Education**, with a specialisation in Knowledge, Power, and Politics
- **Experience in evidence-based policy**, having designed and run a fellowship programme for out-of-school children from marginalised communities in India



VOTE MAYA

For VP – Education & Widening Participation

MY GOALS:

1. A Comprehensive and Centrally Accessible Peer Mentoring System for Students from Marginalized Contexts

- It would leverage the learnings of student and alumni volunteers, translating lived experience into valuable knowledge
- Prospective as well as current students can get a practical understanding of programmes, colleges, opportunities and other aspects of navigating university life with diverse identities

2. Unified Financial Resource Guide

- Built in collaboration with JCR/MCR/departments/student body, the guide would contain all information on scholarships, bursaries and financial support
- Accessible to applicants through the SU's alternative prospectus and the main university website
- Built-in peer mentoring as well as college/programme/identity specific listings to break information barriers and deepen access

3. One-Stop Webpage for all Academic Events

- A unified, student facing platform listing information on all academic talks, workshops and opportunities in the university
- Collaborating with societies and departments, simple submission guidelines for events would be developed and cross-posting to this platform would be encouraged as standard practice
- Accessible and not email-dependent, the platform would ensure that people with diverse ways of operating do not miss out on enriching academic and social experiences

4. Uncovering the Hidden Curriculum

- From norms and values, to linguistic shorthands and know-hows, there are lessons to being in Cambridge that are learnt, but not taught. This curriculum makes spaces exclusive, determining who belongs and how much
- A research and collective art project would be initiated to document and understand this hidden curriculum, with the hope that in uncovering this script, diverse expressions of identity and belongingness would become possible

Get In Touch : CRSid : mk2331@cam.ac.uk



Vote here!



Vote Sarah *for Education and Widening Participation!*

Hi! I'm Sarah, a third-year Historian, former JCR President at Peterhouse, and a Faculty and School Rep. In these roles, I have seen students raise concerns about their education, only to be met with pushback and silence. As a *first-generation, bursary-receiving student*, I strongly believe that access does not end at the offer letter; when systems are failing, it is less privileged students who suffer the most.

Students should not be adapting to chaos; our systems should already work for us. When students are ignored, radical change is needed. I am ready to deliver it.

Access that does not end at Admissions

- Push to establish a centralised **Summer Prep Grant** for care-experienced and estranged students, to buy study materials, basics like bedding and kitchen equipment, and travel to Cambridge before Student Finance drops.
- Push for the implementation of a **Bridging Week** at every college for less privileged students.
- Launch an **urgent enquiry** into how requests for **part-time** degrees are handled.

Affordability at All Levels

- Establish an SU Affordability Taskforce, producing a publicly accessible '**Affordability Rating**' for colleges, capturing hidden costs and student support. This will both inform applicants and pressure colleges.
- Standardise **rent increases capped at CPIH** - rent is rent, students are not college money-making schemes.
- **SU Emergency Hardship Grant**: money in students' pockets while they await long college funding processes.

Supporting Students who Support Students

- Push departments to provide **compensation** to Academic Reps for their labour.
- A comprehensive Academic Rep **personal development scheme**, providing skills, career and CV support.
- **Rep Toolkit** - a centralised resource hub containing negotiation guides, past successful motions, and advice.
- Tailored and drop-in **proposal writing sessions** for JCR officers implementing access/affordability measures.

Educational Experience and Fair Outcomes

- Introduce mechanisms for providing all students with **examination feedback** across courses.
- Push for a sustainable solution to the **gender awarding gap**, particularly in subjects like Theology and Classics.
- Lobby for greater consistency in **AI policy**, and further clarity on **AI best practice and literacy**.
- Push for a '**college buddy scheme**' providing reciprocal access to facilities, like college cafes and 24/7 libraries.
- Advocating for **free Wednesday afternoons** for students to engage in extracurricular and physical activity.
- Centering accessibility by continuing the push for **universal lecture capture** and **SSD training** for supervisors.

