

**student  
leadership  
elections**

# **Student Voice Leader**

**Manifestos**

# **Academic Experience**

## **Candidate List**

**Precious Ikechukwu**



**Precious  
Ikechukwu**

**Academic Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Academic Experience?**

I'm running for Student Voice Leader – Academic Experience because I've seen how powerful student voice can be when it is truly heard and communicated back. As a former Faculty Rep and current Student Voice Leader – Academic Experience, I have supported students with concerns around teaching, assessments, attendance, and academic support. I want to continue strengthening feedback systems so student concerns lead to visible academic change.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 academic priorities, and how do you plan to address them?**

If re-elected, I will build on ongoing work to turn feedback into action, improve access to academic support, and strengthen inclusive learning.

1. Embedding Feedback Across Campus – Expanding the Feedback Loop project (library station, QR posters, outreach stalls) to ensure feedback is captured, tracked, and clearly fed back through stronger “You Said, We Did” outcomes.
2. Improving Academic Support Access – Improving signposting, strengthening academic tutor integration, and reducing timetable clashes so students can access support when needed.
3. Inclusive & Flexible Learning – Working with students and staff to ensure teaching, assessment, and support reflect diverse needs.

---

### **Why should students choose you to represent their academic interests and concerns?**

Students should choose me because I take concerns seriously and follow them through to outcomes. As the current Student Voice Leader – Academic Experience, I have improved access to academic support, addressed attendance processes, and escalated assessment and policy issues. I work in an evidence-led, collaborative, and transparent way to ensure student concerns lead to meaningful change.

# **Communities**

## **Candidate List**

**Aftab Sayed**

**Benedicta Azakaye-Izekor**

**Mobeen Khalid Sandhu**

**Mohan Singh**

**Muhammad Hamza**

**Twig Smalley**



**Aftab  
Sayed**

**Communities**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities?**

As a final year student deeply involved in sport and student communities, I have seen how powerful engagement can be in shaping confidence, mental wellbeing and belonging. I have also recognised that not every student accesses these opportunities equally. I am inspired to strengthen inclusion, collaboration and structured pathways so that every student feels supported, represented and connected throughout their university experience.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing Student Communities, and how do you plan to achieve them? (E.g Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising etc.)**

1)DMU: Communities Creating Impact–Where Every Community Gives Back:I will introduce this initiative encouraging every society and sports club to host atleast one supported fundraising event each year. I will provide guidance, collaboration opportunities, and practical support to deliver meaningful events that strengthen unity, develop leadership skills, and help students give back. 2)Creating a Structured Pathway into Sport:I will introduce weekly collaboration between sport clubs, DMUIC and international groups to deliver inclusive sessions that remove barriers. These will explain UK university sport and create a clear pathway from first engagement, strengthening diversity, confidence and belonging within DMU Sport. 3)Prioritising Mental Health Through Community Engagement:I will enhance Wellbeing Wednesday by collaborating with societies and sport clubs to deliver structured activities promoting positive mental health.By increasing community involvement, we can create opportunities.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their interests within Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising and any other extra-curricular Student Community activity?**

Students should vote for me because I have a proven track record of delivering impact. As Chairperson and Captain of DMU Cricket and a Sport Activator, I have grown participation in DMU Active, led engagement initiatives, supported inductions at DMUIC, and delivered outreach sessions for schools. I understand how communities function and how to create measurable change and I will bring that same commitment to this role.

**student  
leadership  
elections**



**Benedicta  
Azakaye-Izekor**

**Communities**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

**What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities?**

Leadership has always been a natural part of my life, which is why running for this position. I have always been someone who steps up when people need to be heard. In high school, I was a class representative, and that was my first real experience of speaking on behalf of others. It taught me early on how important it is to listen properly, understand different perspectives, and communicate concerns with honesty and care. As I moved into university, that passion for representation and community

**If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing Student Communities, and how do you plan to achieve them? (E.g Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising etc.)**

- 1 - Strengthen Social and Peer Networks – I aim to create more inclusive social events, interest-based clubs, and mentorship programs so every student feels connected. This will be achieved by collaborating with student societies, promoting cross-campus activities, and ensuring events are accessible to all.
- 2 -One of my key priorities is making student communities easier to discover, join, and feel part of. Many students miss out on societies, sports, and volunteering opportunities simply because they're unsure what exists or how to get started. I want to remove those barriers and make involvement feel simple, welcoming, and accessible to everyone by working with the marketing team
- 3 - Enhance Academic and Career Collaboration – I want to foster communities where students can share resources, skills, and experiences through workshops, networking events, and collaborative projects. Partnering with faculty and alumni will provide practical opportunities for growth beyond the classroom.

