

VOTE.
student
elections.
QMUSU

2024

CANDIDATES GUIDE

About the SU

WHAT IS THE SU?

The Students' Union is the centre of campus life. It's led by students who are elected by students to represent students!

The SU building has Maggie's Bar & Café downstairs and an office area upstairs. Working with a fabulous staff team, elected students are at the forefront of helping you to have the best experience possible while studying at QMU.

The SU works in a range of areas: Representation, Student Support (The HelpZone), Events, Communications, and Sports & Societies. The student officer roles give you a chance to be involved in the areas that interest you.

The number 1 priority of the Students' Union is to ensure that student views are heard in as many ways and places as possible. We aim to make sure that every student at QMU is represented but we can only do that with support from our students.

Please take some time to have a look through this guide and if you have any questions feel free to pop in to the QMUSU Office (above Maggie's) or email us on union@qmu.ac.uk

WHAT IS THE OFFICER COMMITTEE?

The SU Officer Committee is made up of 10 elected student representatives. They are responsible for much of the running of the SU. Each Officer has their own remit. Collectively, they are responsible for making sure that the SU is student-focused and responds to the needs of the students.

The President - Academic Life, President - Student Activities and one Part-time Officer are members of the Board of Trustees. As the SU is a registered charity, the Trustee Board ensures it is legally compliant in all areas. Student officers who join the Trustee Board therefore take on extra responsibilities.



Voting Guide

HOW TO VOTE

The Students' Union uses the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) system which ensures that all elected officers have a majority share of the vote. It's fairly straightforward, you just number your candidates from the ones you like the best to least!

Basically you rank candidates in order of preference. To give your preference, all you need to do is to tap on your first choice candidate and then tap again on your second choice and so on until you run out of candidates. You don't need to tap on all candidates to give them a vote if you don't want to. If you make a mistake or want to change the order of preference, you can use the Clear button and start again. Once you're happy, you need to click the Submit Ballot button to submit your vote.

This means that if your first preference receives the least number of votes, they are dismissed and your second preference is counted until a candidate achieves at least 51% of the vote.

Re-open nominations is an option in every election. Re-open nominations means you think we should re-open Nominations and is there to ensure that there is always a second choice. Vote re-open nominations if you don't think any of the candidates are up to scratch and would rather that a by-election be called. By-elections would take place in October.

Scan to vote.
Voting opens
Mon 4 Mar at 10am



Candidates

WHO IS WHO

Find out who the candidates for 2024 Student Elections are in the following pages. You will be able to meet them in Maggie's at Question Time on the 4th of March at 2:00pm.

REMEMBER!

Voting Opens 04.03.24 @ 10:00am
Question Time 04.03.24 @ 1:00pm
Voting Closes 07.03.24 @ 12:00noon
Results announced 07.03.24 @ 5:00pm
Afterparty in Maggie's 07.03.24 from 5:00pm

Polling Times

From Monday 4th March 2024 @ 10am until Thursday 7th March @ 12noon.

President - Academic Life

JAY BROWN



Hiya! I'm Jay, and I'm running to be re-elected as your President – Academic Life for the 2024/25 academic year. Surprise!

Throughout my first year in office, I have had the absolute joy of forming strong connections within the QMU community. I've been fortunate to work alongside a range of staff who are just as passionate about enhancing the student experience as I am, and I'm very grateful.

The opportunities I'm most grateful for, however, are those where I have been able to work and socialize alongside the students. Through the SU's 7th annual

LGBTQ+ flag-raising event, volunteering and serving food at TGIT, and attending a range of events ran by our sports and societies, the success of my first year in office is down to the students.

I've been able to start some great projects such as the development of a trans inclusive policy that protects the rights of trans students and staff, my involvement in developing an inclusive learning, teaching and assessment policy, my new role as co-convenor of the EDI Committee, and I want to press on with this work and more by continuing to advocate for an academic life that is empowering, engaging and equitable for students.

President - Academic Life

SHERYL WEIR



My name is Sheryl and I am a 4th year psychology student as well as being a dedicated class rep, PALs leader, and the current treasurer of the PsychSoc society.

I am delighted to be running for President, Academic Life because I am extremely passionate about helping others and being elected would allow me to reach out to even more people. To be elected as your President, Academic Life would mean so much to me because being able to help others has really strengthened my sense of purpose and belonging at QMU.

