

Women+ Part Time Officer By-election

Candidate Manifestos

What is the Womens+ Students' Officer

The Women+ Students' Officer is the Part Time Officer responsible for championing women's rights, leading on women's campaigns, and leading the awareness of women's issues on campus. They chair Women+ forums, attend the Executive Committee as an ex-officio member, and attend NUS Women's Conference.

The Women+ Students' Officer must self-define as a woman or non-binary, in order to be eligible to hold office.

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

Candidate:
Chandni Mistry



Manifesto:

Being a woman, a person of BAME and a medical student it has come to my attention the significant importance of having a Womens+ officer within university as a pillar of support.

Having a greater understanding of how the role also influences the generation, I feel like I am well placed to be able to appeal to a wide range of audiences through my very personal accounts of mentoring which include numerous charitable endeavours such as providing voluntary services to various students on dealing with stress to those who are struggling with mental health.

Whilst it is very important to address emotional aspects related to the pandemic, as a medical student I am uniquely placed in a position to thoroughly appreciate and understand the medical science behind the virus in addition to promoting evidence based practice.

Therefore I believe the role will allow me to make a holistic approach to the pandemic with the aim of providing support In a non-judgemental environment.

Best wishes,

Chandni mistry

Candidate:
Fay Whittam



Manifesto:

Hi, my name is Fay, I am a 2nd year Law student and I have just served as the interim Women+ Officer. I was elected to fulfil the role until this election, and after getting a taste of the work PTOs and the Women+ forum do, I want to continue in this role. In the short time I have been in this position, I have had an inside perspective into the university and it has insighted further my passion to fight for equality of any member of the women plus community. Through my own experience and through the stories of others, the university has to change.

I have worked with the EmpowHER project as a mentor to encourage young women in creating activities that benefit their local community. This has allowed me to develop my ability to work with those who are afraid to speak out. In return, many of them have developed a more confident, empowered personality and can work together in groups to fight inequalities facing women+ groups. I have recently applied to become an ambassador of the project.

My aims may seem aspirational to some, but I consider myself to be hard working and dedicated to this role. Therefore, if I was elected I would...

- Begin the process of changing the university investigation system of sexual assault survivors and improve support for victims. The current system in place is poor and traumatic, victims are reluctant to come forward and are met with a severe lack of support by the university when they do. I have already begun the work in amending this system. If I am re-elected at Women+ officer, I will continue my involvement to ensure the university can effectively handle sexual assault cases in a more effective, supportive and less traumatising way. I have, from my own experience, and in speaking to others, seen how slow and painful the system can be. I want survivors to come forward and share their story, rather than be too fearful of speaking out. In my efforts to amend this system, I will work alongside with Lancaster Survivors and VP Welfare to guarantee help for victims of assault.

- Introduction of support groups for assault survivors, with mixed and women+ exclusive groups to ensure there is no re-traumatisation for victims.

- Strive to work alongside the charity Good Night Out in order to ascertain safer nightlife for university students and the wider community. This would allow for staff working at The Sugarhouse and FGH Security (bouncers at sugar) so they can understand more clearly how to respond and prevent sexual assault or harassment in nightclubs and bars. This would equally apply to campus bar staff and eventually Glow nightclub.

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

- Finalise and publish my campaign based upon the Unisafe app, available on iLancaster, to encourage reporting of sexual assault on campus. This will encourage an easy access way of reporting as victims do not need to speak to porters or staff members which may traumatised and force the victim to tell their story to an unnecessary amount of authority figures.
- Continue the campaigns I have begun to set into motion. The cross-forum intersectional campaign, "Everyday Microaggressions" is a huge campaign which has been worked incredibly hard on to create. I want to see this campaign put into motion and continue the amazing work it will achieve.
- Continue working alongside VP Sport and VP Welfare to get more women and non-binary people into sport, namely, cycling. Mixed groups can often be intimidating and off-putting.
- Work on gaining wider education for students on consent.

Candidate:
Iza Shah



Manifesto:

It would be an honour to run for Woman's officer. Representing the academic interests of students would be incredibly rewarding aspect of this role and I vow to make positive changes for all. I believe I am an approachable and friendly individual who will allow other students to openly address their concerns and discuss any changes they would like to see within the university.

I can further utilise my interpersonal skills in order to build and maintain relationships with students and network with other representatives.

