



My campaigns, policy, and other work

My campaigns

<i>International student support (team)</i>	In Progress
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Students who come from different education system faces tremendous challenges when they come to our university. Identifying exactly where the loop holes are — why are the students facing so many barriers? What are those barriers? What are the existing services provided by the university and across other institutions to tackle some of common problems which the student faces..</p> <p>Identifying the problems:</p> <p>Each officer will be working individually on some of the issues identified by us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FEES REDUCTION:- International students pays such huge about of money when they come to UK. On the other hand the home students fees are capped. For Ex: I. For UG Home student; they pay 9000£ (capped) whereas an international students pay 14500£ yearly for the similar services university provides. II. For PG Home students pay 5000£ (capped) fees whereas International student pays thrice the amount i.e. 14500£. (the disparity between the fees is huge) <p>The question to think about here are the students getting the right and adequate support (worth the money they pay) at ARU.</p> <p>If not how why is the disparity happening?</p>	

What can we do to increase the support available to all students (being inclusive)

- 2. QUALITY OF SERVICES:-** International students have being provided with variety of services to support their academics throughout their time at ARU for ex: student advice, employability service, I Centre, money advice, health, and wellbeing support. (In theory even after these services being in place why are the highest number of dropouts of students in each academic year are International students?)

This is a widespread problem all International Institutions are facing across UK. Are the international students coming in the hopes of getting right education (paying huge amount of fees) and left just like that to find a way for themselves?

What can we do to resolve the barriers students are facing here, how can we support them truly ? Quality of rightful education is every student's right. Students come from across the globe at ARU, keeping in mind the education system is different in all countries. It's no doubt students feel differently when students come at ARU.

Finding out the grassroot level of problems and finding a rightful solution (support) in place is what should be done.

- 3. LANGUAGE BARRIER:** One of the main identified barrier students are facing is the language barrier which is causing a lot of turmoil on the international students.

(to state few : lack of communication from the students are leading them to misunderstand the lectures, leading to academic misconduct and plagiarism, discontinuations, being expelled)

Change in behavior in students and psychological well -being. (being shy in communicating with staffs and other students)

Coming to a diverse university like ours with students studying and organizing their workload differently, students should be able to learn from each other. Research have shown students learn better in an informal atmosphere much better than a more formal front (which ARU tries to provide)

Then why are the international students not able to grow academically in that environment?

Students when they apply for ARU they have an interview before the university issues CAS form, is it enough to understand the level of English a student has! The other question is

what are the support available for students who have passed the spoken English interview but need support to improve their academic writing for assignments.

(We don't know at this stage whether all the students are able to follow the lectures conducted).

4. **NUS:** As we mentioned before, this problem is not only pertaining to ARU students this is a common problem across UK. Finding right support from the NUS might bring a clearer perspective on the things we can implement practically.

Community Development sessions

In progress

We as an institution take a lot of pride in advertising about being very inclusive in our diversity (diversity in gender, demographics, orientation). Everything sounds good in theory but when it comes to the practicality of it what we face is – discrimination, gaslighting, microaggressions, abuses (sexual, racial, physical). Why are things like this still happening in this century.

Students should be coming together and learning in harmony. Although we cannot sometimes control a lot of people's view and perspective, what we can do is to help each other grow. Is it not that the main purpose of education!

With students having deep rooted misogyny, coming to a diverse environment like our university, it creates a lot of fiction amongst the student population.

It affects the mental wellbeing of a student. With implementing an Equality Diversity and inclusivity training which is spread throughout their time at ARU (Anglia Ruskin University) gives every student's an opportunity to educate themselves and being more open minded and progressive. Unlearning some of the unconscious biases as an institution and individually is so important. Making all students feels valued and respected. As an institution we should be focusing on making students intolerant towards injustices.

Talking from the staff's perspective are all staffs trained to handle some the complaints and cases students bring up to them!

Things which are in action:

Creating introductory training for all the new students when they join ARU. Those training sessions to be called as community building sessions which will be inclusive of CONSENT, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, LIBERATION GROUPS TRAINING, RACISM IN HE.

In discussions with Dr. Apurba (Deputy Dean AHSS), Katie Potts (EDI manager) at university to work on implementing these sessions into the curriculum.

