

**ELECTIONS**

**CANDIDATE  
MANIFESTOS**

**FULL-TIME  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**



**#DSUELECTIONS21**



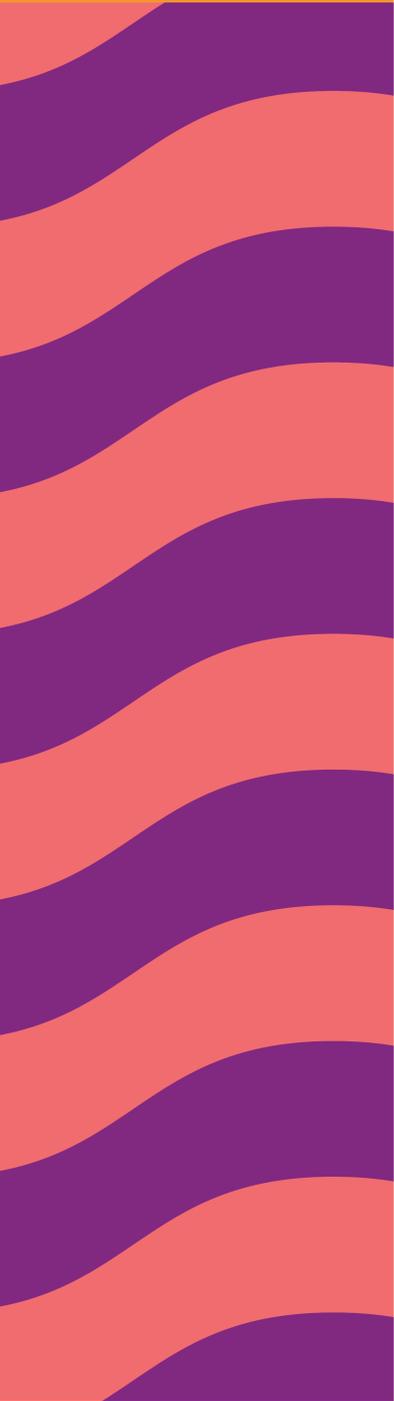
# **ELECTIONS**

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**ACADEMIC  
CANDIDATES**



## ***Bushra Angabeen Zafar***

My name is Bushra Angabeen Zafar, studying as an international student here at DMU. I did my Masters here from DMU and am pursuing PhD in Business & Sustainability. I have previously worked as a Post-graduate Liberation Officer, therefore, this time I want to apply for a full time position and contribute towards:

- 1. The academic structure***
- 2. Deviate changes in academics due to COVID-19 with ease***
- 3. Improve student experience of De Montfort***
- 4. Make your voice heard***

I hope to get your support and vote.



## **Fahamida Islam**

My name is Fahamida Islam, a student of MSc Computing. I am standing to be Academic Executive at DSU election. Being given the opportunity to step into a developed country like the UK with big dreams stemmed my desire of wanting to help make a difference. Being an empathetic person, I aspire to use this characteristic to help others. After struggling myself with not knowing where I wanted to go in life or what route to take, I want to take this experience, so others do not have to go through the same uncertainty as I did. It is this reason why I am nominating myself for this position, from my time studying at De Montfort University, I came to realise that this university is not just a university, but more so an opportunity to help develop students' lives.

I completed a placement year at the New Way Consultancy, where my role was a Digital Marketing Intern. This company was a student consultancy, where my role was not limited to strictly Marketing, but also being in charge of student consultations. Through this job I had the opportunity to listen and understand students' problems and offer solutions to them. Moreover, I became a course representative for MSc Computing in 2020. This role allowed me to closely monitor students issues which includes teaching, learning, assessments, timetables, and accessibility to learning. Over the year, having the opportunity to work with students both internally and externally at DMU, I believe I am well suited for this job.

If I am given this opportunity the students will be my utmost priority. I will do my best to help and put myself in the same shoes to fully understand their needs. I believe today's students are tomorrows future and here I am chasing to help them.

**NO  
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PROVIDED**

## **Fortune Igbokwe**

My name is Fortune Igbokwe and I am running for the position of the academic executive; I am running for this position because I would like the opportunity to transform the student learning experience. As a current student of DMU, I understand the needs and struggles students are currently facing and as the course rep for Accounting and Finance Msc, I understand the responsibility and the duties required for me to fulfil the expectations of my position therefore I am running for this position because I believe I can bring in a clearer, broader and more student focused perspective into the decision-making process on student academics.

If I am elected, I will work to represent all student interest and will bring forth strategies that will further aid your learning experience. I will also work hard to represent the student voice and push forward policies that will help remove obstacles and hardships faced by students in their academics; I will work hand in hand with individual course reps to ensure every opinion is accounted for because I believe that every student matters and there is still more room for improvement within DMU academic system.



## **Kushla Letham**

Hello

My name is Kushla Letham and I am currently a second-year student studying Media and Communication. Whilst being a university student I have become aware of the issues within our education, especially the lack of interaction and communication which is needed normally, but more so during this pandemic.

When I looked into the Academic Executive role, the responsibility that was very apparent was the understanding of DMU's quality metrics. This included, but not limited to Course Level Feedback, Module Level Feedback, the National Student Survey, and supporting the University in enhancing the student experience. While these are challenging times for everybody, I feel that these, whilst given can be further improved.

