

VOTE.
student
elections.
QMUSU

2026

CANDIDATES GUIDE



About the SU

WHAT IS THE SU?

The Students' Union is here to make your student experience as rewarding and enjoyable as possible. 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 all the sections below and if you have any questions feel free to pop in 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. Collectively, they are responsible for making sure that the SU is student-focused and responds to the needs of the students.

The Officer Committee meets regularly to discuss campaigns and events, raise student feedback and each officers brings their unique perspective to the room.

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
Fri 13 Mar at 10am**



Candidates

WHO IS WHO

Find out who the candidates for 2026 Student Elections are in the following pages. You will be able to meet them in the Halle at Question Time on the 16th of March at 2:00pm.

REMEMBER!

Voting Opens 13.03.26 @ 10:00am
Question Time 16.03.26 @ 2:00pm
Voting Closes 19.03.26 @ 12:00noon
Results announced 19.03.26 @ 5:00pm
Afterparty in Maggie's 19.03.26 from 5:00pm

Polling Times

From Friday 13th of March 2026 @ 10am until Thursday 19th of March 2026 @ 12noon.



President - Academic Life

JENNIFER GORDON



Hi! My name is Jennifer Gordon, and I am standing in the QMUSU Academic President Elections 2026. One of my biggest goals as Academic President will be to ensure that every student feels like a person, not a number in a system. I would love to build on my dissertation, which focuses on neurodivergent and disabled learners and their struggles in ITE placements, and expand it to include all courses and students at QMU, whether in different placements or in student life more broadly, to make a positive change to students at QMU.

I have held leadership roles within the university, particularly in societies. Last year, I was Vice President of B.ART.A, and even now, I continue to help with their events and serve as a friendly face for members.

As Academic President, my door will always be open to anyone who wishes to talk about anything related to their academic life at QMU, whether it's good or bad. I want to continue building on the monthly surveys released by the SU and the focus groups starting up this year, widening the scope of student voices and amplifying the voices of those who feel unheard within the university.



President - Academic Life

ZOË MACCALLUM



Hi, I'm Zoë MacCallum (she/her), your current President Academic Life, and I'm running for re-election!

During my first term, I've built strong relationships with University staff to ensure students' voices are heard where decisions are made. I've raised student feedback about SEATs in multiple committees, ensuring the University understands the challenges it creates. By working closely with our fantastic Class Reps, I helped resolve a division-wide issue quickly with the Head of Division and the SU team, ensuring students' wellbeing

and academic experience were at the centre of the solution.

If re-elected, I will focus on:

Making Maggie's Student-Centred

- Work with students to shape a student-focused Union space.
- Strengthen community and belonging across the student population.

Rebuilding the Class Rep System

- Restructure the election process.
- Ensure roles are clear and manageable for all students.
- Continue building a supportive community through events.

Formalising SSCCs

- Work with the University to formalise SSCC meetings across programmes.
- Clarify responsibilities for Reps and staff.
- Keep student feedback at the heart of discussions.

Transparency and Visibility

- Keep students informed about how their feedback leads to change.
- Share clear updates on decisions affecting your academic experience.

Vote Zoë!



President - Student Activities

JOE AGNEW



Hi, friends! I'm running to be your next President of Student Activities. I believe that my experience and passion make me the best candidate for the role. I am ready to give my everything to ensure that your university experience is everything it can be, and more.

With a hugely successful year as Sports Officer, I want to take the rapport I've built with all of the teams and now do the same with our societies and carry everyone forward next year to even bigger and better things.

I care about inclusion across all levels of experience. I want all sports and societies to be accessible for everyone, and to achieve this is something I believe I can facilitate better than anyone. I also want to use my communication skills to appeal directly to the university to reverse their decision to shut the LRC after 10pm outside exam season. Fighting for students is something I have done my whole 4 years at university, and now I'm ready to take on an even bigger role to ensure a better experience for all. So please go vote for Joe! Together, we can achieve so much. Bleed Blue!



President - Student Activities

LIAM CHERA



Hey, I'm Liam, a second-year Psychology student running to be your President of Student Activities. Let's be honest, some of the best parts of university don't happen in lectures. They happen at society events, sports training, and last minute socials.

Societies and sports clubs should be spaces where students can find their people, try something new, and feel secure within the student community. Through working on committees and helping organise events across different groups, I've seen how much effort goes

into making these spaces run, and how important the right support is behind the scenes.