I believe I hold qualities required to be very successful in this role as I am organised and dedicated. My time management skills will allow me to easily balance my studies as well as my responsibilities towards being the women's officer. As an accounting and finance student, I realise, as a woman, I need to fight harder to ensure I have a place in this industry, but I am motivated to beat all odds. I would like to provide a platform for women to uplift and support each other and, if given the chance, I would dedicate time in making sure every voice is heard.

Creating a safe space for women is very important to me as I have three sisters who have been my support system through everything.

Now I want to help other women and be their voice raising issues affecting us all.

No issue is too big or too small, I'm here to make sure every single woman here at Lancaster is heard and helped.

It is unfortunate discrimination is something that most will face at some point in their life, whether this is gender/age/racial, but we have to stand together and encourage each other to speak up in order to pave the path for change.

I am here to be the voice of change and the voice to help.

Help me to help you make positive changes for all women now and tomorrow.

Thank you very much.

Candidate:
Lydia Moodycliffe
and
Charli Clement
(Job Share)



Manifesto:

Hello! We are co-running for Women+ Officer as we feel this is a large role best tackled together. Between us, we share a large amount of responsibility and already take on a lot of work within the forum, including running some of the forum's largest campaigns.

We already work closely with our own forum's intersectional officers to make sure all women+ are represented within our work, and ensure the forum is safe and accessible. We would also continue to connect with other forums and their PTOs, to continue efforts for students who identify as part of multiple forums. We particularly feel it is important to work with our Trans+ officers to make sure their experiences are covered, and will persist with advocating for trans/non-binary forum members through the **They Matter** campaign. We will also collaborate with VP Welfare to ensure our work is supported by the Union.

We have the skills necessary for the role, having an interest in policy and detail, whilst also being able to lead the forum and engage in **publicity and socials**. We are proficient in making **graphics**, using **social media** and ensuring it is **accessible**, shown throughout our current work on Instagram and Facebook, and will continue to work with our exec on these.

Something we believe is important on campus is addressing **period poverty**, particularly throughout Covid-19, getting the necessary supplies to those who need them during self-isolation.

An important event we are passionate to continue is "**Reclaim the Night**." This was a fully scheduled event last year until it was cancelled because of Covid-19, so we are excited to see it succeed. We do this in **Women's History Month** in March where we put on a full month of events. Last year was the first year that the Students Union celebrated Women's History Month and we are excited to continue the legacy we started! This is the 100th year of **International Women's Day** so we plan to improve it even further, even if Covid restrictions are still enforced.

Lydia

In my year of experience as Women+ last year, I learnt a lot about the issues surrounding women+ on campus. I saw the gaps of activism that needed filling within the Student's Union. The Women+ Committee has achieved a lot over the past few months to help fill these gaps but we still think we can go further. Charli and I between us have a lot of experience to run and organise the forum while ensuring everything we do is inclusive and accessible.

I started the They Matter Campaign along with the LGBTQ+ PTO last year, which introduced the normalisation of pronouns on campus and from this we received amazing feedback about its merits. This is a campaign that has been put at risk this year due to financial cuts and I am

invested in ensuring its running is continued. After I left my role in May, I have since developed the **Gender-Neutral Toilets map** and have met with people from the University to consider how this campaign can be expanded further to help trans and non-binary students.

Alongside many of last year's officers, many of my campaigns and plans for last year were cancelled due to Covid-19. This included a planned out cross-forum **body image campaign** which will be introduced in the future. I also am keen to continue the **She Should Run** campaign I rebranded last year and work with College presidents to ensure more women+ run for election.

Charli

As a disabled, LGBTQ+ woman I'm extremely invested in pushing for intersectionality and accessibility not only within the forum but the Union and university as a whole. As the current Disability Campaigns Officer for the forum, I started my "**Changing Perceptions: Menstrual Health**" campaign, aiming to educate women+ on different conditions, inclusive language and how menstrual health impacts daily living. I have also produced content on disabled women+ and activists, vaginismus awareness and rare condition awareness.

"Changing Perceptions" is currently a series on menstrual health, but I have intentions to broaden this into other topics throughout the year such as **autism and neurodivergence** and it's underdiagnosis and lack of awareness and support that occurs especially for women+.

In my activism outside of university, I **advocate for marginalised/liberation groups** through digital activism and being a national Ambassador for the #iwill campaign for youth social action. I have attended and talked at multiple conferences about my lived experience, as well as writing blogs and articles for the Metro, Student Minds and Scope.