My observations of these issues are apparent through being involved in a course group chat, where there are regular grievances on the lack of feedback and interaction from tutors. Whilst efforts are made to gain the required responses, it is still not of the quality needed to improve work going forward. This is the issue I would develop, implement, and revise in our university for a better "uni life". Due to the lack of physical interaction, it is even more important to network intensely to hear the student voice.

I have previously worked in customer relations, and in doing so I was able to show my diplomatic and pragmatic skills through customer problem solving. My approachability was highlighted when I received the award for 'best person to come to for advice' in sixth form college. I will therefore be competent and willing to undertake student consultations on raised matters and be the bridge between the student and the faculty.

I believe I can bring these skills to the role of Academic Executive and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.



## Ruby Rawles

Hello everyone, I'm Ruby! I'm a third year Biomedical Science student and I would love to be your next Academic Exec. If I were to be elected for this role my main priority would be YOU! I know first hand how tough uni feels, it can be overwhelming and I often found myself struggling to juggle all my responsibilities, that is why my priority will be to support you and represent you at all levels within the Union and the University.

I want to make your life as easy and stress free as possible, by ensuring you have;

- ***no major deadlines on the same day or on consecutive days;***
- ***getting you personalised feedback on your exams and assessments to ensure you are always improving;***
- ***ensuring lectures and seminar summary sheets are available to you early on for revision;***
- ***working with the library to improve your overall experience and set up group revision sessions.***

My door will ALWAYS be open to you, and I will be there with a hot cuppa and open ears to listen to your concerns, thoughts and ideas...it's all about you. I pledge to work alongside the the Student Voice to initiate new policies and lead campaigns which implement positive changes for you and your peers across all faculties.

As a founding member of the Biomedical Science Society, I have had first hand experience in setting up a new society and in my role as Academic Exec, I will encourage all courses, to start new societies because I believe these societies are ideal networks to support eachother! We have brilliant community at the DMUSU, we are a huge extended family- my only wish is to build upon this and ensure all students feel they are being represented fairly and that their voices are being heard!



## **MD Shariful Islam Soykat**

I am currently pursuing Doctor of Philosophy under Business and Law Faculty. I am in year-1 now and my research area is Microfinance impact in employment growth. Previously I was a Student Representative at I am a Former Student Representative at Wrexham Glyndwr University. I have also elected as a Student Ambassador at Glyndwr University London. I was also appointed as London Campus Officer at Glyndwr University London.

### Key Agenda

- **Focus on the student e-learning process**
- **Emphasize on funding for research**
- **Balancing research with training**
- **Establish an academic writing platform for international students**
- **Develop virtual problem and solution zone for new students**
- **Engaging more with job fair for graduates and researchers**

I love the energy of working on a university campus. It is inspiring and I enjoy being challenged with student's reference questions. I also enjoy the diversity of the patrons and knowing that I am helping students and providing a service. I am especially interested because of the challenge of working with academics. I know that the issues, questions, and concerns I'll be dealing with on a daily basis will each be different and challenging, and I look forward to stretching myself to continue to research and learn new things.

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## Tom Powell

Hi, My name is Tom Powell. I am a final year Accounting and Finance student and I would love to be your Academic Representation Executive.

Throughout my studies, I have past experience of working on academic support within the Student Union Voice team and for Leicester's NHS finance team in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. These experiences have allowed me to be a friendly face providing reassurance for all. I understand first-hand how times have changed the way students study and the support needed. Whether you want to chat, raise concerns or seek advice; I am running for this role to become an advocate for you. I would love to be your next friendly face!

Pledges:

### Financing

- **Campaign nationally to review course fees since the change in the way lectures are delivered.**
- **Raise more awareness for the student hardship fund and ensure enough funding is available.**
- **Rally to have more part-time employment by the university to help financially and increase experience.**

### Support

- **Arrange monthly timetable slots for students, in groups, to have a regular platform with personal tutors.**
- **Recognition and resource support for international, disadvantaged and joint honours students.**
- **Emphasise the influence of course reps introducing drop in sessions where they will be available at set times weekly to discuss your worries.**

### Future

- **Seek to bring about accredited extracurricular courses that allow you to acquire new skills enhancing employability.**
- **Increase the number of guest speakers and let students decide on and influence the speakers that come to the University.**
- **Highlight the importance of placements and seek to build relationships with local businesses where DMU students can go exclusively on work placements or internships.**

**A VOTE FOR ME  
=  
A VOTE FOR YOU**



If you would like to discuss anything or raise any queries please contact me at:  
[P17198620@my365.dmu.ac.uk](mailto:P17198620@my365.dmu.ac.uk).

**EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**  
**CANDIDATES**

## **Albina Avizen**

I believe this is the perfect opportunity for me to make use of my life experience and education within DMU. I am passionate about fighting discrimination as well as support underrepresented groups to be more visible by encouraging participation, this way taking away real and perceived barriers that will enable more diverse representation of our university students. By this commitment I would like to thank my university that I am proud of, and at the same time contribute to DMU's future by adding a special touch and vision of equal opportunities to our students, especially to international students that are new to UK.

I came to the UK for the first time at the age of 19 as a single mother to start a new life. Not knowing the language or anyone, I had to start my new life by myself. I received an opportunity to work with vulnerable people across the city, caring for end-of-life stage people as well people in need of help within mental health settings and social housing environment. I gained a unique experience through helping people empathetically and always positively.

