

solent
students'
union

SOLENT ● ● ● ●
BY-ELECTIONS

GROW ● YOUR ● UNION

CANDIDATE
BOOKLET

INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE SOLENT BY-ELECTIONS?

Solent By-Elections is your opportunity to decide who is going to represent you over the 2025-2026 academic year! You will be given the chance to vote for candidates who you think would best shape and improve your student experience.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER OFFICER?

A Volunteer Officer is an elected student who represents the views of student groups, while continuing with their studies. Volunteer Officers sit on Student Council, work with the community and run campaigns for the student body at Solent University to raise issues on behalf of others in their student group.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL REP?

A University School Representative acts as an ambassador and advocate for their school within the larger university community. They promote the school's concerns and priorities through communication, events, and collaboration with key members of staff.

In this booklet, you will find details of all the candidates standing in our Solent By-Elections, what they want to work on and how they will represent you as students. All of these candidates will be looking to secure your vote, so please consider them all carefully, and once you have made your decision, you can vote by going to solentsu.co.uk/elections.

Thank you for participating in our Solent By-Elections, and we hope you want to get involved and run for a position in the future! Remember: your vote counts!

Hannah Piatkiewicz

Deputy Returning Officer

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VOTING FOR R.O.N

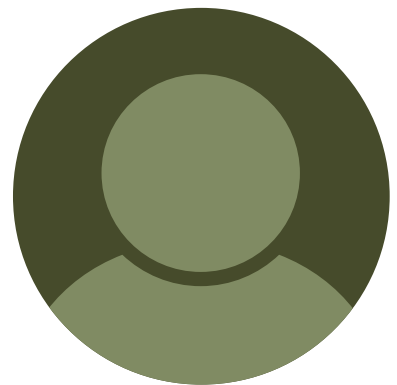
RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS

RON is a candidate in all posts.

If you're not happy with any of the candidates running in the election for a specific role, you can vote to re-open nominations aka R.O.N.

This is you saying you want a new election with new candidates.

If R.O.N gets the highest number of votes then this is exactly what will happen.





VOLUNTEER OFFICER CANDIDATES

CHAIR OF STUDENT COUNCIL CANDIDATE:



LIYA THOMAS

Vote Liya for Chair of Student Council

Let's make your voice count.

My Vision

I'm running for Chair of Student Council because I believe our voices are strongest when we use them together. The Council should be open, approachable, and focused on real action — not just the meetings and minutes. If elected, I'll make sure your ideas and concerns shape the decisions that affect our student experience.

What I'll Do

Make the Council More Accessible

- i. Break down barriers so everyone understands what the Student Council does and how to get involved.
- ii. Share clear, easy-to-read updates after every meeting — so no more guessing what's going on.
- iii. Create simple ways for students to submit feedback or ideas directly to the Council.

Run Fair, Engaging Meetings

- i. Chair meetings that are open, inclusive, and actually productive — every rep gets the chance to speak and be heard.
- ii. Keep discussions respectful, focused, and in line with our bye-laws so everyone's treated fairly.
- iii. Make meetings more engaging, not intimidating — we'll keep things structured and welcoming.

Strengthen Communication and Collaboration

- i. Work closely with the Student Voice Coordinator to make sure the Council and the wider student body are always connected.

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- ii. Build stronger relationships between academic reps, societies, and liberation groups so every voice matters equally.
- iii. Hold regular “Chair’s Chats” where any student can drop by, share ideas, and see what the Council’s working on.

Empower Student Leaders

- i. Give all reps the tools, support, and confidence they need to represent you effectively.
- ii. Recognise and celebrate the amazing work done by students who speak up for change.
- iii. Encourage teamwork and a positive, inclusive atmosphere across the whole Council.

Why Me?

I’m passionate about making sure everyone feels heard — not just the loudest voices in the room. I’m organised, fair, and I have not afraid to ask tough questions when it means getting results for students. I want to be a Chair who listens, communicates, and delivers.

Vote Liya for Chair of Student Council — because your voice deserves to make a difference!



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ABMO STUDENTS' OFFICER CANDIDATE



ARZIA ABBASI

VOTE FOR ARZIA for ABMO OFFICER

1. Promoting Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
2. To ensure every student feels heard, accepted & validated, as a valued member of the Solent Community.

Raising Awareness of cultural differences: hosting multicultural events, to enable all students to learn about, diverse cultures; Campaigning for better access to Higher Education, for students from Ethnic Minority & marginalised communities, currently struggling with cultural norms & societal barriers.

Every Student Matters

Every Voice Matters



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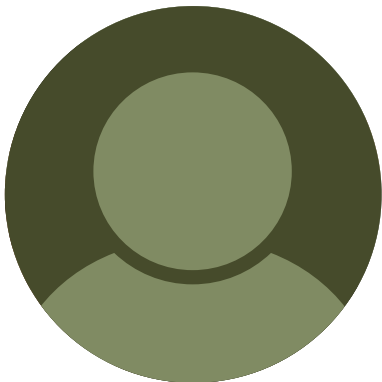
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ACTIVITIES AND SOCIETIES OFFICER CANDIDATE



ALEX OLAGUNJU



**MUHAMMAD USAMA
ZAHID**



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HOUSING STUDENTS' OFFICER



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LGBT+ STUDENTS' OFFICER



Ollie Owen-Jones

Hello, my name is Ollie Owen-Jones and I identify as a gay man. I want to make a difference in the community and support people that feel misunderstood in their identity. I know what that feels like, and I'm proud to represent myself as a member of the LGBT community. I would appreciate it if I was selected to be the LGBT student Officer) and I am more than happy to support students that may feel like they don't belong because of who they are. You're powerful and colourful just the way you're and I want to hold the torch for you, because the LGBT community shines so bright and we're just as important as anyone else in this world.