If you were to elect me, I will expand on the good work already started in representing under-represented groups, in particular those who are neuro-divergent. I would like to create a safe space in which these students can express themselves, have all of their needs met, and feel represented within QMU. Secondly, I plan to promote all of the amazing services and support available to students at QMU, such as the Effective Learning Service, as I feel that all students should be able to utilise these services in order to achieve their full potential. Finally, I want to hear YOUR voice, so elect me as your go-to person today.

President - Student Activities

SILVIA CARDINALE



Good day Everyone! My name is Silvia Cardinale and I am a fourth year Public Sociology student at QMU. This year I am a candidate for the role of President – Student Activities, and I could not be more excited to run for the position!

I am dedicated to bringing to the student body the possibility to be heard and if needed helped in every situation, to create a community where everyone can feel included and respected while cultivating hobbies and passions or safely stepping out of a comfort zone to try something new!

From my previous experience as two-year President of the Volleyball Team I will use my organisation, punctuality and the knowledge acquired to support societies, sport clubs and individual students through their year, offering opportunities to have fun, compete, improve and perform, and lending a shoulder to each committee in their duties.

My campaign is based on two main points: organisation and improvement! It is incredibly important to take care of and carry on all that has been done to improve the student experience in the past years, but it is just as fundamental to innovate and improve to never stop growing together!

#silviaforsu



President - Student Activities

NICOLE HARKNESS



Hello Everyone, I am a 4th year Psychology and Sociology student and I'm running to be your New President of Student Activities!

I have extensive experience when it comes to QMUSU, I have been involved 4 sports teams and 1 society, 4 of which I was a committee member on and I was also the sport officer for the year 2021/22! My interests lie with making sure all students feel included and listened too.

I feel passionately about inclusivity and making sure each sport and society has access to all the correct resources to grow

and reach their maximum potential. I want to ensure that I am a friendly face for all students to relay on. I also want for all students to acknowledge that they can freely contact me for any reason feasible.

I am always available for a chat and love engaging and meeting new people. Feel free to pop me a wave and say hi if you see me around and I will do so too! I hope you make the correct choice for you and all students and vote NIC to be your next Student President of Student Activities! I can't wait to meet you all!

President - Student Activities

STEPH HUME



Hello! My name is Steph Hume, I am a current fourth-year Drama student and this year's Societies' Officer.

I am delighted to say that I will be running to be President of Student Activities for the coming year. My university experience was altered for the better when I joined Sports & Societies (S&S) which allowed me to make life-long friends while giving me opportunities and skills that I will be able to take into my future career. Working alongside the Student Union has allowed me to appreciate the work that goes into improving students' lives and the impact it has on our students.

Some of the opportunities that I have been lucky enough to experience have been; elected President of Drama Society, elected Societies' Officer which has allowed me to work alongside the Officers' Committee and sit on the Student Union's Board of Trustees.

If elected, I would continue to work alongside the Student Union to provide help and support to all S&S throughout the year as well as supporting all students. I aim to continue to Support S&S and help maintain Funding and Facilities while helping to improve Engagement and develop the QMU Community further.

President - Student Activities

HANNAH MILLER



Hi, my name is Hannah Miller, and I am a 4th Year Education Studies Student. I am very excited to be running for Student President – Student Activities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with QMUSU by being part of QMU Sapphires Cheerleading Squad for 5 years and joining QMU Musical Theatre Society for my final year. Throughout my time as a member of Cheerleading and Musical Theatre I've enjoyed the opportunity to take part in sports and hobbies that I have loved for years whilst creating memories and friendships for life.

I'm running for this role because I want to give back to the QMU community and help shape the future of the Student Union.

I have 5 main ideas which I'd like to implement to help grow the Student Union; making sports and societies more accessible, continue improvement of relationships between SU and committees, build inter sports and societal relationships, introduce/support health and wellbeing training and make all sports and societies more inclusive. If you'd like any further information, check out my Instagram and please feel free to ask me any questions online or in person, I always love to meet new people and have a chat!

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

MURRIN HUARACHI



Hello! My name is Murrin Huarachi, I'm a third year Business Management student here at QMU. I'm running to be the equity, diversity, and inclusion officer for academic year 2024/25.

As a disabled, minority ethnic and queer woman, I have the essential lived experience of multiple minority and underrepresented groups, and existence in the intersections between them. I'm passionate about ensuring that minority voices are heard loud and clear, and their needs taken fully into consideration throughout university.

QMU pride themselves on their diversity and equality practices, and I believe that QMU should continually strive to create a truly inclusive culture. I would love to have the opportunity to review current practices, hold QMU to account, and ensure they are consistently striving to meet the needs of all students.

