



Manifestos For LGBTQ+ Officer

The following are the manifestos for the candidates running to be one of your voluntary officers for the year 21/22. These officers will represent yourselves to the university and lead on campaigns to make student life better.

This officer role will champion the following areas of work but not limited to:

- This officer is responsible for leading, facilitating, and supporting the LGBTQ+ Association of LUSU.
- Chair and govern all meetings of LGBTQ+ Association Committee
- Ensure fair and open elections for the LGBTQ+ Association Committee in line with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Democracy Byelaw

Candidates are listed in alphabetical Order

Patrick Rutter

Hello, I'm Patrick, though most people just call me Paddy and my pronouns are He/Him, and I'm running for the LGBTQ+ PTO position because I believe the forum needs some changes.

If elected I plan to start campaigns to help increase both attendance at the forum and interaction from the forum with its members through campaigns that reach throughout the university expanding the forums outreach and reputation. Furthermore I intend to diversify the forum as right now, no one will deny that it caters to a specific group among our community, though this isn't a dilemma, no one would disagree that more faces wouldn't be welcome. To do this I intend to work hand in hand with some of the other PTO's (especially the BAME officer) to help organise joint events between the forums that would cater to a larger audience.

I also intend to help you as a community by increasing social activity, holding a series of events throughout the year aimed at getting more people involved. Through talks from notable members of the LGBTQ+ community, or open nights where anyone will be welcome no matter who they are or who they love, (This way more people will be comfortable meeting and learning about our community.) I intend to organise events suitable for everyone. I plan to fight for more funding from the university so that we can have more complex/out there socials, like the termly trips to Manchester's Gay Village which has unfortunately had to be postponed until next year due to Covid. This funding would also help with other aspects of the forum; it could be used to help fund awareness campaigns for the Trans+ community or to create an opportunity for a sexual health expert to come in and do some talks, improving sexual health awareness.

The last major objective I have (or at least discuss here) is the They Matter campaign. Started a few years ago, this campaign aims to create a pronoun policy for all members of LUSU, Sugarhouse and hopefully all of university at some point to help reduce accidents and/or intentional misgendering. Unfortunately I don't have the space in the manifesto to discuss its full benefits but I'm more than happy to respond to questions.

Right now, many members of the forum have very little idea who or what goes on in the exec, if I'm elected I plan on making the exec a lot more accessible that way members not on the exec can simply reach out with a suggestion to make a change too.

Among the current student body there are many who have yet to experience what university is actually like. They've been isolated, trapped indoors for long periods of time, not having the opportunities many students such as myself have had to make friends, mistakes and connections and I promise that if I am elected I will do my utmost to help those students, to help you, have an amazing experience at university.

I think these aims will have a positive impact on the university and the student body because realistically, this has been a difficult year for many of us. My objectives and goals that I have for my time as PTO would help bring us back together as a community effectively, create bonds between members and leave us, on the whole, in a better place as a forum than when the pandemic started.

I have experience in safeguarding, signposting and welfare that would aid in my role as PTO as well as past experience working for a youth group as a tutor. Additionally, I've held the role of Social Secretary on the exec for 2 years now, meaning I know all of the ins and outs of the forum. It also means I'm somewhat responsible for a large chunk of the socials over the last two years, including but not limited to, games nights, sugar takeovers and film viewings. These qualities not only make me an ideal candidate, they also ensure I have experience dealing with situations that I would otherwise need to become accustomed to as a PTO.

Thank you for reading my manifesto, I apologise that it's a little short but I'm capped at 750 words. Feel free to get in contact with me to ask me any questions regarding my manifesto, or even to suggest more, I'm here to help after all and would be more than happy to chat.

Email: p.rutter@lancaster.ac.uk or alternatively, my Facebook is just Patrick Rutter.

Sophie Schulz

This is a condensed version for my manifesto with the most important points. If you would prefer to read the full version, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/37YSYph>

About me

Hi! I'm **Sophie (they/them)**, a second-year Economics and Politics student from Berlin, Germany and I'm running to be your next LGBTQ+ Officer. I've been involved with the LGBTQ+ community at Lancaster University since the beginning of my first year. I am the **current Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Forum**. The community, particularly the Forum, has offered me so many opportunities to grow, make friends, and find support. Now, I think it's time for me to give back!

Top priorities

- **Structures:** improve the mechanisms and institutions the officer works within
- **Socials:** provide a thriving social atmosphere for members to enjoy
- **Support:** ensure our community has the help and resources needed to flourish

Key aims

Structures:

- **Empower the LGBTQ+ Forum** and its exec, reducing their dependence on the LGBTQ+ Officer

- Ensure that the **forums have access to the same resources as societies**, e.g. training, newsletters, networking opportunities
- **Publicise the LGBTQ+ Forum** more widely (e.g. in LUSU newsletters) to keep community members who do not attend Forum meetings informed
- Increase transparency of the LGBTQ+ Forum exec by ensuring **quick turnaround of meeting minutes**, to be published within 48 hours
- Introduce termly **liberation caucuses** that include the execs of all forums to enable more intersectional campaign work
- Report to the LGBTQ+ Forum and wider community on all relevant discussions held and **decisions made in the LUSU exec**

Socials:

- Introduce **weekly takeovers of one of the campus bars** to allow members of the community to meet people and make friends in a more casual setting
- Implement more **activities in the weekly LGBTQ+ Forum meetings** to make them more interesting and approachable to newcomers
- Run more **education and outreach events** such as panel discussions and talks
- (Re)introduce **“Queerstrav”**, a Pride themed take on the popular end-of-year Extravs

Support:

- Work with the VP Welfare to **increase support for students staying on campus over the holidays**, as this disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ students
- Ensure **LGBTQ+ Forum welfare officers receive training** that is at least up to the standard of training JCR welfare officers receive
- Lobby the university to create a **pronouns entry in student records** as well as to mandate staff to include their pronouns in their email signatures
 - Make **trans+ awareness training** mandatory for all JCRs and forum execs and lobby the university to increase the amount of trans+ awareness training offered to staff

Previous experience

- **Women+ Forum Trans+ Campaigns Officer** (since Feb 2021)
- LGBTQ+ Forum Bylaw Review Committee member and minute taker (since Jan 2021)
- **LGBTQ+ Forum Vice-Chair** (since Nov 2020), previously Social Secretary
- Sexpression Events Officer (since Jun 2020)
- Bowland Equality Representative (Jan-Nov 2020)