If elected, I aim to support committees, enhance communication between societies and sports clubs, and promote better collaboration across campus so groups can exchange ideas, work together, and organise even better events.

Most importantly, I aim to be approachable and receptive to ideas, since student activities should be driven by the students who take part.

President - Student Activities

BETH FARMER



Hi, I'm Beth. I'm in my final year of Business Management with Digital Marketing, and I've been active in sports and societies since I started at QMU in 2022.

I'm friendly, outgoing, and determined, and I believe these qualities will help me reach my goals if I'm elected. The SU staff, especially the student presidents, have really shaped my time at university and supported my sports and societies activities. I want to support S&S members and committees with monthly check-ins to help things run smoothly.

I know how tough it can be for teams to get access to the sports hall. I want to

push for student priority and help find ways to offer more S&S sessions. I also plan to organise events for different cultures and festivals, with both drinking and non-drinking options, so everyone feels included.

Most of all, I want to create a safe space where students can relax, join in with S&S, and feel included, no matter their background. I especially want to support S&S members who are far from home.

President - Student Activities

TANSY SIBLEY



Hi guys, gals and non-binary pals,
For those who don't know me, my name is Tansy and I'm a fourth year Public Sociology student. My friends often describe me as kind and considerate. I have been a member of three societies and one committee throughout my time at QMU and am passionate about making sure that others have the same good experiences with societies/sports. If elected, I would continue to prioritise sustainability, community and inclusion within the SU. The goals that I'm aiming for are as follows:

- Encourage more unity and collaboration amongst societies/sports by running events such as a S&S litter pick with a prize for the group that has the most members or collects the most litter.
- Maintain and expand the SU's current partnerships with companies like Three Sisters bar.
- Work with the employability team to promote insight days, summer schools, jobs and opportunities in general.
- Create and run a dynamic 'What's on QMU' Instagram page with weekly updates on upcoming events and opportunities.
- Introduce an eco-consciousness award at Grand Ball to encourage societies/sports to think about their environmental impact.

I'm also open to suggestions :)



President - Student Activities

CAITLIN STABLES



Hi! I'm Caitlin Stables and I'm running to be your next President of Student Activities.

I'm hugely passionate about student activities and the opportunities they provide students here at QMU, which is why I'm running - to make the student experience the very best it can be!

If elected, I have 3 main aims:

SU. I will invite potential sponsors for a sponsor mingle event so that S&S can get the best deal possible out of their sponsorships!

2) Represent Student Voices - I will listen to and advocate for students and carry on the open-door policy at the SU. I will continue to campaign for a Wednesday afternoon to have no timetabled classes for students to convene together.

3) Nurture the Student Community - I will provide more opportunities for S&S and other student groups to mix in order to increase support for each other.

President - Student Activities

MIA STEVENSON



Make QMUSU work for you.

As President of Student Activities, I want to make the Students Union more approachable and accessible. This means clearer information and improved visibility about what is available to students and how the SU can support you alongside your studies.

I also want to focus on improving spaces like Maggie's, making campus more student-led and more connected with the SU.

Sports and societies are a huge part of what makes student life at QMU special. I really value the work that committees, captains and members put into creating communities and opportunities for students. As President of Student Activities, I want to support sport and societies to be sustainable and accessible while making sure the work they do is visible and celebrated across the university.

My priority is making sure the SU works for all students – From those already involved in sports and societies, to new students, and those who live off and on campus.

With informative communication, inclusive spaces and a stronger sense of community, I can help SU can feel more relevant and usable for everyone!



BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Officer

LOK PUI LO



My name is Lok Pui Lo, and I'm running to be your Black and Ethnic Minority Officer at QMU.

I grew up in Hong Kong and only started thinking about what it means to be part of an ethnic minority after moving to Europe. Suddenly, I understood what it feels like to enter spaces where you don't always see people who share your background or culture.

That experience shaped how I think about community.

In my work outside university, I organise cultural events and creative projects that bring diverse communities together. I've seen how powerful it can be when people have spaces to connect, share their stories, and support one another.

If elected, I want to help create more opportunities for ethnic minority students to meet, make friends, and feel supported at QMU. That could include community gatherings, cultural events, and creative platforms that highlight the talents and stories within our student community.