**Why should students vote for you to represent their interests within Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising and any other extra-curricular Student Community activity?**

Students should vote for me because I care about making university life better for everyone. I want to make it easier for students to get involved in societies, sports, volunteering, and fundraising, and to make sure everyone feels included and supported. I'll listen to students, bring their ideas to life, and help create opportunities that are fun, meaningful, and rewarding. Whether it's supporting student-led projects, promoting events, or making clubs and volunteering more accessible



**Mobeen  
Khalid  
Sandhu**

**Communities**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

**What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities?**

I've observed the potential in the diverse student population of DMU, which has inspired me to contest for this role. Students lack connection and are unaware of the opportunities available. My experience and my friends' feedback suggest that communities do not provide an environment where students feel connected, confident, and supported. I'll actively work to make our student communities more accessible, impactful, and available to all students regardless of their background or identity.

**If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing Student Communities, and how do you plan to achieve them? (E.g Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising etc.)**

My first priority is to work with the student communities and identify the issues such as membership, timing, or awareness. I'll solicit flexible membership options and better promotion throughout the academic year to increase fundraising and participation from students.

Secondly, there will be increased support for students, especially for marginalised students such as international, LGBTQ+, disabled, and commuting students. I will increase student engagement hours. Students will be able to drop in with issues anytime without an appointment.

I'll work closely with the Students' Union to improve communication with the committee members to resolve the issues based on feedback received from students. The communities will receive funding and clear guidance.

I'll work to strengthen the link between DSU and Leicester-based charities. It will allow the communities to engage in volunteering and fundraising. It will benefit the students to acquire more skills and DMU's reputation.

**Why should students vote for you to represent their interests within Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising and any other extra-curricular Student Community activity?**

I'm approachable and genuinely passionate about improving our communities. I'll ensure that extracurricular activities are properly funded and accessible. I'll actively listen to student feedback and turn it into action. I'm committed to a campus culture where every student feels valued, not just heard. As an active member of DMU Cricket and the Law Society, I understand the issues we are facing. I'm not just here to acknowledge issues, I'm here to resolve them.



**Mohan  
Singh**

**Communities**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

**What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities?**

I have nominated myself for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities as I genuinely value the impact that societies, sports clubs with volunteering, and fundraising activities have on a student university experience. As a Business Management undergraduate who maintains full-time study with part-time work, I understand how pivotal it is for students to feel connected as well as supported and represented outside the classroom.

**If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing Student Communities, and how do you plan to achieve them? (E.g Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising etc.)**

My first priority is improving communication and awareness of opportunities because many students miss out on joining societies or clubs due to unaware of what is available beyond Freshers Week while some students may join late, commute and balance part-time work which makes it harder to engage early and my purpose is to create opportunities which are visible throughout the year rather than at the beginning.

To achieve this, I will work with the Student Union to promote a mid-semester Student Communities Spotlight campaign each term which focuses on reintroduce societies, sports clubs and volunteering opportunities through digital ways . I will encourage societies to clearly explain commitment levels so students understand whether activities are weekly, monthly and flexible with short student feedback through simple surveys to understand barriers to participation and raise these concerns in meetings. These actions are realistic because they enhance existing systems

**Why should students vote for you to represent their interests within Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising and any other extra-curricular Student Community activity?**

Students should vote for me as I already have experience representing student voices and I understand the responsibility that comes with it. As a Student Representative, I have listened to feedback from my peers and communicated their worries and contributed to discussions aimed at improving the academic experience. This role has taught me how to speak confidently, present issues clearly, and ensure students feel heard. I want to extend that same commitment to Student Communities.



**Muhammad  
Hamza**

**Communities**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities?**

As an international student from Pakistan pursuing my MSc International Business Management at DMU, I understand how important student communities are in shaping the university experience. When I first moved to the UK, being part of communities helped me feel connected and supported. University life is not only about lectures and assignments, but also about connections and personal growth. I want to help create an inclusive and supportive environment where every student feels heard, and Valued!

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing Student Communities, and how do you plan to achieve them? (E.g Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising etc.)**

1 - Increase Awareness and Participation

I have noticed that many students are unaware of the full range of societies and activities available. I will work to improve communication through better promotion, student testimonials, and collaboration with course representatives to share information regularly. I would also encourage “Community Introduction Weeks” where societies and clubs actively engage new students.

2 - Strengthen Inclusivity and Cultural Representation

As an international student, I understand the importance of representation. I will support the creation and growth of culturally diverse societies and encourage collaboration between different groups. I would like to actively promote cross-society events so students from different backgrounds can connect and learn from each other.

3 - Improve Support for Societies and Clubs

Student leaders often face challenges in funding, event planning, and member engagement.

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their interests within Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising and any other extra-curricular Student Community activity?**

I believe that I should be voted because I am approachable, responsible, and genuinely committed to representing their interests. I have professional experience in communication, stakeholder coordination, and problem-solving, which means I understand how to represent concerns clearly and work with decision-makers effectively. I like to listen carefully before speaking. In my previous roles, maintaining strong relationships and high satisfaction levels required understanding different views!