Employability

- Lobby for a centralised '**Leadership Academy**' focusing on skills articulation, modelled on Pembroke LEAP.
- Push all colleges to **fully subsidise CULP language courses**; languages are a core employability skill.
- Establishment of an **SU Careers Springboard** running alumni talks, CV workshops, and mock interview circles.

Fighting for an Ethical and Responsible Cambridge

- Pushing for improved spotlighting of **ethical careers**, particularly for Engineering and other STEM fields.
- Fighting for **accountability in research partnerships**; these should not be loopholes for unethical investment.
- Lobbying for an end to delays in university **divestment from arms companies**.



sm2794@cam.ac.uk



@sarahforewp

TALULLA FOR LIBERATION AND WELFARE

This is what community looks like

Hi! I am Talulla (They/Them), and I am a final year Geography undergrad student.

Why vote for me?

I have spent my time at Cambridge dedicated to fighting for the whole student body and beyond. Vote for me to support real change within the university.



INTERSECTIONAL REPRESENTATION

- Ensure all marginalised voices are heard by instating differentiated liberation reps from the postgrad and undergrad body.
- Work alongside the other sabbs to support and engage with those societies representing marginalised groups in Cambridge.

STUDENT SAFETY

- Create specific focus groups to understand and make steps to tackle the way the city is becoming less safe for certain demographic groups.
- Institute mandatory training for all college porters to foster plodges as safe spaces for all students.
- Recognise and address the level of online abuse that students are vulnerable to receiving through online forums.

STUDENT ACTIVISM

- Support the continuation of crucial work taking place in Cambridge, such as coalitions like C4P, CCJ and advocacy for trans people in sport.
- Continue to fight the repression of protest in the city through the universities injunction(s).

COLLEGE INEQUALITY

- Aim to introduce a form of rent standardisation across colleges, or a rent cap.
- Work towards a greater level of college based welfare provisions such as college counsellor access.

COST OF LIVING

- Ensure the continuation of SU initiatives like the SUpermarket and other mutual-aid funds.
- Create a comprehensive guide to the different financial aid available to students and how to access it.
- Advocate for higher levels of food subsidisation across central university locations.

COMMUNITY & WELLBEING

- Foster collaboration between the student body and community organisations like Cambridge Community Kitchen to increase connections between the university and the city.
- Continue to advocate for a reading week to ensure workloads are more manageable.

EXPERIENCE

SU women's liberation rep 25-
Gender Agenda welfare officer 25-
CU Amnesty campaigns officer 25-
Cambridge Rape Justice treasurer 25-
Homerton Matcha Society president 24-
CU Student Minds treasurer 24-25
Embrace college officer 24-25
Involved with Cambridge for Palestine 24-

SCAN HERE TO VOTE!



YUQING YANG

I am standing for the role of Vice-President (Liberation & Welfare) because I care deeply about student wellbeing and believe that meaningful liberation work must be rooted in empathy, accessibility, and genuine student voice.



Through my current roles as Girton MCR Dining Officer and Academic Representative for the School of Arts and Humanities, I have gained first-hand experience of representing students within institutional structures. I regularly listen to concerns, communicate them to relevant staff, and work collaboratively to seek constructive solutions. These roles have shown me the importance of clear communication, accountability, and building trust between students and the University, all of which are essential for effective welfare and liberation advocacy.

My commitment to this role is also shaped by my own lived experience. During my time at university, I went through a period of poor mental health. With the support of the University Counselling Service, the Student Advice team, and the Accessibility and Disability Centre, I was able to gradually recover and regain stability. This experience has given me a strong awareness of both the value of these services and the barriers students may face when accessing them. It has also reinforced my belief that welfare provision must be inclusive, well-communicated, and centred on compassion rather than stigma.

If elected, I would aim to amplify student voices and empower student-led activism by ensuring that welfare and liberation work reflects the diverse realities of the student community. I am particularly interested in improving signposting to support services, strengthening communication between students and welfare teams, and advocating for more accessible and responsive mental health and wellbeing provision. I would also work to ensure that liberation initiatives meaningfully include marginalised and underrepresented students, and that their perspectives are not only heard but acted upon.