So far, the colleague from the university agrees with the topic of sessions.

1. Talking about consent and sexual abuse: To collaborate with our wellbeing services and our Independent sexual violence advisor on this. University is quite certain they want to implement this as soon as possible.

2. Microaggressions/ racism: Plan is to work with our race equality advocates to deliver the sessions, allowing students to get more engaged in the open conversation (student to student interactions to be more productive.)
3. Mental health wellbeing and suicide prevention: with the recent case of a loss of a student due to c

Staff response (Team)

Completed/Ongoing

From talking to different students, we received information saying the staff vs student's response time was more and it caused a lot of delay in getting a right response from the university. For now, Faculty of B&L have 3 working days as a response time. Faculty of AHSS has recently implemented to reduce their response time from 5 working days to 3 days. (We were successful) Faculty of HEMS and S&E we will be lobbying the university in future to reduce their response time.

Other relevant updates

Projects, Ideas and Policies:

1. I am currently working on drafting a SU good speech policy which will be our own independent work keeping in mind all our student voices.

We are working closely with the officials at the University and the city council members to provide a safer atmosphere for the students especially when they go to clubs. With the recent events of spiking drinks on high rise we are trying to make sure all our students are heard, and they feel safe.

2. Our SU this year to working closely with Camb SU on Reclaim the Night this year (11/03) and we are hoping to still get more people to act as stewards for the march! All training is provided by Camb SU and there is an FAQ doc if anyone wants to know a little more note as the entire event is for female-identifying and non-binary people that only those who identify as female and non-binary can be stewards, but allyship and spreading the word is extremely appreciated!

Sign-up form - <https://forms.gle/WgnR62CKpcdnsfqG8>

FAQs - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a1d7J6O7eaXArkr85-YqGpB5obq4jvqr19ISd-dggt0/edit#>

3. *We are continuing our work with local city council to make it safer for students during the night. We will be doing internal awareness campaigns regarding safer nights.*

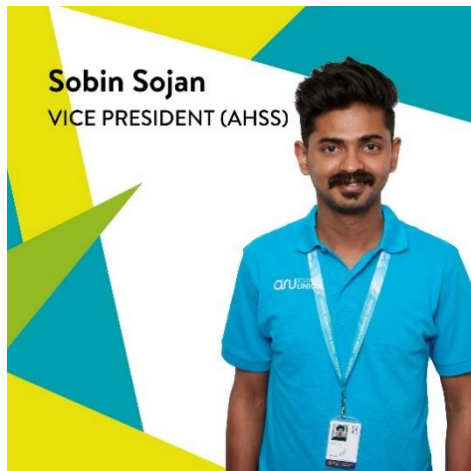
Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:

Senate Committee

Non-Senate committee

Students' Union Committees

Working groups (and others)



My campaigns, policy, and other work

My campaigns:

Things I have been working on	
<p data-bbox="197 1099 521 1144">Date: 16/02/2022</p> <ol data-bbox="252 1256 1401 1928" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="252 1256 1401 1458">1. I have been helping students to solve individual and collective issues by sign posting and communicating it with the right staff member.<li data-bbox="252 1491 1401 1693">2. We have created a faculty forum where we have all the course reps and faculty rep, where we can potentially share and discuss the issues or concerns.<li data-bbox="252 1727 1401 1928">3. I work closely with the faculty to give them feedbacks about how students feel and what can we do to help improve their experiences.	

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Other relevant updates:

Team Campaign:

Date: 16/02/2022

We all officers are working on maximising support to international students' and make them aware about the facilities which are already available. I am also looking into the fees structure. My responsibilities are to compare the fees structure of both International and home students in different courses within our university and comparing it with other better ranked Universities.

Other relevant Campaigns:

1. I am planning to work closely with international office for the better promotion of Students Union beyond induction as all these students come from different parts of the world and may not necessarily be aware about the support, they can get from the Students Union.
2. I am looking forward to working with International Rep from Chelmsford to draw the attention of our students regarding the Student Union events and different ways by which we increase their participation in the union collective events.

Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:

Senate Committees:

Senate

Non-Senate committee:

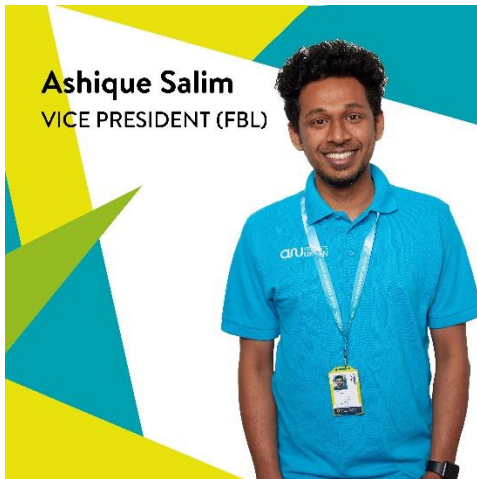
Student Success Steering Groups

Race Equality Steering Groups

Learning Enhancement Project
Research and Innovation Committee
AHSS Faculty Education Committee
AHSS Students Union Representatives

Students' Union Committees:
University and Students Union
Students Union Staff
SU Executive Committee
ARU Students' Union Board of Trustees

Working groups (and others)



My campaigns, policy and other work

My campaigns

Access to cheaper accommodation	In Progress
<p>Reason behind to take this as my campaign because students are taking accommodation from private proprietors and they were wasting their international exposure If our accommodation is feasible for everyone, we can accommodate more students and it can be seen more focused on their studies and accommodating various countries students makes a cultural diversity compared to other universities Cambridge is one of the most expensive cities in U</p> <p>For this I have presented my campaign in Accommodation strategy group as well as planning to make 1 to 1 meeting with the estate and facilities team, and I have been gathering feedback from students planning to make focus groups</p> <p>Going through the accommodation campaign which run on last year</p> <p>Meeting students in person for collecting students feedback</p> <p>Planning to reduce the contract period to make convenient for students</p> <p>Met Andy Lefley and Paul Harris to discuss the idea of flexible contracts</p> <p>Represented student union in accommodation strategy group making arrangements for January arrivals</p>	
Increase the number of placements	In Progress

The main motivation behind this is students are opting placement course because of the working experience but it's hard to find an internship for business and law students, If they got an internship they can be more easy to find out a job So after their graduation if we could implement a placement that would be really helpful for the students as well as that would give them a new experience for their future

For this I have been planning to work with student service, and also made conversation with placement and employability manager, For this I have presented my campaign in FPT as well as FEC meeting

We created a faculty forum for collecting feedback from students

Making awareness for students to apply for placement through University

Made Survey and feedback from students regarding placement issues

Spoke with student success manager matters arising in placement late submission

Made frequent conversation with student engagement manager

enquired with Nicola and Abi about having early support for students who want to have the second placement year to find a placement and complete the applications processes in time

Mental health awareness and counselling session,

On Hold

After reading an article, from personal life experience from students issue they all are isolate from last year onwards most of them are stressful and it makes lot of impact on their life cycle as well and that article stats shows variation in using alcohol and drugs this is mainly because of lack of engagement, nowadays we are outsourcing a good mentor can make a lot of difference

Other relevant updates

Projects, Ideas and Policies:

Team Campaign -: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

As a team we are decided to do a campaign on International Student Support and in this we are planning to do:

- * Fees Reduction
- * Improve the Services
- * Language Barrier
- * NUS (National Union of Students)

Completed on working on facilities and Services Taking 6 university as sample

Getting contact with other SU

Now we are working on Fee structure

Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:

Senate Committees:

Non-Senate committee

Students' Union Committees

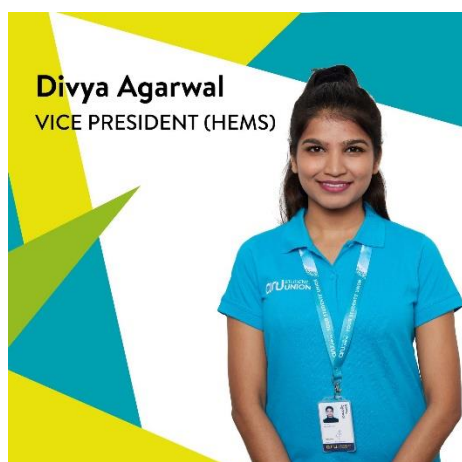
University and Students Union

Students Union Staff

SU Executive Committee

ARU Students' Union Board of Trustees

Working groups (and others)