Whilst working full-time I was constantly self-developing and have gained English language certifications and Uniformed Public Services (UPS) diploma with the best student award on completion of this qualification. Finally, after 8 years of various work experiences, I have applied to DMU for an Accounting and Economics degree. I now have two children and am working on final year, whilst going through challenging times of the pandemic and having a personal life where I am currently bringing up the equality issues within local governmental organisations and specific departments.

I believe that through this position I can BRing the right changes to DMU through the unprecedented current changes and make the Equality and Diversion Department a leader in the new era.



## **Amarachukwu Ezeogu**

Hello everyone,

My name is Amarachukwu Ezeogu. I am studying for a masters degree in Data Analytics at faculty of CEM. My decision to study at DMU was influenced largely by DMU's progressive position on issues relating to Blacks, Asians, Minority Ethnic groups and its stance on Equality, Equity, Diversification and Inclusiveness. These areas which I am very passionate about, made DMU stand out for me.

While good progresses has being made by DMU towards attaining these goals such as 'Decolonizing DMU' initiative. There are nonetheless, more milestones to achieve.

Hence I am running for the Equality and Diversity Executive Position to achieve the following:

***-To promote and facilitate transparent friendly conversations on EDI/BAME related matters between students and staff of DMU in a manner that brings about more awareness to these issues and grows our collective potential as a community.***

***-To work with other executive officers, students and staff to deploy initiatives which have worked for us within DMU onto the wider community of Leicester. Because, for DMU to truly achieve the benefits of EDI/BAME goals and become a beacon of hope, we must device sustainable means to share our success stories with the wider community.***

I have several years experience working with people in private and public domain. This will help build the required alliances and relationships necessary to achieve our goals.

Lets do this together!

***-To listen to and work with BAME as well as other International Students on new and existing challenges that they face and jointly finding best solutions for them with all stakeholders.***

***-To work towards an improvement in the diversity of DMU's workforce along gender and racial integration lines. So as to ensure a DMU for everyone, with a rich blend that provides a sense of belonging to all DMU students.***



## **Arianne Tan**

My name is Arianne and I am a Chinese-Filipino female. My race, culture and gender have always been a huge part of who I am, and I know for many of you, they are important too. I study Psychology with Education and have always been trying to strive for change.

This year, I have spent my 2nd year of studies completing a mini module about Sustainable Development Goals, working closely with the personal tutoring team and running online open day activities alongside my course. This involvement has allowed me to speak out as a student voice and will assist me in implementing my goals. Firstly, I want DMU to be a place of inspiration, that allows us to explore and embrace our differences rather than use them to separate ourselves from others.

In order to do this, I would like to understand what you, as students would like to see that I can implement into events, workshops and societies. I would also love for students to learn about different cultures and communities they may not know much about and hope that this will create a close-knit community of understanding and inspiration. I believe in justice and fairness for everyone and so will work to maintain a fair environment. I will not give you unrealistic goals and believe that what may seem like small changes can positively impact people in greater ways than you expect. I would feel honoured to be a part of a team that puts students first and a platform to create positive change at DMU.

If you give me the chance, I know that I can help to make a difference that will benefit your university experience, make you feel like you are part of a community and allow you to feel proud of who you are.



## **Eduina Manso Henriques**

Hi Everyone!

My name is Eduina Henriques and I am currently a third-year student studying English and Creative Writing. As for me, this means that I'll be graduating soon... However, I'd like to take this opportunity to continue my journey at DMU along with many of you who are still studying or are about to begin.

My passions for this role lie in the fact that I want to see a change just as much as you do, especially regarding equality and diversity within the university. I think it's important to know that every student should have a place where they feel supported and encouraged to be themselves. And I want to help you achieve that!

With that being said, I currently hold one of the liberation roles (BAME representative) at DSU. This voluntary work has given me the chance to connect with students and staff to improve their current conditions.

From being included in groups such as student panels, student council and student zones has really opened my eyes to the issues and concerns that students face throughout their university experience.

So... with that in mind, if I were to be elected as Equality & Diversity Executive, I would bring my full support and enthusiasm into making that change happen. I'd begin by focusing on these top 3 goals:

**Goal 1 - Set up a BAME funding scheme.**

**Goal 2 - Change the menu in the SU Diner so it has more diversity in cultural foods.**

**Goal 3 - Celebrate an event every other month.**

But it doesn't have to stop there. So come join me on a future journey into creating that change, where you lead the way :)



### Gull Zareen

I'm Gull Zareen, 2nd year Business and Management student running to be your Equality and Diversity Executive officer!

Defending and supporting the rights of students on issues such as equal opportunity, access to education and student welfare are at the core of this role.

I'm confident that I possess the needed communicational skills and convincing powers to prove myself as a deserving candidate.

I possess demonstrative abilities to interpret the needs of DMU students and provide them with finest advice.

I have gained the necessary exposure of handling student queries and assisting them with the needed solution as I was a course representative.

Being an International student in a UK university, I have a very clear understanding about Equality and Diversity.

Below are the aims I have in fulfilling this post, as well as supporting and enhancing the diverse student and local community we share at DMU.

