



# Manifestos For Students with Disabilities 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 will lead the implementation and promotion of disability campaigns at the University and will be responsible for leading the awareness and understanding of disability and mental health issues.
- This officer should work alongside the VP Welfare and Community and VP Union Development to represent the interests of Disabled Students
- This officer should lobby to improve the experience of Disabled Students in all areas of student life

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order

## Lozzie Széll

Hello everyone! My name is Lozzie Széll and I am running for the position of Students with Disabilities Part-Time Officer (SWD PTO).

I believe it is not just a courtesy but a right for people with accessibility requirements to have the same opportunities as anyone else. I want to make it easier for people at our University to speak up where accessibility concerns prevent them from doing the things they want to do.

### **My past experience:**

- Two years of experience on the SWD Forum's executive committee – first as Mental Health Officer, then as Accessibility Officer.
- Two years of experience as Intersectionality Officer for the LGBTQ+ Forum's executive committee.
- I am enthusiastic about accessibility! If you've ever met me, chances are it has come up at least once. I believe everyone should have access to the tools they need to participate fully in university life without feeling "othered".

### **If elected, I would like to do the following:**

- Increase recognition of the SWD Forum. I have met many people who are unaware of the Forum's existence, or who are reluctant to engage with it because they do not identify with the word "disabled". I would like to make it clear that the SWD Forum welcomes *any*

student who has a disability, chronic health condition, mental health condition, neurodivergency, or specific learning difficulty.

- Hold both the University and the Student's Union to their accessibility guidelines (including the provision of image descriptions and subtitling for online video) and build upon these guidelines where they are insufficient.
- Advocate for students who have struggled to engage with online learning.
- Support the "Improve Your Learning" campaign for greater accessibility in academia.
- Support related societies and committees, such as the Lancaster University Mental Health Society and the Lancaster Autistic Social Society.
- Work with the Mental Health Society to increase awareness around more stigmatised mental health conditions (such as psychosis and personality disorders).
- Work with members of the SWD Forum to improve awareness of invisible disabilities, progressive conditions, and conditions which fluctuate in severity, as these are often still stigmatised.
- Continue the current SWD Officer's work in bringing the sunflower lanyard scheme to campus. I would like to ensure not only that the sunflower lanyard continues to be recognised as a signifier of mask exemption, but also for its wider meaning as a marker of hidden disability.

Finally, I promise to put members of the Forum first. I will ask questions and use feedback to ensure that campaigns are relevant and meaningful.

More than anything, I wish to be an approachable figure for students with any kind of accessibility need.

I would love to represent the Students with Disabilities Forum here at Lancaster, because it is important that we are not left behind. If you agree, then please consider voting me for PTO. Thank you!

## Sarah Hughes

Ten years ago I was diagnosed with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. Every day I suffer from chronic pain, dislocations and chronic fatigue. If I was granted this role I would work hard with the university's cooperation to make the 'playing field' more equal for all - fixing any issues disabled students may have, encouraging more awareness in departments of how to make their work more accessible and representing and demanding actions for our disabled students in general meetings and within the union and the university.