I would approach the role of Vice-President (Liberation & Welfare) with empathy, professionalism, and a strong sense of responsibility. By combining my representative experience with my personal insight into student wellbeing, I hope to contribute to a supportive, inclusive, and empowering environment in which all students feel able to thrive.

RE-ELECT OLIVIA LEDGER

VP (STUDENT COMMUNITY & SOCIETIES)

WHAT HAVE I DONE SO FAR?

Launched **National SU Letter** for **Gazan Students**

Led **Winter Holidays Activities Project**

Launched **Room Booking Guide**

Launched **Societies Forum**

Launched **Student Volunteering Fair**

Led **Leadership Training**

Led **NUS Disaffiliation** campaign



As your **first** and **current VP** (Student Community & Societies), I've **delivered** on my promises and I'm proud of the **record-breaking engagement** in my projects! I know what I'm doing, so let me **hit the ground running** and **keep providing results**.

MY PROMISES FOR NEXT YEAR:



SUPPORT FOR SOCIETIES

- **Total grants reform**, with more **guidance** and **clearer, less restrictive** criteria
- Further **committee training**, **baseline provisions** and **storage space**
- Campaign to **streamline** the SU - Proctors' **dual registration** process



STUDENT COMMUNITY

- More projects for students feeling **isolated** or staying **outside** of **term time**
- Continue **work extension** campaign for students involved in **sports** and **music**
- Lobby for **OSCAA reform** - several-year wait times make it **unfit for purpose**



RENTERS' CORNER

- **Rent negotiation support** for JCRs/MCRs to campaign for **lower college rents**
- Support and guidance on **private renting**, and creating a **Renters' Union**
- **Resources** and **support** for students **living away from home** for the first time



WIDER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Further **engagement** and **promotion** of **student volunteering** and **mutual aid**
- Increased **student integration** within community **events** and **spaces**
- Continue campaigns **against misogyny** and for trans and **Palestinian** students



reelectolivialedger



Get in touch! CRSid: ocl25

★ VOTE STELLA ★

FOR STUDENT COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES VP

ABOUT ME

I'm passionate about building a fairer, more inclusive, representative SU for all students. As Vice President for Student Communities and Societies, I will work to improve student representation, empowerment and equality, across the university.

As pt. III Climate Sciences NatSci with lots of hobbies and interests, I'm well prepared to represent and support the average Cambridge student beyond their studies.

EXPERIENCE

★ HUMANITARIAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

I've been involved with Cambridge Climate Justice, Trans Liberation Cambridge, Cambridge4Palestine, and more. Being around activists reinforces my drive to stand up for a better university for all students.

★ MEDWARDS JCR ARTS OFFICER

Working with the Women's Art Collection, running creative wellbeing events, advocating for better student art facilities, and working on JCR-wide campaigns.

★ SIGN LANG SOC SECRETARY

Organising lessons, moderating the mailing list, running events, and learning sign language. I believe in increasing disability accessibility.

★ MEDWARDSCISSORHANDS

A hairdressing hobby with 130+ haircuts so far! I've met many wonderful people and collected a wide range of student perspectives and uni experiences from beyond my social circles.

Also: Co-President of Cambridge Roller Skating Society, camdram actor, science festival volunteer, open day worker, CCK helper, and college ambassador.



ON THE SU WEBSITE

23RD-26TH FEB

CRSid:
sw2055

Pronouns:
They/She



POLICIES

★ LEAD BY LISTENING TO SOCIETIES AND CRs

- Increase direct meetings with JCRs & societies

For many, the SU feels disconnected from student life. As your VP for Communities & Societies, I will work to increase student engagement and representation. I aim to stay actively involved in a range of societies, to maintain an accurate perspective on student values.

★ STUDENT EMPOWERMENT AGAINST MALTREATMENT

- Establish a reporting system for abuse and corruption

The SU roles squeeze all liberation and welfare responsibilities into a single VP's job. I hope to take on some of the work; in the face of rising Xenophobia, our marginalised communities must be heard. I stand for victims of oppression, students facing affordability crises, trans people in sports, and all other marginalised groups.