- **My aim would be ensuring everybody has an equal chance to take up opportunities and also to make full use of it.**
- **To remove barriers to learning any student might facing, this mostly includes language problem.**
- **To celebrate and value how different we all are. This links with promoting human rights and freedoms, based on principles such as dignity and respect.**



## **Hamza Shehzad**

Hello, my name is Hamza Zulkifal Shehzad and I am running for the position of Equality and Diversity executive because first and foremost I believe in Equality and Diversity. As a human being I believe anything that respire is to be treated equally weather it is a human being or an animal for that instance. Any successful society is built on treating everybody equally. Once that level of impartiality is established, it then provides a foundation on which other important characteristics can be built. Once equality has been achieved successfully, diversity I believe is what makes us a society where different people of different backgrounds can reside in harmony knowing that any opportunity would be dispersed evenly without any bias.

Due to my background and nationality, my interest in equality and diversity is high because I can comprehend with the feelings of individuals who feel that they are not being treated equally or who believe a particular area is lacking diversity.

I was also a member of the college board during my foundation year in DMUIC where a wide range of matters inclusive of equality and diversity were debated which would then end up with the board having positive and practical solutions. I believe this experience would supplement my position and would put me in situations where which I am already used to.

If elected I would ensure that the everyone is treated equally and in any participatory events, I would focus on increasing the diversity of students from different backgrounds and ethnicities. Also, one of my main objectives would be to reduce attainment gap within DMU. I would also try to implement methods from my previous experiences for better and more effective student engagement programs which I believe would make it more effective and would provide better student engagement.



**Jacob Mathew**

My Name is Jacob Mathew, 28 years old and currently pursuing Master studies in the field of Mechatronics at DeMontfort University.

I believe all our pursuits should transcend boundaries, physical or otherwise and we should not rest until there are equal opportunities for every one among us. What I would like to propose is a determined charge towards change. Change is always romanticized but rarely brought about. But why is real change hard to achieve? This is the question I want every one of us to think about. I believe we can bring about change. In many cases, inequality and lack of opportunities is a systemic issue. So, our response should also be a sustained one. And minor achievements along the way should not satisfy our thirst for lasting change.

In my role, I hope to bring to the forefront the various challenges facing marginalized and often under looked sections of students and design activities and programs that will empower them and achieve success. I will also actively work with liberation officers to come up with ideas to address various challenges to achieve lasting change.

So, I request the support of each one of you, to join together to make a better, fair, and prosperous future for everyone in DMU and I promise I will work hard to earn the trust you have placed in me.

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## **Lorain Damian**

Hi there, my name is Lorain Damian! I am currently doing a master's degree in Air Transport Management. I was born and raised on the tiny island of Aruba located in the Caribbean. I have learned to interact with people from different backgrounds, nationalities, and ethnicities and because of this, I am running as your next Equality and Diversity Officer.

During my internship at Lufthansa Group, which consisted of a team from different nationalities and ethnicities, I learned to work together, value and respect each and everyone's opinion and way of thinking to achieve the same goal. This experience will definitely help me interact with students and make sure their voices are heard.

I believe in creating an environment where equal opportunities are available for everyone regardless of race, ability, gender, religion, or sexuality. For that reason, I want to create more awareness and opportunities for certain groups that are less heard and feel underrepresented within the University's community. Also, I want to increase the participation of students within the union and provide a range of activities where everyone can be part off.

My main goal to make sure that students at the Union and the University feel at home and included.



## **Murraisha Burgess**

I am a second year Law student. I am currently 25, I am originally from Bermuda and moved to England to pursue my dream of studying law. I Graduated High School in 2013 but had to work to save money to move to England to pursue my dreams. As I made the move alone, I know how hard it can be to adjust to the next chapter on your own. However, While on this journey I have faced many obstacles from family, financial, and mental & emotional.

I believe I would be a great fit for this role because I know no one person has the same story and I strongly believe I can help others and create new opportunities from my own experiences. I am a very hard-working individual who likes to explore every option & outcome before making a decision.

If I am successful in this role, I will engage with you and listen to your concerns to assure the opportunities and university life is accommodates all diversity and everyone has equal opportunities to succeed . Additionally i am currently envolved with the curriculum development where i am working along side lecturers to provide a better learning community. within this project we are looking to make dmu learning experience diverse by looking at concerns of language that some may find offesive in lectures for example, as well as other issues .

I will be more than happy to share my story and listen to yours.

Sincerely,  
Murraisha Burgess



## **Puja Subramanian**

Hi there!! I am Puja, studying BA International Business at DMU! I have been studying at DMU for the past FOUR years and successfully completed a placement year after my second year of studies. I have been elected as the Course Rep during the 2nd & 3rd year of studies and elected as 'Zone Representative 2021' at DSU.

I strongly believe that Equality is important at DMU to exchange ideas, ensure fairness in encouraging all talents, creativity to avoid discrimination or prejudices of any sort. I will pay equal attention to all themes such as Gender, Age, Sexual-orientation, religion, race, marital status,

If elected, I will

### **TAKE ACTION**

- **On the Attainment gap amongst various ethnic diverse students at DMU struggling both inside and outside of the academics.**
- **Against excessive and unfair tuition fees obtained from students who were forced to study online this year. I will work with other full-time officers at DSU to create a campaign that will give necessary refunds to ALL the students of DMU. I will ensure equality on refunds on fees to international students who normally pay extra than the local students.**

### **CREATE**

- **Campus and faculty-based jobs for local and international students**
- **EQUAL allowances of funds for all the disabled students irrespective of their nationalities, ethnic backgrounds,**
- **Dedicated free legal advice center for those facing difficulties in seeking appropriate free legal advice on any field of concern**
- **Extra bursaries for DMU global trips (post-covid) so that many students can participate**

### **ORGANISE**

- **Events on Culturally specific festivals on campus to highlight the diversity at DMU**
- **Insightful events on campus by inviting industry-leading guest speakers to spread awareness on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.**
- **Insight day-trips to organizations that indulge in Equality and Diversity at Workplace so that students can learn the significance of the same.**



## **Staci Bloomfield**

I'm Staci, a mature student in my final year of the LLB Law programme here at DMU. My pronouns are she/her.