At the same time, I believe inclusion is also about building bridges. It's not only about gathering within our own communities, but also about creating understanding across cultures.

I want to hear your ideas and help turn them into real initiatives that strengthen our community at QMU.



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

BEE JANSEN



I'm Bee, a third-year Drama Student! I am queer, invisibly disabled, and neurodivergent, so I know what it's like to exist in ways the world can be hostile to. I also have two years of committee experience with Drama Society, so I know how to collaborate as part of a team and get things done.

Everything I hope to achieve as EDI Officer is about advocacy, visibility and joy. I want to push for better accommodations, support, and acceptance for disabled students, increase opportunities for marginalised communities to be supported and celebrated on campus, and

work together with other Officers to create a welcoming, intersectional and supportive environment where we can be joyful and proud of who we are! Most of all, I want to hear what you need and what you want, and push to change things for the better.

International Officer

YASIN MOHAMAD



My name is Yasin Mohamad, and I am running to be your International Officer because I understand the international student experience firsthand. As an international student myself, I know how exciting it is to study in a new country, but also the challenges of adapting to a new culture, education system, and community.

My goal is to remove barriers that prevent international students from fully participating in student life and ensure every international student at QMU feels welcomed, supported, and represented.

If elected, I will focus on these key priorities.

Stronger representation and communication. I will actively listen to international students and create clearer ways for them to share feedback through forums, meetings, and surveys, ensuring their voices are heard within the Students' Union and shared with the university.

Building a stronger international community by supporting events, social activities, and collaborations between societies that bring students from different cultures together.

Improving awareness of support and guidance, making information about university services, advice, and academic systems clearer and easier to access.

International students bring diverse perspectives that enrich QMU. As your International Officer, I will work to ensure every international student feels heard, connected, and proud to call QMU home.



International Officer

TATYANA VELEZ-BOLIVAR



Hi! My name is Tatyana Velez-Bolivar and I'm running to be your International Officer for the 2026/2027 academic year. I'm from Ontario, Canada, and moved to Scotland to study a master's in occupational therapy here at QMU.

Moving to another country for university is extremely exciting, but it can also be stressful and overwhelming. From visas and flights to settling into a new flat, adjusting to a different education system, managing finances, and meeting new people, the challenges can feel never ending.

As an international student myself, I understand these experiences firsthand. If elected, I aim to create more events for international students, organize cultural celebrations, and possibly introduce a buddy system to help new students feel supported. I also want to create a guide to local shops, brand comparisons to those back home, and tips on integrating into Scotland.

Wherever you are travelling from, I want to advocate for better support when international students face academic or financial stress and ensure stronger representation of international voices within the Students' Union. I aim to build a welcoming, supportive, and fun community where international students feel included, informed, and proud to call Queen Margaret University their home away from home.



Post-graduate Officer

ALYSSA TURCOTT



My name is Alyssa Turcott and I'm a MSc Occupational Therapy student running to be your next Postgraduate Officer! As postgraduate students, we come from a variety of backgrounds, with some straight out of university and others returning as mature students. Finding a sense of community and getting yourself grounded in postgraduate-level studies can be difficult, so I'd like to facilitate this transition through various social and academic events aiming to create a sense of support and connection. This might involve events like a wine and paint night to socialize with one another or academic workshops focusing on dissertation

and placement preparation. I also plan to implement a postgraduate newsletter to promote opportunities for academic and career growth and share news on student accomplishments.

I strongly believe that to be student-centred, your voices and ideas need to shape my role as Postgraduate officer. I would love feedback on what you'd like to see, and anything you'd like to change. I'm always happy for a chat at Maggie's or to receive messages by email or Instagram (because I know you're all busy people)! Overall, I'd love for your support so that I can transform your feedback into action. Thank you :)

Societies Officer

LIAM TAIT



Hi there! I'm Liam Tait, a third year drama student running to be your societies officer! I've led the drama society for the past two years so I have a pretty good grasp on how societies run!

If elected I will:

Show up to at least one session of every society, and participate in the session if I can!

Aim to clarify rules for societies within the wider university setting.

Be an easy point of contact for every society member about anything they want to discuss!

Have better relationships between sports and societies and work with the new sports officer and S&S president to work on collaborative events.

If any of this is of interest to you, please vote for me!