I'm already a strong advocate and campaigner for underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities and additional support needs, people from the BAME community, people from the LGBTQ+ community, unpaid carers and care experienced students. I want to encourage and inspire those in positions of authority at QMU to actively pursue optimal outcomes for minority groups so that everyone at our university can achieve their best, and thrive throughout their time here.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

LUCAS PAXTON



Hey everyone, I'm Lucas and I am delighted to be re-running for the role of EDI officer for the 2024/25 session.

I am currently a 3rd year Education Studies student, and I am currently your Equality and Diversity Officer and Vice President of QMU Music Society. I have loved every single minute of being your Equality and Diversity Officer for this session. I would like very much to continue the work that I have completed and started in office, this for me is just the beginning.

As someone who has faced the inequalities that some of our student body face, I know firsthand how damaging that can be and therefore I hold the subject of EDI close to my heart.

I may not know everything regarding EDI; however, I am learning something new every day and I want to continue this work throughout next year. From my time on the various committees I sit on, I have been able to really see what happens behind the scenes and how policies are implemented and changed over the course of the years. I will be that person that speaks for those who feel as though they can't.

International Officer

BADRI BASNET



I am Badri Basnet, a first-year Business Management Student, and I am excited to run for International Officer.

As an international student, I have personally experienced the transformative power of cultural exchange and global collaboration. I am also currently serving as a student representative of Queen Margaret Business School- Subject Advisory Panel (BEaM SAP). My time at QMU has been enhanced by diverse experience, and I can't wait to use my experience and passion to add to the thriving international community on campus.

As an International Officer, my mission is to serve international students as they pursue their studies at QMU by promoting collaboration, celebrating cultural diversity, and offering support. I aim to establish additional support systems, events, and projects to foster a more inclusive and connected QMU. I believe a united community is a strong community. If elected, I will work diligently to build bridges that connect us all, transcending cultural boundaries.

Your vote is a vote for a globally connected QMU. Let's make it happen together.

International Officer

MUSTAFA KHAWAJA



My name is Mustafa, and I am currently in my second year studying Business Management at QMU. With two years of experience as a class representative, I have been dedicated to voicing the concerns and needs of my fellow students. Now, I am eager to expand my advocacy by running for the role of International Officer.

As a candidate for International Officer, I am committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive community on our campus. I firmly believe that our diversity is our strength, and I am determined to create an environment where every student,

regardless of their nationality or background, feels valued and included. If elected, I will strive to organize events that promote cultural exchange and celebrate the unique identities within our student body.

Additionally, I will work to establish a supportive network for international students, ensuring they have access to the resources and assistance they need to thrive at QMU. Moreover, I will be a vocal advocate for policies that promote equitable representation and support the specific needs of international students. Together, let's build a future where diversity flourishes, and every student feels embraced and supported.

I am passionate about making positive changes on our campus, and I respectfully ask for your vote to help transform our university into an inclusive and welcoming home for all students. Thank you.

Post-graduate Officer

CHARLY GRANT



Hello, my name is Charly Grant, and I am running for the role of Post Graduate Officer for the year 2024/2025. This past year I have worked closely with the students union as the Events Officer bringing the student body events such as Mardi Gras, Barbie Bash and the Pub Quiz. During my time I have also created a partnership with the Edinburgh Universities Student Charities Appeal with their work in the meadows marathon.

Now as the new year dawns us, I am looking to head into a new direction and working closely with our post graduate students while still creating events for

them and working closely with the students as well as continue our partnership.

If I am elected as the Post Graduate Officer, I hope to bring the following changes and support.

- Reach out and engage with Post Grad students and ensure their journey with QMU is fun, enjoyable, and as stress-free as possible.
- Encourage Post Grad students to get more involved with events.
- To be a voice for Post Grad students and help support them throughout their studies, work closely with them and raise any concerns which may arise.

Societies Officer

ZOË MACCALLUM



My name is Zoë MacCallum and I'm a third year drama student running for the role of Societies Officer. Along with being a drama student I have been on the committee for Drama Society for the past two years, in my second year I was the Vice-President and now this year I have been lucky enough to be the President for the society. I've been so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful society and has really made such a positive impact on my university experience. I joined in my first year and was able to make lifelong friends from joining Drama Society and was able to build my confidence and abilities through the opportunities and experiences.

I would love to be able to help other students have the same experience at QMU as the role of Societies Officer is an exciting and key role within QMU. If elected I have three main objectives I would like to achieve over the year - To keep strong contact within all the societies and be able to offer advice and support for those who need it, to support new students such as direct entrants, postgraduates and freshers to join a society and finally to develop societies and help them grow by aiding with events or fundraisers to help engagement of the S&S at QMU.