I'm asking for your vote to become the Equality and diversity executive at the union, with a blend of life experience and 8 years of being part of many national and international activist movements, I believe I have the passion, energy and dedication to bring to the role. I have personal experience of witnessing inequalities from outside the university community, I find these equalities such a tragic symptom of the system in which we live and I wish to be part of something within a community I already co-exist within and leave a legacy after I graduate from my law degree.

I already am a course representative for the final year law degree, which I have raised several issues that students have raised, chairperson of the feminist society and a co-chair of the Amnesty International Society. Being responsible, or partially responsible for raising awareness of issues which relate to injustices based on gender, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment are all very important to me. I want to empower all students to be able to speak up freely, enable all liberation officers to do the same and ensure that accountability is imperative at the university.

The student's union is central to the student voice and this will need a lot of passion, empathy, assertiveness, leadership, diplomacy, and a touch of tenacity. I have all these qualities and so much more that I cannot fit within this manifesto.

I can assure students that their voices will be heard, and all matters of equality are a central to me as a person, as well as bringing that to the role of Equality and diversity executive.

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## **Zara Tahir**

Hi, I'm Zara Tahir. I am hoping to be your Equality and Diversity Executive as part of De Montfort University Student's Union 2021/22.

I am a final year Law, Human Rights & Social Justice (LLB) student with an interest in the workings of gender within the legal system, alongside its impacts on social justice.

Whilst at DMU, I've been engaged in several opportunities that have allowed me to witness how education and university life impacts every student uniquely. From being a B.L.A.C.K Law Society Student Executive to a Decolonising DMU (DDMU) Ambassador, to an internship as DDMU's Student Strand Advisor.

So, what will I do for you in this position?

- 1. Empower student voices – the student union is yours, it's a place to have your voice heard. Covid-19 has negatively impacted the attainment gap and student's mental health. Therefore, I want your opinion on how the Students' Union can minimise these burdens.**
- 2. Inclusivity - as a woman of colour I've seen how students in their courses can feel isolated due to its Eurocentric, middle-class nature. Every student belongs in the seat they are sitting in at DMU and should know they deserve to be here.**

Working in this role would allow me to put my passions into real life projects, whilst continuing current projects that aim to further equality, diversity and inclusivity at DMU.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, I look forward to talking to you all soon

- 3. Safe Spaces – setting up non-judgmental, safe spaces for every student. In particular, minority students. A space where 'taboo' labelled subjects can be discussed without intimidating or uncomfortable surroundings.**
- 4. Faculty role models- students need to see people like them on campus. Diversity within faculty staff is just as important as the students themselves.**



**OPPORTUNITIES &  
ENGAGEMENT  
CANDIDATES**



### **Aashni Sawjani**

I moved to study at DMU from Kenya, with a Canadian high school education, Indian Heritage, and confused accent.

7 years, 3 degrees later, for some I am the girl in the orange hoodie from DMU Bollywood Dance, DSU unsung hero of the year. For others, the girl on the Vijay patel screen, DMU Instagram or that face in your emails from Uni.

But going forward, I want all of you to know me as YOUR student union officer.

I have seen 4 different offices change in my time. I have celebrated their successes and learnt from their failures. I have sat on both sides of the table, as student and committee member - this is why I believe I am the best person, today for this position.

If elected I aim to not just bring back the fun times (Gov guidelines permitting) but also to prioritise and bring to the frontline mental health

I plan to try:

- 1. Increase funding by finding new sponsorship opportunities- bring back 'society of the week' prizes.**
- 2. Increase engagement- personally attending different society sessions weekly and using my platforms to advertise them.**
- 3. Bring back society performance showcase.**
- 4. Introduce means through events/ roundtables to bridge gaps between all societies**
- 5. Campaign for mental health training to be provided for all committee PLUS societies members**

I cannot promise a dance studio or sports societies having more budget

What I can promise is- to try

I have sat beside you all for 7 years

As a student, society leader, a random face.

You have ploughed through a year of uncertainty with faith and belief, I ask you to give me a morsel of that and let me be your voice

My name is Aashni Sawjani

this, is my manifesto

Thank you for reading.



### **Abdul Ijaz**

My name is Abdul Hadi Ijaz in my third year doing mechanical engineering at De Montfort university. Personal experiences from the time I started at DMU has shown that socialising is a very difficult thing since there was less awareness of activities and university societies. Through volunteering to myunipal and joining societies I was able to socialise and gain confidence which helped me through my years at university, with this experience I think I am perfectly suited for the role advertised.

My main area of works will be to spread awareness about societies and activities to more students and help them engage more with university roles and what they can expect. By working with DSU, I would like to create campaigns to reach more students and create awareness.