Sports Officer

NIA WALSH



My name is Nia Walsh, and I am a first year psychology student from Japan. The sports societies I am currently a member of are Basketball, Volleyball, and Running.

From being in three sports societies and having prior experience in other sports, I have first-handedly experienced how impactful being a member of a sports team can be. Especially as a university student with many other responsibilities, it is important to have a space to channel your energies away from studying to alleviate academic stress.

If elected as sports officer next year, I would be continuing and building up on what all prior officers have done and will be a reliable voice for all members of sports and their teams. My main goals are to ensure better safety, increase participation for people of all levels of sport, and to work with the student union to make essential resources and contacts for sports teams easily available.

I believe I am the best candidate for this position as I understand the needs and wants of the sports societies and am eager to initiate and facilitate open communication with the sports teams.

Vote for Nia!



Sports Officer

RYNE YBANEZ



Hello! My name is Ryne Ybañez, a current Level 2 Psychology & Sociology student and I am hoping to be QMU's Sports Officer in the forthcoming academic year.

Partaking in sport from a young age has allowed me to develop a skillset that fortunately led me to compete at regional and national levels in Athletics and Basketball. These opportunities have gained me a rich background in the athletic lifestyle whilst also learning from each encounter and experience.

Receiving the opportunity would be a privilege and a journey we can hopefully embark on together. Perfection is a myth, so I don't seek that from this role, but I hope to be a sports officer who is there to listen, take action and create a healthy environment for current and incoming students looking to begin and develop their own sporting journey. I aim to encourage sport into everyone's lifestyle; seek their own passion and through this process meet likeminded people that can become lifelong friends. Us athletes here find the importance in Embodying the QMU crest, therefore I would like to increasingly support all sporting societies that proudly represent QMU, ensuring each team is at the standard they desire to be.

Student Voice Officer

BENJEY MELROSE



Hello! My name is Benjey, I'm in my first year & studying Business Management. This election season, I'm going for the role of Student Voice Officer. If elected, I will increase communication channels between the Student Union & student body through both the academic council and attending SSCC meetings. I will also utilise social media to give a wider access to anyone wishing to voice their opinions and give feedback. Alongside this, I will also be providing more events for class reps to attend, continuing the actions of the previous student voice officer. I will also do my best to enact change based on feedback gained through methods

such as Google Forms, and suggestion boxes. Being a first year myself, I can relate to the university not having many first year oriented events, and if elected, I would like to change that in the future through creating a series of first year events, inspired by first years, and targeted at first years.

Wellbeing Officer

BETH CARMICHAEL



I'm Beth Carmichael, and I want you to have the best experience possible whilst at university. I would love to help make that a reality in the role of wellbeing officer. I want to be successful; I want to hear what students want and what would improve their experience. I hope to do all I can to provide it.

There are multiple things I wish to provide, one being more fun days! Only having assignments can be dull, and all you need is a distraction for a few hours. Which is why I'll be running social afternoons with games and new people. However, this may be a lot for some people, so I'll be providing mindful

sessions, music, colouring sheets, a safe place to take a breather and reflect.

But we're not just staying inside! I want to schedule regular social walks. I know how it feels to be trapped in your room; this will motivate you to get outside, breathe fresh air, and get a clearer head.

The most important thing is informing current and prospective students about what QMU offers and how it can help you.

I appreciate your time, and I hope to make a difference for you.

Wellbeing Officer

COLIN SLATTERY



Hi, I'm Colin.

I've had a brilliant first year as your Wellbeing Officer, but I'm asking for you to re-elect me for one more year because my work's not done. Armed with the experience of how our SU operates, I am ready to hit the ground running and make QMU an even more supportive community.

My focus remains on creating free to attend events for low-intensity socialising. No one should feel isolated; I want to ensure there are plenty of spaces where everyone is welcome. I'll host more "Cosy

Clubs" with movies, games, crafts and more, alongside regular wellbeing walks around the campus and local area. I'll also work with the other Officers to hold a regular quiz night at Maggie's, which will be a great chance to catch up with SU and give direct, informal feedback. Furthermore, I'll continue to promote dedicated wellbeing roles within every sport and society, and look for training opportunities for them.

Most importantly, I'll continue to be your loudspeaker. I'll be here to provide signposting and practical support. If something matters to you I won't let it be forgotten or ignored. Your voice matters, and I'm here to amplify it.

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.



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