**Twig  
Smalley**

**Communities**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

**What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Student Communities?**

Over the past year as SVL Communities, I've seen how powerful student groups are for belonging and wellbeing. Being involved in societies and sport has shown me how much confidence, connection, and belonging they create, but also how cost, communication, and access can get in the way. I want to continue building on this year's progress, keep improving the student experience at DMU for everyone and be the SVL who doesn't just listen, but acts.

**If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing Student Communities, and how do you plan to achieve them? (E.g Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising etc.)**

Students deserve communities that are connected, inclusive, and easy to be part of.

I will grow collaboration across DMU by strengthening the Collaboration Fund. I will ensure it runs smoothly and is accessible, so student groups can deliver joint projects that bring students together, share ideas, and build real community.

I will fight for fair access to student life. With the cost-of-living crisis and declining funding, no student should have to choose between necessities and belonging. I will introduce financial support for participation in student groups and bring together existing funding streams into one clear, simple system.

I will strengthen communication across student communities. I will improve how DMUsport and the SU share information with members by building on training and creating clearer, more engaging updates so students actually see and understand what's happening.

If elected, I will put student communities first – making them fair, stronger, and more connected.

**Why should students vote for you to represent their interests within Societies, Sports Clubs, Volunteering, Fundraising and any other extra-curricular Student Community activity?**

My focus as SVL Communities has been simple: listen to students and act on what they say. As former Chair of Basketball, I've dealt with these issues first-hand and know that barriers still exist. I introduced You Said, We Did, updated committee role descriptions to reflect real responsibilities and employability skills, and created Share the Wear, a free clothing swap. I understand how student groups work because I've been part of them myself. I listen, I show up, and I follow through.

**student  
leadership  
elections**

# **Inclusion & Wellbeing**

## **Candidate List**

**Dilpreet Kaur**

**Faruq Kotun**

**Hammad Raja**

**Nikhil Bapu Vipparla**

**Dilpreet  
Kaur****Inclusion &  
Wellbeing**[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)***What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Inclusion and Wellbeing?***

Mental health is still surrounded by stigma and many students struggle in silence because asking for help can feel overwhelming. From my time at DMU and as an SVL, I've seen how many students don't know where to turn when they're struggling. I believe better communication, connection, and safe spaces can make a real difference. Inclusion means ensuring underrepresented students feel heard without judgement, and I want to be someone students can approach and trust to represent their voice.

---

***If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving inclusion and wellbeing, and how do you plan to achieve them?***

1. Cost of Living and Student Dignity: I will organise free food stalls during each assessment block, create a budget-friendly healthy eating recipe book, develop a "meals on campus" guide and work towards healthy food options on campus to promote healthy eating. I will also work to expand awareness and access to free period products across campus and student accommodation. 2. Visible safety, awareness and underrepresented student campaigns: I will run monthly awareness initiatives such as Ask for Angela, anti-spiking campaigns, and promote reporting routes so students feel safer and more informed. By working closely with cultural, faith, and liberation societies. Along with this, I will help make history months more visible and meaningful across campus, ensuring inclusion is actively celebrated. 3. Listening space and continued support: Termly Lived experiences or liberation drop-in in collaboration with DMU EDI and continue Wellbeing Champions initiative.

---

***Why should students vote for you to represent their inclusion and wellbeing needs?***

I have spent two years at DMU and one year serving as a Student Voice Leader, so I understand both the student experience and how the Union works. Students can trust me because I don't just listen but I act and follow through. I will confidently represent your concerns to the university and make sure your voice leads the change. YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

**Faruq  
Kotun****Inclusion &  
Wellbeing**[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)***What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Inclusion and Wellbeing?***

I am running to be the Student Voice Leader for Inclusion and Wellbeing because it is my firm believe that every DMU student deserves to feel seen, heard and fostered to succeed.

My motivation stems from a simple belief: when students feel included, they flourish. I want to help build a university environment where different ideologies aren't considered a barrier. Regardless of the beliefs and backgrounds each student have access to support, feel safe speaking up and know that their experiences

---

***If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving inclusion and wellbeing, and how do you plan to achieve them?***

I will ensure students voices are impossible to ignore. I will consciously listen through consultations, drop-ins and discussions guaranteeing students thoughts and feels directly shapes the decisions made by DSU and DMU leadership because leadership is not measured by how many times one is applauded, but by how many lives are touched, how many voices are heard, and how many seeds are sown for a better future. I want to be a reliable liaison between students and decision makers making sure maters around wellbeing, accessibility and inclusion are beyond just being raised but acted on.