Since we are in Covid times I would try getting students more interested and engaged by mailing them and getting them to join socials online. One of the new things that I would be planning is to be working with DMU demon radio to create a segment on the part of the radio dedicated to getting to know students and their experiences with covid-19, this segment will focus on interactive calls and give students opportunities to talk directly with university representatives.

There are also going to be topics to pick from entertainment, politics and other things students might be interested in. It's been a long year and covid-19 has made socialising harder but with this opportunity I am hoping to make student life for all the students as fun and amazing as it was in pre-covid times.



### Amy Reynolds

Hello everyone!

My name is Amy and I'm running for your student opportunities and engagement executive this year! I'm a 3rd year drama student here at DMU and the SU has been a huge part of my university experience. Now it's time for me to show what I can do and make a change.

I've been part of both sports clubs and societies so I know first-hand the positive impact that they can have on the student experience. I want to use this experience to help other students get the most out of university and ensure that the opportunities available to them are the best they can be!

The students union does amazing work and I have many ideas and aspirations to further benefit student engagement at DMU, some of these include:

- **Change funding applications for student groups**  
- shorten the process and make it more accessible for all student groups
- **Performance showcase - a showcase with all performance societies to showcase the amazing work and talent here at DMU**
- **Anonymous question platform - available for student group members to ask any questions that they may be too nervous to ask in person or with their name attached**
- **Monthly society + sports committee catch-ups**
- **Improve resources available to student group committees**  
- printing credits, equipment etc

I think I'd be suitable for this role for many reasons, including that:

- **I've been a member of student council so I am aware of how to make change**
- **I've been a committee member for 3 years running (2 years treasurer + 1 year chair)**
- **I'm a drama student, so will be able to speak publicly with confidence and clarity**

I'd love to be able to make a difference for students at DMU, vote for me, you won't be disappointed!

AMY FOR ENGAGEMENT!



### Cameron Lalor

Hi there,

I am a 3rd year student currently finishing my Degree for Product Design BA.

Many of us have felt the harsh turmoil of what a pandemic can do not only to our education but our personal wellbeing. Many of you have been frustrated over things like workshop access, face to face learning and being represented as a whole.

The reason I have decided to go for this role is because I genuinely feel every student deserves their best. When you come to university you don't just commit to a subject, you commit to a way of life, a community and being apart of an experience for self-improvement. Whether its leaving home for the first time or finding yourself a career you can be passionate about. That same dedication should be replicated by your university.

In order to bring Opportunities and Engagement to students' conversation is the heart of all progress. I am a very understanding person; I have dealt with the struggles of mental health and have a learning disability. I sympathise with how hard it can be to adjust. I started university at 23 having done full time jobs thinking I was more than ready for university....oh how wrong I was.

1st year was beyond a struggle and if it were not for the opportunities and support given to me in those months of difficulty, I probably would have quit it all there and then. Now finishing my 3rd year I understand how far I have come as a person and as a professional and I would like to be able to give that same feeling of satisfaction to you.

If you vote for me It will not be a wasted vote.

Thank you for reading and have a nice day



# Ebitimi Imomotebegha

Hi!

I'm Ebitimi Imomotebegha and I am running for the position of Student Opportunities and Engagement Executive.

A little bit about myself, I am Nigerian, I am currently in my second year studying Business Management and Economics, I am an omnivert and I am your current International student representative.

Throughout my time at De Montfort University, I have been involved in the student community and leadership at various levels, such as course Representative, Volunteering for the University and the Leicester community and more.

I've spent time as your part-time International Representative, where I have joined in on campaigns such as No Space For Hate, Say it Right, Why I Volunteer and more. In addition to other events I have hosted so far, I also launched a podcast called comrades in diaspora for international students which I co-host to discuss and share University experiences as a Student.

My main goal for this role is to increase student engagement and opportunities as well as provide and sustain their accessibility to these opportunities.

To achieve this, I plan to

- **Promoting Inclusivity by providing more and better interactive Opportunities. I aim to work with the liberation officers to host the various all-inclusive event and specific events that target each group .ie Events for LGBTQ+ International students.**
- **Provide better support to student groups by working closely with the rest of the SU, to maximise their activities, performance and experience. e.g monthly collaborative meeting with Group leaders.**
- **Improve Support for students. I believe it is important for students who don't engage with SU to be supported e.g. monthly 1-3 questions survey on their mood, academics, and feelings. Also, by creating more recognition award for already active students**
- **Amplify Students Opinions and Concerns**

It's YOUR voice, I want to make sure it's heard!

**NO  
PHOTO  
PROVIDED**

### **Kingsley Kanu**

My name is Kingsley Kanu. i am a post graduate student studying mechatronics. I am passionate about bringing change and helping each student reach their peak.

work experience and even the smallest activities done as a student, plays a significant role in skill development. My first impression of students in Dmu was; a larger population of students are unaware of opportunities available to them for career building. Many, have had difficulties trying to secure a placement while some are struggling as they have no one to guide them on their path. Many student also feel left out and forgotten most especially international student and freshers.

#### WHAT I PLAN TO DO AS A STUDENT OPPORTUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

*I am currently a member of Dmu mentoring scheme and have access to industry mentors who are keen in helping student. Having learnt much from these mentors I want to help every student by offering advice In career development.*

*Organising event when its possible, where student can seek help from industry professionals.*

*Supporting Second year student seeking placement and final year student with helpful advice to assist in building confidence to market themselves to the outside world.*

I have previous worked in marketing in a travel and tourism company.