I have many other exciting ideas planned if elected, to ensure societies are a safe and inclusive place for students that people can rely on and create lasting bonds and great memories for their time in university.

Sports Officer

RUTH LAWLOR



Hi everyone, my name is Ruth, a third year Occupational Therapy Student. I am so excited to be running for Sports Officer in this year's student elections after having the privilege of being your sports officer for the 23/24 academic year.

Having loved every minute of last year, I've decided to run again. I had the best time with my fellow officers and everyone at the student's union and I loved getting to know so many of the members of the uni's sports team.

It was great to have the opportunity to be a voice for the sports community and promote the benefits and achievements that go hand in hand with QMU sports.

If elected, I wish to continue with my previous year's points. These being maintaining our existing teams and encouraging the development of new ones, being a source for feedback in which teams feel comfortable approaching and continue building connections between our teams. Additionally, I want to work with the SU to ensure that sports at QMU is accessible for all and barriers preventing this are addressed. I also wish to be a constant advocate for teams to be prioritised when sports are being facilitated on campus.

Student Voice Officer

ANNIE-MAE BROWN



Hello, my name is Annie-Mae and I am a second year psychology and sociology student. Your thoughts matter, which is why I am excited to be running this year for student voice officer and am eager to hear what you have to say!

I've been a part of QMU Sapphires for three years. Throughout this time, I've observed the influence that social media has, and I want to use social media to portray a more accurate picture of student life. In this capacity, I want to keep QMU a welcoming place to learn and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. I would advise utilising social media to talk about actual

problems that students face and to guarantee that all students, both on and off campus, are aware of important student events.

Secondly, I propose creating a secure space where students can express their opinions where resolving issues will be done proactively.

Thirdly, I want to strengthen the support network and foster inclusivity across the university to ensure a seamless transition for QMU's international students and help them adapt and receive greater support.

By listening to more student voices, I wish to continue fostering a welcoming environment that embraces diversity.

Student Voice Officer

BEN CARTWRIGHT



Hello! I'm Ben, I'm a second-year drama student, and I am running to be your first Student Voice Officer. This year I became a class rep for my year group, which is a job I have absolutely loved, I really enjoy listening to my peers' questions, queries and worries, and doing everything in my power to act on them.

Communication is key to this role. As SVO, I will be actively available to listen to any of your feedback about university, whilst being completely open about my progress on making any changes. My door is always open, and I will make sure no question goes unanswered and that students are

happy and well-informed.

I will also aim to ensure that any communication to students either from the university or myself is done so in an accessible and efficient way. The last thing any student wants is loads of long, wordy emails. I will make sure that the important information always comes first.

My duties as class rep have massively boosted my confidence and abilities in problem-solving, and I would love to take this further and be responsible for listening to and representing the entire student body.

Wellbeing Officer

KIRSTY LORIMER



My name is Kirsty Lorimer. I am currently in the 2nd year of my nursing degree. Well-being is important for everyone, and it's also different for everyone; sometimes, it's just knowing where or how to start improving your well-being.

As student nurses, we focus on well-being and not just our own well-being it's how that translates into every aspect of our lives. During my time at QMU, I have used the services available to students; being new to this level of academia, it took its toll and having access to these services helped me and meant I didn't quit when it got hard.

If I get elected as the Well-being officer I would focus on three main areas and have some other ideas for other areas to integrate well-being. The three areas I would focus on are the promotion of the current services available at QMUSU and Helpzone, organising a well-being event once a month ranging from well-being walks to coffee and chat, and improving the well-being services for everyone at all stages of study. There is a link to well-being in every aspect of university and I would love to see it grow and flourish for everyone.

Key Contacts

The Deputy General Manager will be able to handle any queries, procedural issues or requests for information before and during the elections process. They can be contacted by emailing sforbes@qmu.ac.uk or union@qmu.ac.uk.

An Elections Complaints Committee will convene only where the Returning Officer and CEO are unable to handle a complaint (e.g. if it is about the Returning Officer or CEO).

They can be contacted by emailing union@qmu.ac.uk

The CEO/Deputy Returning Officer can be contacted on ddoyle@qmu.ac.uk or **0131 474 0170**.

The Chief Returning Officer can be contacted through the CEO.

union@qmu.ac.uk
0131 474 0000
www.qmusu.org.uk



qmusu



@qmusu



@qmusu

**The Students' Union is
a registered charity
SC012608**