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TRANS STUDENTS OFFICER CANDIDATE



MAPLE DAVIES

Hi, I'm Maple a 2nd year computing student applying for the role of Trans Students' Officer and if elected I would like to advocate for:

- More unisex toilets
- Creating a document about queerness and transitioning
- Update the SU and uni's website so that information for queer students is relevant and accurate
- Making current university policies and support services relevant to trans/queer students easier to find

During my time as Treasurer of the Solent Queer Society I have heard these issues come up before during society sessions and I believe achieving these goals would help improve the university experience for Trans and queer students.

The most important skill to me for this role is communication and as a member, and treasurer, of SQS I will be directly speaking to many queer students every week who will be able to voice their concerns to me, I would also like to set up an email account so that students can email me if they don't have the time to find me in person.



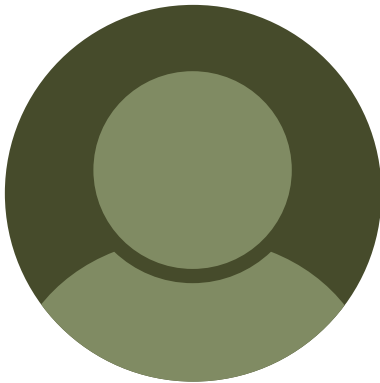
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POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' OFFICER CANDIDATE



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SCHOOL REP CANDIDATES

SCHOOL REP HEALTH AND SPORT CANDIDATE



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SCHOOL REP BUSINESS, LAW AND SOCIETY CANDIDATE



CAITLIN STEEGE

Why I'm Standing

I'm running to be your Law and Business Student Union Representative because I believe our voices deserve to be heard clearly, confidently, and consistently. University life can be challenging enough without feeling like you're navigating it alone. I want to act as a bridge between students and the university—making sure our concerns, ideas, and ambitions are not only listened to, but acted upon.

Like you, I'm proud to be part of Solent University, and I want to build on our underdog status to show people that we're a force to be reckoned with.

My Priorities

Advocacy & Representation

I will be a strong advocate for students, ensuring your needs and perspectives are represented in every conversation with faculty and administration. Whether it's academic support, wellbeing, or opportunities for growth, I'll make sure our collective voice carries weight.

Competitions & Opportunities

There are multiple competitions and networking events occurring across the country, but we don't participate enough. I will work to organise team participation in law, society and business competitions, while also signposting solo contests for those who want to challenge themselves individually. These opportunities not only build skills but also raise our profile as a university and they have the added benefit of providing excellent networking opportunities.

Accessibility & Inclusion

As a mature student, a parent of two neurodivergent children, and someone who is both disabled and queer, I know first-hand how important it is that every student

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feels seen, supported, and valued. I will push for more inclusive practices, clearer communication, and resources that reflect the diversity of our student body.

Practical Support

I will create clear signposts to resources—whether academic, professional, or personal—so that no one has to waste time searching for the help they need. Transparency and accessibility will be at the heart of everything I do.

Why Me

My life experience has taught me resilience, organisation, and the importance of listening. I understand what it means to juggle competing demands, to fight for clarity, and to stand up for what's fair. These are the same skills I'll bring to representing you.

My Commitment

If elected, I will:

Be approachable and responsive to all students.

Act as a reliable go-between with the university.

Champion opportunities that showcase our talent.

Ensure inclusivity and accessibility remain central to our union's work.

Together, we can build a stronger, more connected, and more visible Law and Business community.

Vote Caitlin Steege for Law & Business Student Union Rep—because your voice matters.



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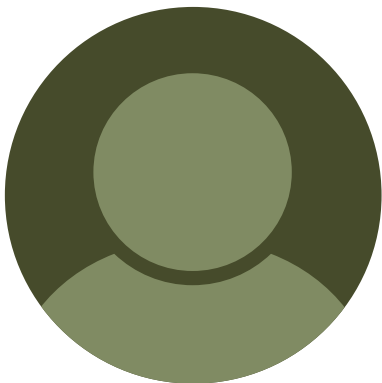
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SCHOOL REP TECHNOLOGY AND MARITIME INDUSTRIES CANDIDATE



MATTHIJS HEEREMA



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SCHOOL REP CREATIVE INDUSTRIES CANDIDATE



ALICE AINSWORTH

Hello! My name is Alice and I'm running to be your School of Creative Industries Representative.

Online presence is not discussed nearly enough for something so imperative for getting a job. That's why, if elected, my main focus would be on increasing the amount of speakers talking about LinkedIn and the admin side of being a professional creative.

If elected, I would also aim to host more events to showcase student work, creating opportunities to display it publicly and organize networking events alongside this. Additionally, I would advocate for an update in the equipment we are provided and access to a wider range of kit earlier on.

As the President of Solent Cinema and as a course rep I have begun to attempt to implement these changes I believe will help you as students enjoy your time at Solent and then step out into the wider creative world.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, if my values resonate with you remember to Vote Alice for School of Creative Industries Representative!!



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