If voted into office, I intend to reach out to business/organisations on student behalf for them to accept students of dmu to gain work experience. Offering unpaid training and preparing students for the future. I would organise a rota system where by a good number of student can benefit from it.

I would engage with student at all level to plan new methods to promote and explore all opportunities available to students.

Vote me as your Opportunities and Engagement executive lets make these changes together.



### **Kira Brennan**

Hello all!

I hope everyone is feeling well! Some of you may already know me as the level 6 student representative for BA(Hons) Contour Fashion Communication.

I'm standing for this role today because I know one of the main reasons we applied to study with DMU is due to the sheer number of unique opportunities the University offers.

My 4 years with DMU has allowed me to participate in many DMU Global, DMU Local and Ambassador opportunities. I've been part of societies and engaged in so many activities to build my knowledge and my CV.

I want this for you too.

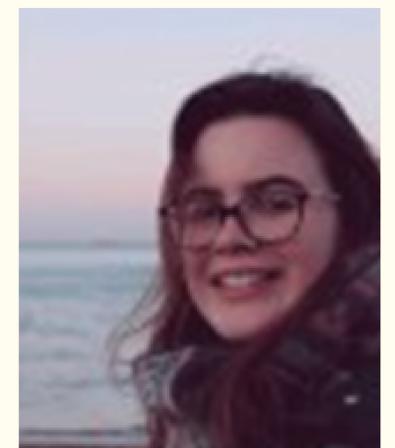
This role will allow me to ensure that you are receiving clear, concise and exciting opportunities during your time at university. I come bearing relevant marketing experience to make sure that you know exactly what is available to you!

I am absolutely the person for this role as I have been a celebrated Course Rep throughout my degree where I have ensured a confrontable environment for my peers throughout their DMU journey.

2020 was a difficult year for everyone and the ongoing Coronavirus restrictions have left us feeling bored and tired of the same 4 walls; I want you all to know that this won't be forever! Let me, help you, have a wonderful year at DMU and enjoy your university experience!

Thank you so much for taking a moment to read this.

Have a lovely day!  
Kira.



## **Nyashadzashé Nguwo**

I am keen on taking up this role because I believe that as students we do come from different backgrounds and need opportunities to give us experience for our future endeavours.

As I am currently studying Advertising and Marketing Communications, it will be amazing putting to practice what I am learning. Interacting with students and school staff will also be a great experience for me if I get elected on this role.



### Rebecca Simm

Hello, my name is Rebecca Simm, and I am currently a third year Law student. During my time as a student at De Montfort University, I have been actively involved with the Law Society by undertaking roles as Social Sec in my second year and as Vice Chair in my final year.

During my time as a committee member combined with previous experience as a Beaver leader within the Scout organisation, I have developed many skills that would benefit me in the role as Student Opportunities Executive such as excellent organisation and communication skills which I enhanced during my time as Social Sec as I was responsible for organising weekly socials alongside the other social sec therefore developing my skills in teamwork.

As a Beaver leader, I would often lead small groups of people and get them involved with whatever activity we were doing that week. As a result of this, I am a confident and outgoing person.

You should vote for me because I love hearing what you have to say. I thrive for change for the better and I will always be there to listen for your needs and wants. DSU has given me the opportunity to grow both socially and academically and that is something I want to give back to current and future students. I know that as a student in a new environment it can be daunting, I want to be that person that helps you get involved in what the DSU has to offer.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I can't wait to represent you.



### Sacha Christopher

"Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world." - Roald Dahl

And to change the world, one student at a time, is what I aim to achieve if you **VOTE ME as YOUR Opportunities and Engagement Executive!**

Hey you, I'm Sacha! I'm passionate about engaging with people from all walks of life, making sure we have a level playing field, no matter our backgrounds, so that we have the power to improve ourselves, our environment, and of course to change our world for the better.

In this role, I aim to ensure that the student voice is always heard and that decisions made by the powers-that-be are beneficial to us. It helps that I'm a good listener!

I hope to encourage more students to participate in student groups and activities that may enrich your student lives and enable you to build better relationships, leading to bright and successful futures for all of us.

I'm a postgraduate Project Management student interested in music, all things space, and am an avid Potterhead. I worked 3 years as a coordinator and am able to work fluidly in teams and of course, individually. I've also been the vice-president of a campus magazine at a previous university where I studied broadcasting & journalism. I became passionate about engaging with people there. My student life has been interesting and I have always wanted to try out new things!

I look forward to being one of your executive officers and to work with all our student groups to boost our opportunities at DMU.

**So your VOTE FOR ME is the right choice for you and for DMU!**

Drop me a line anytime if you'd like to get to know me better, I'm always open to making new friends!

Sacha  
[p2543394@my365.dmu.ac.uk](mailto:p2543394@my365.dmu.ac.uk)





# **UNION DEVELOPMENT CANDIDATES**



## **Harsh Patel**

As a nominee for Union Development Executive, I look to focus my attention on 3 pillars of university. Effective delivery of course material, additional support to all students in mental health/well-being and finally better employment prospects in an uncertain job market. Taking the needs of DMU on a new level as a university and a community.