Divya Agarwal
VICE PRESIDENT (HEMS)

My campaigns, policy and other work

My campaigns

MENS WELLBEING AND LANGUAGE BARRIER IN WELL BEING	In Progress
<p><i>Updated: 16/09/2021</i></p> <p>How we can spread Awareness about men's wellbeing, and language barrier in Wellbeing as ARU being the diverse university students first language is not English so I would like to have counsellors who speak other languages not only limited to English language.</p> <p>I have spoken to David Walmsley - Deputy Director, Student & Library Services - we are working on it.</p>	

FOOD BANK	Completed
<p><i>Updated: 20/09/2021</i></p> <p>A place where stocks of food, typically basic provisions and non-perishable items, are supplied free of charge to students or staff in need. (Helping each other out)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food insecurity on campus has become a serious problem. There are far too many students who find themselves wondering how to get their next meal or try to save £1. <p>Food banks on campus where students and staff can donate food in the food banks which will be located in SU premises both in Chelmsford and Cambridge. These food banks will also be available for those who need it to come and take from the food bank, so they are getting the support they need. At the most recent exec committee my budget request was approved so now I can start purchasing all the items needed to set this up!</p>	

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PERIOD POVERTY	Completed
<i>Updated: 20/09/2021</i> Libby Homer, Director of Student and Library Services have spoken to Andy, the Director of Estates and he has asked his team to change the dispensers we have in ladies and neutral toilets to be free. He is also costing up the dispensers for other toilets. Will continue to track this to make sure it stays on course. Waiting for the timeline.	

Other relevant updates

<p><i>Projects, Ideas and Policies:</i> <i>Updated: 10-10-2021</i> HEMS Newsletter – In Progress I had a word with faculty reps, and they have shown their interest in it. After I finish preparing a draft, I will present it in Faculty partnership team meeting to approve it.</p> <p>Team campaign – International fee reduction – in progress As part of the team looking at international student support, I will be looking at language barriers that may impact the students in their day-to-day experiences of being a student and how we as an SU and the university can better support them.</p>
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<p><i>Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:</i></p> <p>Senate Committees: Senate</p> <p>Non-Senate committee</p> <p>Students' Union Committees</p> <p>Working groups (and others)</p>
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My campaigns, policy and other work

My campaigns

In-Campus Recruitment	In Progress
<p>The main motivation behind this is the students from Engineering department doesn't have a particular placement year as the Business students do , So after their graduation if we could implement a placement recruitment or as a job fair that would be really helpful for the students as well as that would give them a new experience for their future .</p> <p>I am planning to conduct seminars and webinars for students where they can meet successful entrepreneurs and imbibe their knowledge and work experiences directly from them.</p> <p>For this I have presented my campaign in FPT as well as FEC meeting and they have approved my idea , and I am having a one to one with Amanda Crouch (Head of Employability) , I have been gathering feedback from students and I have received positive responses.</p> <p>According to the Employability team they are conducting a Employability Seminar on mid of March for the Science and Engineering Students ,in which most of Companies will be attending the Seminar and hopefully will recruit some of our students.</p>	

Introducing Different Cuisines to our ARU café -

ON HOLD

First, I would like to say that our café is vast and spacious, being a student myself, I hang out at the cafe whenever I get free time with my friends. I always used to think as this university accommodates students from all over the world, it would be nice to introduce some of the world's cuisines where everyone would be able to appreciate and enjoy the cuisine of their colleagues and friends.

For this idea I had a chat with Joe who looks after the cafeterias, and they are in the middle of recruiting new chef and it is in Progress.

This is on Hold since there is confusion going on with 92 Bar in Chelmsford.

24*7 Counselling Sessions

On Hold

The idea of introducing an on-call service which is available 24*7 for the students where they can raise their concerns and the problems, they are facing day to day. This would be a good platform for the students to share the troubles they are facing, and appropriate measures can be taken if the reasons are valid and truthful.