---

***Why should students vote for you to represent their inclusion and wellbeing needs?***

I'm very passionate about student experience and community. I intend to represent every student fairly. I am ready to lead with integrity, empathy and compassion. DMU is a place where every student should feel included and not secluded.



**Hammad  
Raja**

**Inclusion &  
Wellbeing**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Inclusion and Wellbeing?**

Last year, I witnessed classmates skipping meals due to rising costs and friends struggling with mental health in silence. I realised that having good intentions isn't enough, we need active advocates who will turn empathy into action. I'm running because I believe our university's strength lies in its diversity, and I'm determined to ensure every student, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstance has equal access to wellbeing and feels genuinely included in our community.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving inclusion and wellbeing, and how do you plan to achieve them?**

My first priority is accessible mental health support. I will launch "Wellbeing Allies" trained peer supporters in every department where students can talk confidentially and get signposted to the services. Introduce "Text-me-Tuesday" allowing anonymous text support for those uncomfortable with speaking in person. Lobby to host monthly De-Stress events with therapy dog visits, meditation and free activities. Second is to tackle financial hardship. I will establish a Student Food Bank with no questions asked access to basic food items. Streamline hardship fund applications. Create a comprehensive guide to all bursaries and support that students don't know exists. The third priority will be genuine inclusive spaces. I will run quarterly Inclusion Forums where marginalised students (LGBTQ+, disabled, neurodivergent, BAME, international) voice concerns directly to leadership. Launch a peer mentoring Buddy System. Push for disability sports teams and confidential harassment reporting.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their inclusion and wellbeing needs?**

I listen more than I speak, and I deliver what I promise. I understand that students face multiple barriers, being international AND struggling financially AND dealing with mental health. I'll create accessible support, not just talk about it. I'll hold monthly progress updates, maintain year round office hours, and fight for achievable changes that make real impact. Whether you're struggling or thriving, inclusion means EVERYONE and I'll ensure every voice is heard and valued.



**Nikhil  
Bapu  
Vipparla**

**Inclusion &  
Wellbeing**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What inspired you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Inclusion and Wellbeing?**

I am applying for Student Voice Leader – Inclusion and Wellbeing to ensure all students feel valued, supported, and heard. Many face mental health, cultural, or financial challenges, yet support services are underused. I aim to promote inclusivity, amplify student voices, and help build a campus culture prioritising wellbeing, diversity, and engagement.

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving inclusion and wellbeing, and how do you plan to achieve them?**

My 3 Priorities are :- \*Priority One: Improving Awareness and Accessibility of Wellbeing Support . Priority Two: Strengthening Inclusive Student Representation . Priority Three: Promoting a Culture of Belonging and Peer Support. I will plan to achieve like this :- To improve awareness, I will use social media, newsletters, and guidance in collaboration with the Students' Union and wellbeing teams to make support visible and accessible. To strengthen inclusive representation, I will hold regular forums and focus groups for underserved students, ensuring their feedback informs decisions. To promote belonging, I will run peer-led workshops, inclusive events, and community wellbeing initiatives.

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their inclusion and wellbeing needs?**

Students should vote for me because I bring accountability, empathy, and a commitment to representing diverse experiences. I will actively listen, communicate clearly, and turn concerns into actionable solutions. By maintaining continuous contact, collaborating with university services, and prioritising inclusion and wellbeing, I aim to build trust, create meaningful change, and enhance the student experience across the university community.

# **Employability**

## **Candidate List**

**Alethea Petropoulos**

**Aya Hachami Idrissi**

**Badhri Sai Purnima Raj Durgapu**

**Dimple Amish Malaviya**

**Maddie Willey**

**Xavier Minshull**



**Alethea  
Petropoulos**

## **Employability**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Employability?**

I am motivated to run for the position because I understand the pressures students face when seeking the “right” work experience. I want to use the skills I developed during my degree, along with my own experiences of applying for internships and placements and facing rejection, to support other students. My aim is to help make employability support at DMU more accessible, supportive, and shaped by students’ real needs and interests.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing DMU students’ personal development and future career success and how do you plan to achieve this?**

My first priority will be to create a Work Experience and Internship Mentor Programme. This student-led initiative will connect students and graduates who have relevant experience to those seeking guidance. Mentors will offer practical advice on applications, interviews, and handling rejection, while also developing their own leadership skills.

My second priority will be creating a local shadowing programme with businesses and organisations in Leicester, where students can spend a day observing professionals in their field of interest. This would give students real-world exposure to workplaces, help them build networks, and better understand career pathways.

My third priority will be to regularly review and assess existing employability workshops to ensure they reflect students’ needs, interests, and career goals.

I will pilot the mentor programme in Blocks 1 and 2, introduce the shadowing programme in Blocks 3, and monitor and improve employability workshops throughout the year.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their employability interests?**

Students should vote for me because I have personally experienced the pressure, rejection, and self-doubt that come with gaining work experience. I have faced both success and setbacks on my path, which has allowed me to truly empathise with others on their journeys. If elected, I will champion students’ voices, listen to their concerns, and work to create supportive, student-focused employability opportunities that help every student feel confident and prepared for their future careers.