My name is Harsh Patel, I wish to deliver this manifesto in a format that isn't complicated or fancy but understandable. I joined university 3 years later than usual, because I was not sure what career I would like to pursue, so I have had 3 years to decide, and let me tell you that still is not enough, but students enter university after college eager to get going and progress into adulthood.

My 3-pillar approach will provide the tools and support, and also the environment, for students to do exactly that. I am passionate to see our students succeed and to ensure that they are all getting value out of university.

When an organisation acquires a development executive, they look for the experience to ensure that the individual can achieve organisational goals. I have had over 2 years of experience working in the Improvement and Organisational Development team at Charnwood Borough Council working on Project Management & Performance Management, where I was also the chair of the Staff Forum and sitting member of the Equality Working Group.

Furthermore, I have also had the pleasure of working for an Accounting team and at a Global Bank, which gives me the ability to manage our spending and use it effectively in the interest of our students. I am confident in my abilities to fully utilise my skills, network and experience to deliver organisation change, keeping students at the heart of what we do.



## **Joanna Dine-Hart**

Hi, lovelies!

I'm Joanna Dine-Hart your current Union Development Executive and this is why you should vote for me to continue my role:

I have already:

- **Improved awareness of sustainability and ran monthly events online**
- **Obtained sustainable period products within the Union**
- **Helped implement sign language training**
- **Worked on campaigns and events to improve engagement and mental health support**

I am currently:

- **Always fighting for your voices to be heard. I constantly bring up your concerns in meetings and lobby the university to do better**
- **Fighting for rent refunds and ensuring the Students' Union represents you**
- **Working on getting free sanitary products campus-wide**
- **Improved communication**
- **Encouraging sustainability**

I will implement these projects:

Sustainable DSU:

1. **If we're back on campus, hold themed events around different aspects of sustainability; clothing swaps, women empowerment events and reducing our carbon footprint.**
2. **If online I will continue creating videos, tips and newsletters and engage with you to ensure our campus is always progressing towards becoming more sustainable**

By students, for students:

1. **Create an integrated approach for developing the Union and University. Instead of asking external companies to record videos, create artwork or plan events, I plan to use you - our talented students. Creating a more connected and student-led campus giving you the chance to enhance your skills**
2. **If online, ask students to showcase their work, highlighting your skills and pushing for employment opportunities.**

Your Union:

1. **Make the SU about students again. Linked to the above, ask for your ideas, have you host events and even decorate the SU so it's student-friendly**
2. **Online or offline this is your Union and I will strive to make sure of that by listening and involving you in the development of DSU**

So... Vote Dine-Hart because people don't mishear my name as Die Hard for nothing

**@joannadinehart #JD4UD #OURUNION**





**WELFARE  
CANDIDATES**



## **Benjamin Smith**

I'm Benjamin Smith, your current Welfare Executive at DSU and I'm running for re-election. As your Welfare Executive, I have been:

- **Representing you: making students the focus of all developments, ensuring your voice is heard.**
- **Listening to your worries and concerns and helping you resolve them, helping ensure that you aren't disadvantaged.**
- **Continuing to support you throughout the COVID-19 pandemic: stating your issues, needs and ensuring that the University acts for who matters - YOU.**
- **Addressing mental health: supporting your mental wellbeing and working to improve the services available.**
- **Promoting the Mandala Project to help eliminate sexual violence: enabling and empowering victims to access the support available to them.**
- **Launching my 'survival skills' campaign: helping students develop life skills, even more vital during this challenging time.**
- **Holding social and well-being events helping you maintain social contact during this difficult time.**

If you re-elect me, I will:

1. **Reinforce student housing rights: fighting and raising awareness for your rights as a tenant throughout the entire housing process. I'll have a platform to rate accommodation and providers, holding them to account, ensuring they do listen and support the people who matter - YOU!**
2. **Continue vital Mental Health support: I'll continue to work to help improve the support available, especially for vulnerable males and the BAME community, working with well-being partners across Leicester and the UK to help raise awareness of mental health and promote good mental wellbeing.**
3. **Develop DSU Welfare Champions: a student group to guarantee welfare issues are heard and acted upon, whether you are on campus or studying at home.**
4. **Keep you fully informed: Continuing to ensure you can access all the support available to you while you study.**

I will continue to dedicate myself to supporting YOU, your welfare and student experience, as **#ItIsYouWhoMatters**



## **Shammah Chikuri**

My name is shammah and I am a third-year medical science student. I have always had a passion for raising awareness about mental health and ways we can better help each other as people, which has now developed during the pandemic.

Hearing students struggles and concerns about their experiences at this time has often had me wondering what can be done to make sure all students are thriving to the best of their ability during unforeseen circumstances like what we are facing now. Therefore, when I found out about the role of welfare officer, I was excited to apply.

To me, being a welfare officer means being a bridge between students and everything that affects us, whether It is university facilities, accommodation, or safety concerns.

As a welfare officer I would like to improve the support offered for students dealing with mental and physical illness. I want there to be access to interactive resources for students such as activities, journaling and online programs that are designed to help students feel supported, and cope with the challenges they face whilst creating an action plan on how they can achieve the best outcome on their course.

I want to push for all students on all courses to have access to the facilities they need to complete their work wherever possible and more time to complete their work where access to facilities is not possible.

I believe as a welfare officer I can partner with you as students to make changes that are relevant to your university experience.

