

Postgraduate Board

Candidate Manifestos

What is the Postgraduate Board

The Postgraduate Board are the elected representative body for all members of the Graduate College, including students who live off campus. The Board holds open forums each term for all PGR and PGT students to discuss issues affecting their study and time at Lancaster University.

Members of Graduate college elect members of the board in week two of Michaelmas term.

If you have any questions about these by-elections, feel free to contact the Elections Team at lusu.elections@lancaster.ac.uk

Voting

We use the single transferrable voting method (STV). This means that at least a majority of voters (over 50%) must prefer a candidate before they can win. For voters, it means that you don't just vote for your favourite candidate, but you can also let us know who is your second favourite, third favourite, and so on.

- Log in to lancastersu.co.uk/vote with your university login details.
- Vote by ranking your preferences: 1 indicates your preferred candidate, 2 your second, and so on. Rank as many or as few candidates as you choose, or none at all.
- Candidates need over 50% of the vote to win. If no one achieves this the first time around, then the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their votes are redistributed to the other candidates.
- This process continues until, by gaining the later preferences of voters, a candidate exceeds the 50% required and is declared the winner.

What if I don't like any of the candidates?

You can vote for RON - Re-Open Nominations.

If RON is the most popular candidate for a position, nobody is elected into that role and the union will open nominations again in the next available election period.

If any student member is interested in formally running a RON campaign for the elections they will need to register their campaign with the Students' Union.

This should be done by contacting elections@lancastersu.co.uk

Can I report candidate misconduct or a breach of the election rules?

Yes. If you are unhappy with a candidate's conduct you can mail elections at elections@lancastersu.co.uk

Position: Postgraduate Board Chair

Candidate:
Emma Gardiner



Manifesto:

Hi my name is Emma Gardiner.

I have just finished my masters in Biomedicine and am going on to complete my PhD in Virology. I have been the chair of the PG Board for the last 5 months and have loved it! Previous to this i was the Welfare officer.

My visions for the next year are to bring big changes to graduate college. A focus of mine is to contribute more to student engagement and ensure we have a community within graduate college. There are so many students from different backgrounds, therefore events for the next year will focus on us all coming together to meet each other.

Welfare is also a big issue to me. With everything that has happened the last few months, i want to ensure that every student knows the support mechanisms we have in place and they are never on their own. With this in mind i will be holding bi-weekly teams conversations for students to get to know other students that arent in their households or on their course.

There will also be a set of regular events for all students to participate in.

Please vote for me, to see a better future for graduate college!

Position: Academic Officer

Candidate:
Ritika Arora



Manifesto:

Hello,

My name is Ritika Arora and I'm often referred to as 'People's Person' by my colleagues and friends. I'm writing this manifesto to nominate myself for the position of "Academic Secretary" as I've always been an activist all my life who's interested in raising the concerns and voices of everyone around.

I have an overall experience of 6 years which includes a 3-year stint in a leadership role. I'm confident in handling conflicts, issues, problems and most importantly I'm good at managing people. I've always interacted with people from different backgrounds and cultures and understand their perspectives towards everything in life. I believe these traits make me an ideal candidate for the post.

If elected I would aim to gather all of the issues and problems being faced by everyone on the campus and put it to the management. I strongly believe that problem solving is more about understanding the problem and less about making it an issue. Anything and everything can be resolved if contested in a rational way.

Also, I would like to create a platform wherein people can easily raise their concerns and other people can give their notion about the same. Transparency and good communication are the two strong pillars of any good governance.

Finally, one issue that I have noted down recently is the sponsorship opportunities being available to a very few of the students. I would like to raise this concern to the management and see what best could be done in the interest of the students.

I think these aims will have a positive impact on everyone because we all are here to learn, make friends, study, and finally make something of ourselves once we pass out from this prestigious institution.

Thanks a lot for reading my manifesto and feel free to get in contact with me to ask me any questions.

Position: Academic Officer

Candidate:
Sophie Marsland



Manifesto:

Hi! My name is Sophie and I am completing a PhD in Education and Social Justice. I am really interested in representing you on the PG Board as your academic officer.

I have always believed in the power of strong student representation. During my previous studies I was awarded Student Rep of the year, due to my willingness to support my peers and push for change. Last academic year I was on the PG Board as well as being an academic rep so I truly believe I have the skills to represent you and ensure your voices are heard.

I am a qualified teacher and my studies are also within Education so this is an area that I am particularly passionate about. Over lockdown I attended Grad College Management meetings to represent students and I look forward to building on these foundations and representing you and your academic needs to the best of my ability.

I am aware that this academic year is very different to anything else we have ever experienced. There will be struggles in using different learning techniques and perhaps technologies to aid our studies but I assure you I will strive to be the bridge, from students to the college, to allow open and honest discussions to ensure that everyone has the best possible learning experience.

I am approachable, friendly and easy to reach and I believe I would be an excellent candidate to be your academic officer. I have a lot of ideas for initiatives I would like to introduce, including offering a place for students to discuss their studies, perhaps present their research but also work together to ensure that Graduate College is a safe have and an invaluable resource during your studies this academic year.

It would be an honour to represent you this academic year and I look forward to rising to the challenge as well as exceeding your expectations. Many thanks for considering my manifesto and I look forward to getting to know you all to work together to create a positive learning community.

Position: Board Member without Portfolio

Candidate:
Jude Rowley



Manifesto:

I believe our priority for the next academic year should be working towards building an active and engaged PG Board. Most importantly, the Board should be an active campaigning force for student interests and a hub of student activism, mirroring the more radical students unions of the 1970s and 80s.

We should be supporting student-led campaigns like the ACORN Student Rent Strike and the LULC COVID Student Support Network, both of which I have been proud to be involved in.

On the PG Board, one of my priorities would be building closer ties with Lancaster UCU, in times when working conditions are under threat. Many Grad College members (myself included) are also UCU members and we should be standing with them in their fight for fair pay, better working conditions, and equality in the workplace.

The BLM movement has also shown us the importance of tackling racism in every space, and I think it's hugely important that the PG Board does everything it can to do this. As the General Secretary of the Why is My Curriculum White? Campaign, I am already involved in decolonisation initiatives at the University, and I would like to work towards ensuring Grad College can engage in similar initiatives.

For questions and queries, please email j.d.rowley@lancaster.ac.uk and I will get back to you.