**Aya  
Hachami  
Idrissi**

## **Employability**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Employability?**

I'm running because too many capable students hold themselves back simply because they don't know where to start. As an international student, I understand how competitive the graduate and internship market is. Through supporting CVs and interviews as a Careers Ambassador and organising employer events and company trips as Chair of the Investment Society, I've seen how clarity and exposure completely change confidence. I want that impact to reach more students.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing DMU students' personal development and future career success and how do you plan to achieve this?**

I would introduce an Application Season Sprint, a focused four-week push just before internship and graduate deadlines. Instead of random workshops, this would be practical and action-based. Each week would focus on one stage improving CVs and LinkedIn, writing strong applications, preparing for tests and practising interviews with real feedback.

I would also introduce a peer-to-peer Employability Buddy Scheme, similar to iBuddy but focused on careers. Placement students and recent graduates would mentor students preparing to apply, offering practical advice and reassurance so the process feels supported rather than isolating.

Finally, I would launch Industry Access Weeks, focusing each term on one sector or company at a time. Through targeted employer sessions and alumni panels, students would see directly that the careers they want are achievable and when they see that, they are far more likely to pursue them confidently.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their employability interests?**

I have spent hundreds of hours refining my CV, tailoring applications and navigating this competitive job market, so I understand what the process truly requires. As a Careers Ambassador, I already support students in doing the same, and I want to expand that impact as Student Voice Leader. Students should vote for me because I want to help build a stronger community of employable DMU graduates who support one another and represent our DMU in the best possible way.



**Badhri Sai  
Purnima Raj  
Durgapu**

**Employability**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Employability?**

I was inspired to run for Student Voice Leader – Employability after seeing how confusing and overwhelming employability pathways can be for many DMU students. I have supported students by signposting Careers resources, placement-year information, and MyGateway opportunities, and noticed many miss out due to a lack of awareness or confidence. I want employability support to be clearer, more accessible, and inclusive, especially for international students and those new to the UK job market.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing DMU students' personal development and future career success and how do you plan to achieve this?**

Priority 1: Improving awareness of placement years and work experience. Many students miss placement and internship opportunities due to late awareness. I will work with Careers and academic teams to promote clear, early guidance on eligibility, timelines, and benefits, and actively signpost opportunities through MyGateway and alumni networks.

Priority 2: Supporting international students to access jobs. International students often face barriers related to visa rules and UK recruitment processes. I will support clearer guidance, promote tailored employability sessions, and act as a link between international students and the Careers services to ensure their concerns are addressed.

Priority 3: Building confidence through practical employability support. Many students lack confidence in applications and interviews. I will promote practical workshops, mock interviews, and one-to-one support, using student feedback to ensure employability support reflects real student needs.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their employability interests?**

Students should vote for me because I am already delivering employability-focused action. I have written an article raising placement-year awareness and supported five employability workshops based on student demand. I am approachable, proactive, and committed to representing student voices, particularly international students. I focus on achievable actions, not promises, and will continue working with Careers to ensure employability support is visible, inclusive, and student-led.



**Dimple  
Amish  
Malaviya**

**Employability**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader – Employability?**

I was motivated to run for Student Voice Leader – Employability because I've seen how many students feel anxious about their future despite putting in so much effort during their studies. I have experienced how confusing it can be to find work experience, understand employer expectations, and access the right support. I want to represent students' voices and help make employability support at De Montfort University more practical, inclusive, and accessible for everyone.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing DMU students' personal development and future career success and how do you plan to achieve this?**

My first priority is improving access to real-world skills. I will work with DMU services to promote more industry-focused workshops that build practical skills such as communication, digital skills, leadership, and problem-solving, ensuring these are available to students across all courses. I will push for clearer communication around internships, placements, part-time jobs, and volunteering opportunities by supporting better promotion through student channels. I will raise student concerns where opportunities feel limited or unclear and work to ensure students know where to find roles and how to apply. I will represent international students' employability concerns by raising issues around visa restrictions, work regulations, and understanding the UK job market. I will advocate for clearer, more inclusive guidance on CVs, interviews, and professional expectations so international students feel informed, supported, and included in employability initiatives.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their employability interests?**

You should vote for me because I understand the uncertainty around life after university and I'm committed to making employability support clearer, more inclusive, and genuinely useful. I am approachable, confident, and ready to speak up for real concerns, ensuring employability decisions at De Montfort University reflect what actually matters.



