

ANNA WARD FOR DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

WHO AM I?

I am a final year MML student at Emmanuel - I'm a Double Time student so I've had 6 years at Cambridge, during which time I've gained a lot of experience working in disability activist roles within the university and wider community, which I hope would make me a good candidate for the role.

EXPERIENCE

- Double Time Officer for the past 2 years, supporting students with applications for Double Time study and representing disabled students at the SU Exec meetings and Council.
- Committee Member on the DSC for 3 years, running many events and socials.
- Emmanuel DSO 2018-19 where I successfully campaigned to get the first wheelchair accessible social space in college.
- Current WomCam Disability Officer.
- Created and launched the Access-a-ball scheme.
- Campaigned to get wheelchair access to Life/Vinyl.
- Volunteer with and Committee member of Sexpression Cambridge.
- Met with MMLL faculty librarians to discuss improving accessibility of library resources.

DRC

- The DRC needs increased funding and structural change, not just a sticking plaster over the problem.
- Minimise the work they have to do via:
 - Overseeing the automation of the SSD system.
 - Pushing for minimal medical evidence required for SSDs, and exam adjustments and AMAs.
 - No requirement to provide evidence every year for chronic conditions.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Continuing to ask people to consider "Does it count?" and raise awareness of what does count as a disability.
- Encourage more people to participate in the DSC.
- Linking up with local groups (e.g. DPAC) and staff groups to build community solidarity.



EXAMS

- We need to overhaul the way we look at assessments, building on wider conversations currently happening at the university.
- I will gather together data from faculties and departments to see what works best in order to make concrete, evidence based recommendations for diversifying assessment for all students beyond the 3 hour exam model.
- In the meantime, I will campaign to make sure disabled students can retain the options made available during the pandemic, such as take home exams available as an Alternative Mode of Assessment (AMA) .

ACCESS IN CAMBRIDGE

Access to Education

- Keeping the new pandemic related access measures, such as virtual supervision, recorded lectures etc.
- Push to improve access to online teaching and learning, making sure captions/transcripts are widely available, no software proctoring etc.
- Make sure faculties implement the measures recommended in the Content Notes research project.

Access-a-ball Scheme

- The launch of this scheme has been hindered this year due to Covid; as the creator of the scheme I am best placed to ensure its successful launch next year I will encourage and facilitate as many May Balls/June Events as possible to sign up to make their events more accessible.

College Accountability

- Make sure colleges continue to sign up to AccessAble.
- Link up with student groups working on accommodation.