★ INCREASE COLLEGE EQUALITY

- Re-open campaign for all college walk-through access
- Work to decrease the disparity in college experiences

As someone pooled to a 'poor' college, I encountered the economic and social disparity of experience between colleges. Colleges operate autonomously (legally) so effort must be focused on training and empowering CRs.

★ ONGOING CAMPAIGNS FROM THE SU

- Finish previous SU VP for SC & Cs' open policies
- Achieve divestment (alongside other SU officers)

I look forward to continuing to: 1. Lobby the University for work extensions for students with sports or music commitments, 2. Improve rent negotiation training for JCRs and setting up renters infrastructure on the SU website, and 3. Build a better SU though other open & unfinished campaigns within my remit.

★ LEARN FROM THE VET SCHOOL

- Work to prevent any (further) course closures

The vet school crisis has highlighted that courses are at the mercy of the university's will. Education should be valued over profitability.



Find out more on my campaign insta: @stellaforvp

ABEL MAVURA

A student once told me, "I don't know who decides these things, I only feel the consequences."



I saw this again when a colleague from a francophone system struggled to navigate Cambridge's supervision and administrative structures, not because support was absent, but because the system felt unclear. This gap between decision and experience is why student representation on the University Council matters.

The Council shapes the University's long-term priorities, yet its decisions can feel distant from daily realities such as rent, funding, supervision, and wellbeing. I am standing to ensure student experience is present in those discussions and shapes decisions before they are finalised, not after.

As a postgraduate researcher who has studied and worked across Africa, France, and Cambridge, I understand how structures that seem straightforward to some can be confusing to others. Through conversations with students across colleges and departments, international and home, taught and research, funded and self funded, I repeatedly hear the same concern. Students care deeply about their education but often feel disconnected from how decisions affecting them are made.

1. If elected, I will focus on four priorities:

Clear communication and transparency Students should understand what the University is deciding and why. I will help ensure Council discussions are communicated in accessible language so students know how decisions shape academic and everyday life

2. Real student impact in policy decisions

Policies affect students differently depending on course type, funding, disability, visa status, and housing costs. I will consistently raise these impacts so decisions reflect the diversity of student experience.

3. Accountability and follow up

Representation must lead to outcomes. I will work with the Students' Union to track commitments, request updates, and make progress visible to students.

4. Accessible representation

I will keep open channels for students to share concerns and see how they inform Council discussions. Student voices should not disappear into process, they should shape outcomes. Council members must be thoughtful, collaborative, and prepared, ready to question when necessary and contribute constructively. My aim is steady, reliable representation that keeps student experience at the centre of decision making.

Good governance works best when those affected by decisions are in the room where they are made.

BETH WATSON

FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCILLOR



Reassessing Sexual Violence Reporting at University

- I will push for a comprehensive reassessment of the University's procedures for reporting sexual violence, aiming to establish a framework that prioritises victim well-being and real justice.
- Having heard the experience of those who have had to navigate the current reporting system, I will advocate for greater clarity, transparency and accountability in disciplinary procedures.
- I will work with university management to rebuild trust in reporting systems so that those who come forward are always safe and supported.



Creating New Avenues for Collective Student Action

- I will campaign for a formal petition system that requires University management to respond to issues with significant student support.
- Any student would be able to raise their concerns through this mechanism, and any petitions that reach a defined threshold would trigger mandatory town hall style meetings between management and students, replacing top-down decisions with open dialogue.



Encouraging Constructive Academic Feedback

- The supervision system lacks a minimum standard of academic feedback across the University, and I would challenge this by pushing for a requirement that each supervision essay, problem sheet or other task receives a grade or mark.
- This would enhance students' ability to monitor their progress across the term and provide a clearer indication of attainment goals prior to exam season.
- This minimum requirement would allow supervisors to continue teaching in their preferred style, while also giving all students a clearer understanding of their academic performance.