**Maddie  
Willey**

**Employability**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

**What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Employability?**

I have been working since I was 14 and have been in several industries such as hospitality, customer service and automotive engineering. I am passionate about change and shaping the student experience to make it the best it can be. I am a course rep so this is the most logical next step for me to ensure student voices are heard. I want to create a supportive environment to help you get a role whether that is during university or after graduation.

**If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing DMU students' personal development and future career success and how do you plan to achieve this?**

1. Create more specified workshops – this could include Women in STEM initiatives, course specific workshops or more guest industry speakers.
2. Create more connection between societies and industry – I want to create a network between societies and relevant industry contacts. This could be through alumnus or direct communication with businesses.
3. Provide more support for those working while at university or those who want/need to work during university – I want to create a network for those who are working and maybe require some extra support. I also want to help those who want/need to work to find employment by providing CV and skills workshops targeted to part-time employment.

**Why should students vote for you to represent their employability interests?**

Finding a role during and after university is possibly one of the hardest things you must do as a student. I want to create meaningful experiences and help you succeed however that may look to you. I want to help you stand out while being authentically you. As Shakespeare once said, "Though she be small, she be mighty".



**Xavier  
Minshull**

## **Employability**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - Employability?**

The working world is a challenge. The first hurdle to employment is the biggest - no one will hire you for the 'no experience needed' role because you don't have experience, or you were a strong candidate but they went with someone else. I've experienced rejection more than a dozen times; I know how easy it is to give up on yourself. With university support, I found work - a Frontrunner role. I want to provide the same for others, regardless of background. Everyone deserves a chance to work.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for enhancing DMU students' personal development and future career success and how do you plan to achieve this?**

I want to develop employability in students across every subject discipline, with advice tailored to their specialty. What a Law student needs is different to what an Architecture student needs - I plan to liaise with students of various academic backgrounds to understand their individual job markets and how the university can provide them with relevant skills.

Improving on the schemes provided by the university, I will increase the number of roles available within paid internships (Frontrunners, ACE, Graduate Champions), providing students with more chances to gain experience. Furthermore, I will increase the variety of these roles to cater to students in underrepresented disciplines.

Understanding the barriers students face in work is extremely important. I would like to conduct research into what students from underrepresented backgrounds struggle with most in their careers. This way, students can be directed to relevant support and a higher level of equity can be achieved.

---

### **Why should students vote for you to represent their employability interests?**

Because I have engaged with the resources offered by the university, my understanding of what students need is nuanced. Whether it's that first job that propels their career or the ability to pivot into a new field, everyone deserves support matching their experience. Employability is an important aspect of life during and after your studies; a vote for me is a step towards your dream career. I believe that work can even be fulfilling at times - you simply need the right tools and support.

# **International Experience**

## **Candidate List**

**Aamira Waghmar**

**Catherine Oluchi Okoli**

**Muhammad Mehdi**

**Muhammad Waseem Khan**

**Raghuram Reddy Gajjala**

**Shyam Singh**

**Siddik Shaik**

**Sujata Khatiwada**

**Vidhi Dharmendrabhai Prajapati**



**Aamira  
Waghmar**

## International Experience

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

I am motivated to run for Student Voice Leader-International Experience because I have personally faced the challenges international students experience, especially around fees, visa guidance, and adjusting to life in a new country. I want to improve communication, representation, and inclusion so international students feel informed, supported, and genuinely heard at DMU.

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

1. Clear guidance on fees and visas

I will work with the university and Students' Union to improve communication around tuition fees installments and visa requirements through regular international inductions, clear online resources, and polite, timely reminders to reduce stress and confusion.

2. International Student Representatives Network

I will establish an International Student Representatives Network, with reps nominated or chosen by their peers from different backgrounds/countries. They will meet regularly to share concerns on key issues such as fees, visas, and wellbeing. I will then work with the university to improve their experience and share updates with the students.

3. Cultural inclusion and events

I will support and promote cultural and religious events celebrating festivals from different cultures by working with societies to create inclusive spaces where international students feel welcome and a sense of belonging.

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

International students should vote for me because I understand their challenges and experiences. I am approachable, committed, and focused on realistic goals that can be delivered. I will listen carefully, communicate clearly, and actively represent international students' voices to ensure they feel supported, included, and valued at DMU.



**Catherine  
Oluchi  
Okoli**

**International  
Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

I was motivated for this role because my identity as an international student aligns with the role. I understand the struggle of leaving comfort zone to start over in a new country with a different culture and way of life. Adjusting to these changes can be overwhelming and without having a proper guidance can be daunting. I want to be the voice of warmth, the eyes that sees even what the mouth is not comfortable saying. I want to be the Voice of the immigrant student who has dreams coming to UK.