My idea was introducing the psychology graduates to this area and if they could do some counselling sessions for students that would be helpful because we can cut down the time for getting the appointments and we could do it immediately.

But this is On Hold because when I discussed the idea in FPT, most of faculties were not promoting it because of its confidentiality.

So, it's still in On Hold.

Other relevant updates

Projects, Ideas and Policies:

Team Campaign -: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

As a team we are decided to do a campaign on International Student Support and in this we are planning to do:

- * Fees Reduction
- * Improve the Services
- * Language Barrier
- * NUS

And I am personally working on the international facilities providing by other universities which we have selected.

We have selected 6 Universities and we have collected all the services provided by them to the international students.

Still working on Fees Structures.

Staff Response Time -: The response time for all faculty is 5 days but AHSS and B&L has been reduced it to 3 days, FSE is in progress.

Updates from committees and meetings that I sit on:

Senate Committees:

Education Matters Committee

Research Degrees Committee

A&G Committee

F&R Committee

HR&EE Committee

Non-Senate committee

FPT

FEC

FSC

Students' Union Committees

University and Students Union

Students Union Staff

SU Executive Committee

ARU Students' Union Board of Trustees

Working groups (and others)

FACULTY REPS

Campaigns, projects and other work

AHSS Faculty Rep (Cambridge): Abbie Harper***Date Updated:*****Completed:**

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Things for the future:

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HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge): Lucy Barton***Date Updated: 10/03/2022*****Completed**

- Held 2 student drop-ins, 1 was unsuccessful but the 2nd one held with Ines was more successful and we got some useful feedback from the students that attended and worked on this feedback
- Continued to collect feedback from students
- Attended exec away day in Chelmsford

Things for the future:

- Continue to collect feedback from students
- Plan more drop-in sessions with Ines
- Started planning nursing and midwifery week (week of 09/05)
- Started thinking about how to help improve student's experience on placement and the fairness of placement allocation
- Attend my first group chat in 2 years of being faculty rep (don't even ask how this has happened hahaha)

HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge): Cal O'Connor***Date Updated:*****Completed:**

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Things for the future:

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HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford): Ines Da Silva Correia

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Wrote and completed the Newsletter with Divya's help who has been sent out
- Successful Movie Night with +20 HEMS Students coming
- Attended all the necessary meetings
- Contacted all the course reps in order to get any feedback if needed for FPTs

Things for the future:

- HEMS Drop-In on the 27th Jan to collect some feedback
- Continue attending meetings
- Think of further events with HEMS

HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford): Kirstin Green

Date Updated: 19th November

Completed:

- Has been elected to this position through the Bye election
- Completed Faculty rep training

Things for the future:

- Work with fellow Chelmsford Rep, Ines, to raise awareness of Faculty Rep role amongst students.
- Arrange a drop-in session with Course Reps to introduce ourselves and hear from the course reps the issues being raised with them by the students

HEMS Faculty Rep (Peterborough): Elle Rimmer

Date Updated:

Completed:

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Things for the future:

-

B&L Faculty Rep (Chelmsford): Wonda Grobbelaar

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Collect feedback about communication methods of ARU and how different culture groups interpret the message. What is the perceived message they receive?

Things for the future:

- Analyse the data and find the best practice for the university to communicate to different cultural groups.

B&L Faculty Rep (Cambridge): Abu Suresh

Date Updated:

Completed:

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Things for the future:

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S&E Faculty Rep (Cambridge): Sandrah Misbah

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Has been elected to this position through the Bye election

Things for the future:

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S&E Faculty Rep (Chelmsford): Ruime Azumara

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Has been elected to this position through the Bye election

Things for the future:

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CAMPAIGN REPS

Campaigns, projects and other work

BME Rep (Cambridge): Joshua Olasehinde

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Has been elected to this position through the Bye election

Things for the future:

BME Rep (Chelmsford): Olugbenga Oluwatominiyi

Date Updated: 20/10/2021

Completed:

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Things for the future:

- Is currently on placement but is looking to arrange a 1:1 with the coordinators to look at effective methods of engaging the student population
- Looking to also sort out and attend training to be able to utilise the equality networks system on the website