Equality of Academic Resources Across Colleges

- I will promote a fairer and more cohesive academic experience by advocating for access to any college library for all students.
- This would address discrepancies in resources between colleges and enable students from different colleges to study together more easily.
- Students from other colleges looking to study at a particular library could book a slot according to availability so that this change would not negatively impact those wanting to study in their own library.

**BET ON BETH FOR A
FAIRER CAMBRIDGE**



VOTE NMESOMA FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCILLOR!

About me!

I'm Nmesoma Kamalu, a second-year student at Robinson College, studying Land Economy, and I am standing to be your next University Councillor. For some background, I'm from West Yorkshire, and I'm Nigerian (Igbo) by ethnicity!

Serving as University Councillor to me would mean having **the opportunity to express and project the student voice where it's needed the most** and making it a priority that the University governing body acts in the interests of the members of the University, by examining policies through the lense of people-first leadership and stewardship.

Why this role?

Over the past year, serving in the role of President of the Cambridge University African-Caribbean Society (CUACS) has taught me deeply about the need for leadership fuelled by **empathy, proactivity, and accountability**. From this, there are three core principles that I would like to anchor within the role of University Councillor, representation derived from active listening and understanding, decision-making informed by evidence, and amplifying under-represented voices for a trajectory for the University that is inclusive by design and guided by care and collective responsibility. My roles as Robinson College BME Officer of 2024/2025, Women in Business College Representative, Outreach and Charities Officer for CUCF and Student Ambassador also have equipped me with the vital skills of collaboration and responsiveness to feedback, which are pivotal in the University Councillor role.

Working alongside the UG and PG Presidents on the University Council would provide the opportunity to ensure that the thoughts, inputs and experiences of the University's students are not ignored, but rather are centred in decision making. I'd aim to start out doing this by collecting **structured feedback**, both formally and informally, regarding what the student body would like to see changed or maintained within their University, as ensuring that issues such as costs of living, college disparities and student wellbeing are persistently regarded in decision making is a duty that helps facilitate the **continuous improvement of the University**.

Lastly, during my time so far at Cambridge, my engagement across College and University societies has not only strengthened my collaborative, organisational, and leadership skills, but has also allowed me to **understand the University's challenges from a wide range of student perspectives**. I would be honoured to represent the student body, approaching this responsibility with openness, respect, and a strong commitment to listening.

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 sabbatical positions, or a University Council position, then a new cross-campus election for those positions will be held in Easter Term.

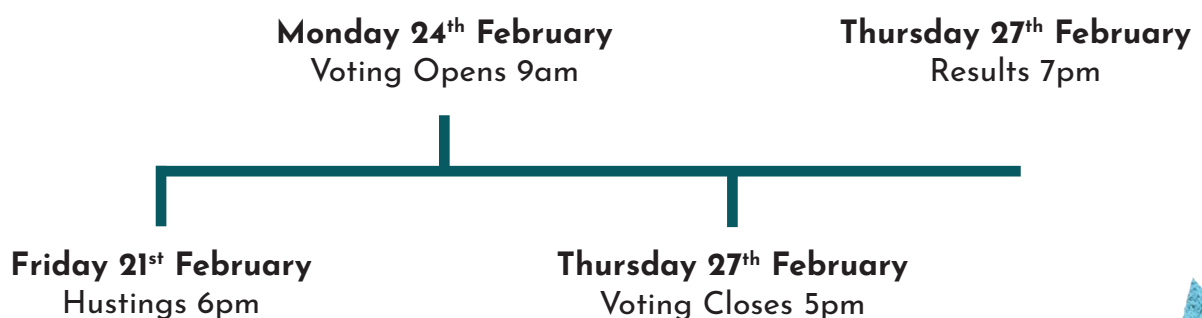
WHY VOTE RON?

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.

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!

TIMELINE



**Make your voice heard by voting for your next
Sabbatical Officer and University Councillor**

**Your vote shapes the future of student life - don't
miss out!**

Voting open 23rd February 9am - 26th February 3pm