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

1. Dissemination of clear and honest Information for International Students: I plan to achieve this through collaboration with the student union and international office to create a 30 days starter pack of to do list that creates ease of settlement for new students. I would also host two days question and answer session to bring clarity to new arrivals.
2. Create a community with existing international students and career teams which would help new students with finding part time work: I hope to achieve this by working with career teams to organise an international student employability workshop and also point them to a community of people who is already in the system and has experiences that would support them
3. Create a safe space and community through a tea/coffee talk sessions. Organising a monthly international student circle session. Work with wellbeing services to promote a culturally inclusive environment for all.

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

I will prioritise clear information, better employability support, and stronger community spaces for international students.

Vote for me for honest representation, real impact, and leadership built on the slogan "You Voiced, We Listened."

I understand the challenges surrounding living as an international student; academic expectations, visa rules, work, finances and living in the UK. With my professional and project management background, I will turn real concerns into practical action.



**Muhammad  
Mehdi**

**International  
Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

Moving to a new country is a massive leap and I am motivated to run because I want to ensure no international student feels unsupported. Having navigated the challenges of visas, housing, and cultural adjustment myself, I feel a strong responsibility to advocate for my peers. I want to be the bridge that connects international students with university leadership to ensure our unique voices lead to real, practical improvements.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

My first priority is the 'Arrival Survival' Recycle Store. Graduates often discard items like heaters and fans, while upcoming students spend heavily buying them. I will organize a collection for leaving students to donate items to upcoming students for free. This reduces waste and helps arrivals settle in without high costs. My second priority is Housing Safety. Booking accommodation from abroad is risky. I will launch a 'Verified by Students' list where current students rate landlords. This creates a trusted database for upcoming students, ensuring they avoid scams or unsafe housing before landing in the UK. My third priority is Real Integration. International students often isolate in language groups. I will introduce a 'Buddy by Hobby' scheme pairing international and home students based on shared interests. This encourages natural English practice and builds genuine friendships beyond the classroom.

---

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

Born in Pakistan and raised in Tanzania, I share a deep connection with the Asian and African backgrounds of many international students. I don't just understand your journey; I have lived it across two continents. My goal is to represent our diverse needs and solve real problems like housing and isolation. I will be the bridge that ensures every voice is heard and respected at DMU. Vote Muhammad Mehdi.



**Muhammad  
Waseem  
Khan**

**International  
Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

As an International student, I have challenged myself for new experiences in a new country such as adjusting to a little different academic system, new culture and meeting new people from different countries. These experiences motivated me to apply for this role so that I can represent International students voices and ensure they are heard. I want to act as bridge between International students and DMU, helping improve communication and make sure every student feels valued to be part of DMU.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

1 - Clear Communication and Straight pathway

I will ensure that every International student gets a clear message of DMU regarding visa, academic support and wellbeing services which is provided by the DMU.

2 - Sense of belonging

As international student myself i love to learn about different cultures, beliefs etc. I will make sure I can organize cultural exchange events to encourage interaction between home and International Students.

3 - Listening

I will make sure that i work on regularly feedback through surveys and present main concerns to DMU to ensure real action is taken.

---

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

As International student myself I have empathy for their challenges firsthand. I'm approachable and very focused on my directions for the International students. I will make sure that I listen, communicate clearly with the DMU and regularly represent student concerns. My priority is to turn international students voices into meaningful actions and improvement



**Raghuram  
Reddy  
Gajjala**

**International  
Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

As an international student, I have faced many challenges while studying in a new country. These include visa rules, work limits, academic pressure, and adjusting to a new education system. I have seen where support is good and where it is missing. I am running for this role because I want to help, not just talk. I want to represent international students properly and help bring real changes. International students need a strong voice, and I am ready to be that voice.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

1. Clear and reliable information

I will make sure international students get clear and on-time information about visas, work rules, academic requirements, and important deadlines. I will support simple guides, regular updates, and sessions where students can ask questions.

2. Academic and wellbeing support

I will work for better academic help, clearer assessment guidance, and easy access to wellbeing services, especially for students who are new to the education system and culture.

3. Stronger representation and inclusion

I will make sure international students are properly represented in university decisions. I will support more inclusive events and better ways for students to share concerns and see real action.

---

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

International students should vote for me because I understand their situation and I take their concerns seriously. I am approachable, committed, and willing to speak up on behalf of students. I will listen, communicate clearly, and work consistently to improve the international student experience.

**Shyam  
Singh**

## International Experience

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

My name is Shyam Singh, and I am from Rajasthan, India. I came to the UK last year as an international student and faced many challenges, such as understanding the education system, accommodation, and daily life. These experiences motivated me to stand for new students, so they do not face the same difficulties. I want to support them using my experience and help them feel welcomed, confident, and supported in the UK.

