

Liberation-Campaign Officer Manifestos

RON will be a candidate for all positions. Re Open Nominations – allows voters state they do not feel any of the current candidates standing are suitable for the role and would like to re-open nominations.

Postgraduate & Mature Students' Officer

Molly O'Reilly-Kime
Manifesto

Hello! My name is **Molly (they/them)**, I'm a first year CompSci PhD student and I'm running to be your **Postgrad & Mature Students' Officer for 23/24**. I arrived in Lancaster as a mature student in 2019, graduating last year and beginning postgrad study this January.

I want to establish a healthy student-lead community for Postgrad and Mature (PGM) students. The PGM Officer is the **only elected LUSU position representing this specific aspect of student life**, so it is essential that our voices are heard. As your PGM officer, I will introduce the following initiatives:

- **Better treatment** for Graduate teaching staff
- A **family-friendly** campus
- Re-establishing the **PGM Forum**
- **College affiliation** for Grad students

I am familiar with **the workings of LUSU and the Forums**, having been involved in student groups since my first week on campus: I've held numerous exec roles including President of the Real Ale and Cider Society and Social Sec for the LGBTQ+ Forum. With my experience, I am confident that **I will be able to realise these goals**.

Better Treatment for Graduate Teaching Staff

Graduate teaching staff are in a gray area when it comes to their status as **both students and staff**. This leads to unnecessary complications around the facilities that we have access to. I will:

- Push for graduate teaching staff to have access to **staff bus passes, cycle-to-work schemes, and parking spaces**.
- Push for **a more cohesive approach to teaching contracts**: they are currently issued termly regardless of circumstances, causing issues with access to the staff intranet.
- Ensure that **staff disciplinary procedures** are carried out appropriately and fairly.

A Family-Friendly Campus

There are a number of university and SU facilities that would make life easier for PGM students with **families and caring duties**. I will:

- Push for access for **childcare facilities** for students with young children.
- Work with student media groups and the library to provide **family-friendly events** including film screenings.
- Create more and diverse family-friendly spaces on campus, such as through increasing the availability of **baby changing stations and nursing facilities** across campus.

Reestablish the PGM Forum

There is huge variety in the experiences of PG and mature students – there is no one-size-fits-all solution for nurturing our community. The reestablishment of the PGM Forum is essential for improving the **quality of PGM experiences** at Lancaster. I will:

- Hold **regular events both on and off campus**, particularly towards the beginning of the year, to encourage involvement with the Forum and reestablish an exec committee.
- Ensure that the PGM Forum has **active, engaging social media**.
- Structure **exec elections** for the Forum in a way that will enable students who are on one-year courses, or began their studies later in the academic year, to **get involved**.
- **Review the PGM Forum byelaws**, which are in dire need of an update.
- Offer PGM-specific events during Welcome Week and ReFreshers, such as a **PGM hour at Freshers Fair**.

College Affiliation for Grad Students

Despite making up **25% of LU's student body**, graduate students are relegated to a single college - in contrast with the 8 undergrad colleges. This **puts pressure on Grad College** to cater to a huge group with a wide range of needs and interests, and diminishes the opportunity for PG students to **engage with college identity**.

I will introduce a **college affiliation program for PG students**, which will allow them to retain their Grad College membership while also having access to the social aspects of UG colleges, including **socials and college sports**.

- PG students progressing at LU can **maintain ties with their UG college**.
- Incoming PG students will be able to **choose an affiliate college**.
- College JCRs will be encouraged to have a **dedicated PGM officer** on their exec.
- Additionally, Grad college events will be **opened up to mature students** who may feel out of place at UG events.

There is a lot of work to be done to improve the **visibility, representation, and treatment** of

PGM students within LUSU. I hope that with my knowledge and experience of working within LUSU and student groups, I can help to build a **strong and vocal community of PGM students** within Lancaster University.

You can follow my campaign at @MollyForPGMOfficer on Instagram!