Disabled Students' Rep (Cambridge): Tiegan-Leigh Everitt

Date Updated: 11/11/21

Completed:

- Began work on equality network and accessibility society
- Helped resolve individual issues with students

Things for the future:

- Continuing work on equality network and accessibility society
- Raising awareness of the sunflower lanyard scheme and finding ways to promote it and make it more beneficial for students
- Support groups/awareness for neurodivergent students
- Review the accessibility audit and ensure the university makes the appropriate changes
- Working towards implementing training for staff in order to improve how they treat disabled students
- Working on improving access to services for undiagnosed students

Disabled Students' Rep (Chelmsford): Emma Wong

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Has been elected to this position through the Bye election
- Has booked in and completed training
- Instigated the creation of the ADHD peer support group facilitated but the disability team

Things for the future:

- Help to arrange support groups for students with disabilities.
- Make ARU's website more accessible for students with disabilities and more detailed support available for prospective students to view when deciding where to study.
- Attend groups and events relating to disability support and awareness.
- Work on a campaign for lanyards for students with disabilities to help indicate to other students and staff if they have a particular disability without the need for conversation. So, both students and staff have an awareness of their disability and can be supportive if the students have particular needs in classes and on campus. A "key" will also be made to understand the differences between the lanyards and what they mean.
- Working on a student guidebook to be sent to students, with descriptions of a range of disabilities and what they are, how they typically display (inclusive of how different they can be for each person) what support is available and where to access it.
- Awareness campaigns for neurodivergence's, in particular ADHD and ASD.
- **Make ARU as an educational facility aware that equality does not equal equity.**

International Rep (Cambridge): Robin Robert

Date Updated:

Completed:

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Things I want to do in the future:

-

International Rep (Chelmsford) : Akshay Kumbalath

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Interacted with many international students regarding the difficulties they face in the university and how to improve the facilities provided to them

Things I want to do in the future:

- Organize orientation classes/seminars which mainly focus on introducing the academic writing/presenting style of the assignments.
Many international students face difficulty in adapting to a new system when they join the University,
Although there are some inductions sessions that are given prior to the course, many students find it difficult to adapt to it.
- Encourage students to participate in the university events and join the different societies so that there is platform for students to interact and build a healthy relationship among their peers.
- Due to the covid restrictions on campus there is not much opportunities for the students to interact with each other and explore different cultures, so if we can arrange a program/event once in a month or once in two months, it will create a social platform for the students to interact and get an international exposure.

- I would also like to support Sobin in his campaign to reduce the tuition fee for the international students since the fee they are paying is almost twice the amount paid by the resident students.

LGBT+ Students' Rep (Cambridge): Kat Persaud

Date Updated:

Completed:

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Things I want to do in the future:

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LGBT+ Students' Rep (Chelmsford): Charlotte Fraser-Williams

Date Updated:

Completed:

-

Things I want to do in the future:

- Working on campaign for pronoun name-badges
- Plans for providing mandatory EDI training

Trans Rep (Cambridge): Sascha Wasilewska

Date Updated:

Completed:

- Has been elected to this position through the Bye election
- Has booked and completed training

Things for the future:

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Trans Rep (Chelmsford): Currently Vacant

Women's Rep (Cambridge): Chelsea-Marie Cochrane

Date Updated:

Completed:

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Things for the future:

- Currently working towards putting on self-defence classes for women at Anglia Ruskin
- Looking forward to working with the charity AVA to host various workshops for the women of ARU

Women's Rep (Chelmsford): Neethu Jose

Date Updated:

Completed:

-

Things for the future:

-

Mental Health Rep (Cambridge): Alina Clarke

Date Updated:

Completed:

-

Things I want to do in the future:

-

Mental Health Rep (Chelmsford): Maddison Taylor

Date Updated: 13 March 2022

Completed:

- In light of University Mental Health Day, I organised a mental health guest speaker event – John Hartson – to discuss addiction, resilience and mental health.
- Continued to signpost students to counselling and wellbeing services.

Things I want to do in the future:

- I would like to work with the counselling and wellbeing service/with the peer mentors to create day in the life videos of counsellors and what a counselling session might look like at ARU.