---

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

If elected, my three main priorities will be accommodation and arrival support, understanding the new education system including block teaching, and organising cultural events to reduce homesickness. First, I want to improve accommodation and arrival support for new students. Many international students struggle to find housing and understand important processes when they arrive. I will work to provide clear guidance, simple checklists, and peer support so students can settle smoothly. Second, I want to help students better understand the UK education system and block teaching format. Many students find it confusing at first. I will support workshops and student discussions to explain assignments, assessments, and expectations in simple language. Third, I want to encourage more cultural events and social activities so students feel connected and less homesick. These events will help students build friendships and feel a sense of belonging.

---

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

International students should vote for me because I have faced the same challenges they may face, such as accommodation issues, understanding the education system, and adjusting to a new country. I truly understand their struggles. My first priority is to listen carefully to their problems, then take clear action and work hard to deliver real results. I want to be a voice that represents them honestly and makes a positive difference in their university experience



**Siddik  
Shaik**

## International Experience

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

As an international student myself and a former Course Representative, I have seen first-hand both the opportunities and the challenges that international students face at DMU. While international students contribute greatly to the university's diversity and academic environment, their concerns are not always heard strongly.

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

#### 1. Strong Representation and Student Partnership

Many international students feel unsure about where to raise concerns or how decisions are made. My priority is to strengthen representation by actively listening to international students across courses and faculties and ensuring their voices are clearly represented at all levels of the university.

#### 2. Enhanced Support and Wellbeing

International students often face challenges such as cultural adjustment, academic expectations, visa-related stress, and financial pressures. I aim to improve awareness and access to existing support services so students feel supported, informed, and confident in seeking help.

#### 3. Better Integration and a Sense of Belonging

A positive student experience goes beyond academics. My focus will be on improving integration and engagement opportunities that encourage meaningful connections between international and home students, helping everyone feel welcomed and included at DMU.

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

International students should vote for me because I understand their experiences and challenges firsthand, and I have proven experience representing student voices as a former Course Representative. I am committed to listening to international students, clearly communicating their concerns, and working in partnership with DMU to ensure their needs are genuinely reflected in university decisions. so international students feel heard, supported, and truly valued throughout their time at DMU.



**Sujata  
Khatiwada**

## **International Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

As an international student, I have personally faced challenges related to cultural adjustment, academic expectations, and language barriers. In those moments, I often wished for someone who truly understood my experiences and could guide me through university life. That is why I am nominating myself—to bridge the gap between students and the university and to ensure no one feels alone in their journey at DMU.

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

I have been part of the DMU community for almost three years and have voluntarily supported new students through the i-Buddies Scheme. This experience has allowed me to understand how DMU works and what students genuinely need to succeed. University life is exciting, but it can also be overwhelming, and strong student representation makes a real difference.

My Key Focus Areas:

- Academic Support: I will work to improve communication between students and academic staff, find a way for clearer guidance, and support students in navigating academic challenges.
- Advocate for better support around wellbeing, visas, and employability.
- Work on meaningful projects that improve integration and help international students feel part of the DMU.
- Inclusivity and Diversity: I am committed to celebrating diversity at DMU and ensuring international and home students alike feel a sense of belonging and representation.

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

I know what it feels like to struggle, to adjust, and to find your place at university. That journey has shaped me who I am and why I want to lead. With experience, empathy, and dedication, I aim to make every day at DMU better than yesterday. If elected, I will stand up for students, listen to your concerns, and work to make DMU a place where everyone belongs.



**Vidhi  
Dharmendrabhai  
Prajapati**

**International  
Experience**

[demontfortsu.com/elections](https://demontfortsu.com/elections)

### **What motivated you to run for the position of Student Voice Leader - International Student Experience?**

I'm running because I've lived the international student journey, which was exciting, but sometimes confusing and overwhelming. I want every international student at DMU to feel welcomed, informed and supported, not lost or alone. This role lets me turn real student concerns into real action with DMU and DSU, so the international experience becomes smoother, fairer and more empowering for everyone.

### **If elected, what are your top 3 priorities for improving the international student experience, and how do you plan to address them?**

#### 1. Stronger arrival support

I'll work with DSU and DMU to improve onboarding with clear guidance on registration, part-time work rules, banking, NHS/GP, and accommodation. I'll also introduce regular "Ask Us" drop-in sessions during busy periods for quick, stress-free support.

#### 2. Better careers & employability support

I'll organize career sessions with the Careers Team and societies on UK CVs, interviews, LinkedIn, internships, and placements for international students. I'll also ensure students know what support is available early in the year.

#### 3. More belonging & community

I'll help create inclusive events, peer networking and collaborations with societies so international students feel connected and represented all year not just during Welcome Week.

To deliver real change, I'll collect feedback through quick surveys, open discussions and direct communication, and share updates on progress.

### **Why should international students vote for you to represent their interests and needs?**

International students should vote for me because I understand our journey and the challenges we face. I'm approachable, proactive, and focused on real results—not just promises. I will listen, take concerns seriously, and represent you confidently with the university. My goal is to make the international student experience at DMU smoother, more supportive, and more empowering for everyone.