

Guide to Students' Union Elections 2023

Vote by Thursday 23 March
eastlondonsu.com

**Students'
Union
Elections
2023**



What are Students' Union elections?

Every year we hold Students' Union elections which give you the chance to choose who will represent you.

The elected students become either student officers or school representatives. Once elected, they will act as your voice. They can drive real change to help improve your university experience, which is why it is important you vote.

Why your vote matters

Education is not cheap. It is one of the biggest investments you will make for your future. Voting means you get to choose who is working on your behalf so that you get the best out of your student experience.

Voting is one of the best ways to make sure your voice is heard loud and clear by the University.

The people you choose can create positive changes that benefit everyone. By voting you will decide what changes matter to you.

You can log in to the Students' Union website and cast your vote.

Key dates

Candidate question and answer sessions

Wednesday 15 March

Read the statements before you attend or watch

Voting

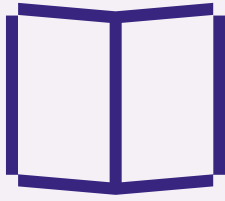
Monday 20 March – Thursday 23 March

Your time to choose

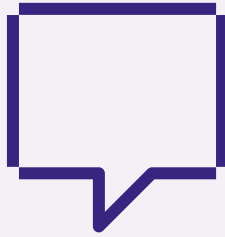
Results announced

Friday 24 March

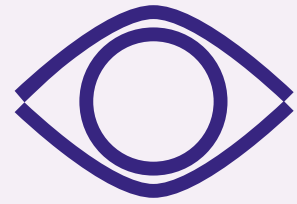
How do I decide?



Read through
candidates' statements
in this booklet



Discuss the elections
with your friends



Attend or watch the
candidate question and
answer sessions

How does voting work?

We use Single Transferable Vote (STV), a system in which your vote can be transferred to a second or third choice in case your first choice is eliminated during the vote count.

How to vote

1. Rank candidates in order of preference. Number your favourite candidate 1, second favourite 2 and so on.
2. Choose as many candidates as you like
3. If your favourite candidate doesn't win, your vote will be transferred to your second choice.
4. You will have a say in the election outcome even if your choice doesn't win!

If you do not like any of the candidates you can vote to re-open nominations. If this is the most popular option, we will re-open nominations and run a new election.

This is your chance to decide who represents you. Do not miss out.

Roles available

Three student officers

Student officers take the lead in representing students.

Our student officers play a vital role in creating positive change on campus. By examining evidence gathered by the Students' Union and influencing University policies, they help make a real difference in the lives of students. As a student officer, they will work tirelessly to ensure that every student has a voice. Encouraging their peers to share their experiences and opinions with the Students' Union and ensure that their feedback is heard loud and clear.

- Activities and opportunities officer
- Education officer
- Wellbeing and community officer

Six school representatives

Students' Union school representatives are students from each school who work to represent all academic interests of students in that school. They will represent each school by gathering views on issues that affect students and influence changes that benefit everyone in every school.

Students can vote for the school representative for their school. For these elections we have candidates in two schools.

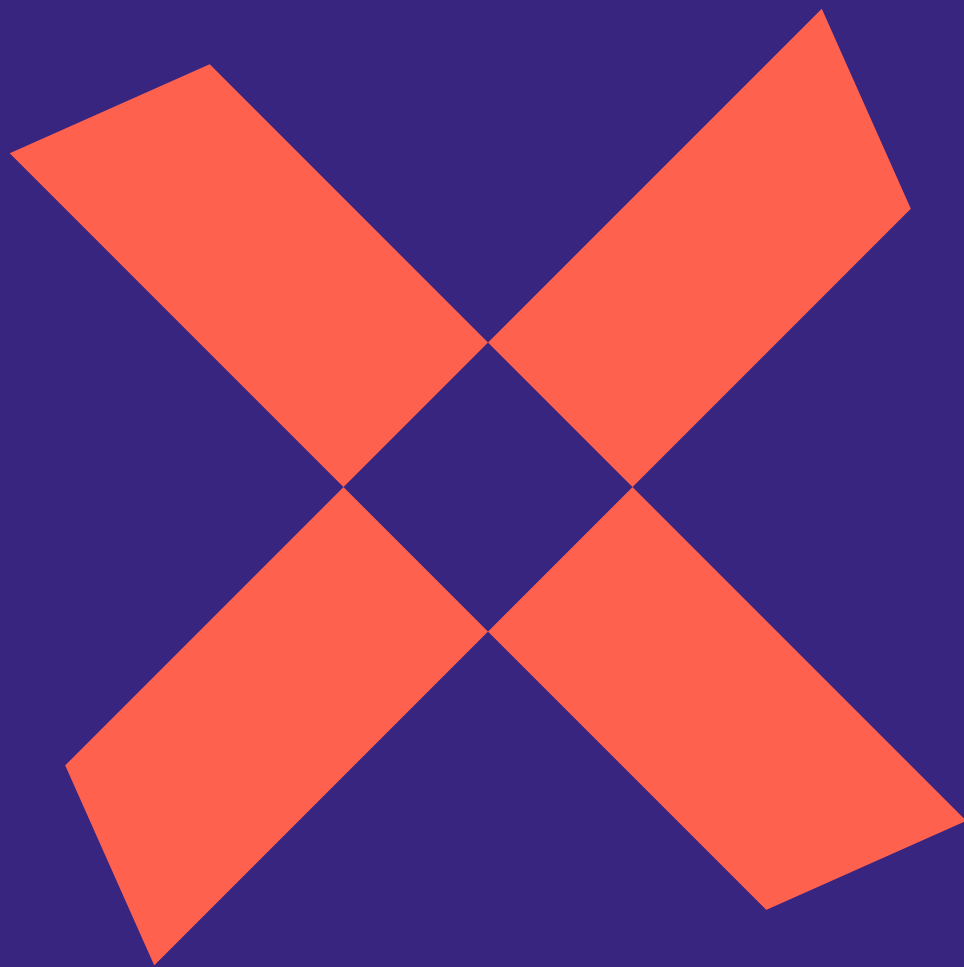
- Business and law
- Psychology

Unfortunately, we have not received any candidates for the following schools, so we will be re-running the elections in April.

- Architecture, computing and engineering
- Arts and creative industries
- Education and communities
- Health, sport and bioscience

If you are interested, find out more at **eastlondonsu.com** and submit your application when the time comes.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to get involved and make a difference!



Candidate statements

Activities and opportunities officer



Dipika Gokulnath

Studying MBA (with placement year)

Why do you want to do this role?

Everything that an officer does, should be student-led and benefit the students. The University of East London is like a second home to me and I want to do my best to work as a student opportunities officer and be the voice of the students. I want to bring about a global change. I want to propel UEL to new heights, that we have not witnessed before. Improving involvement, isn't just an external approach. Its about improving the current system and having a practical approach, towards bringing about that goal and setting up the vision. I want to work towards eliminating all barriers and hindrances (financial, social, cultural, skill-level) and create an unforgettable global experience, for our students.

Why should students vote for you?

Ever since joining The University of East London, back in September 2022, I have actively been engaged in all the social and extra-curricular events and been a part of most of the student clubs, and have very rarely missed a single event. I am also working closely with the university as a Student Ambassador, as well as an Events Ambassador for an external company. This has helped me to gauge the student participation and student interests, which in turn puts me in a better position to organize the right events, activities and opportunities that will cater better and take into consideration, the interests of our global and diverse student community. I will aspire to be the voice FOR the students and BY the students and help to forge a global experience that caters to the culturally diverse student community here at UEL, by creating a unique and unforgettable experience for one and all. Inclusivity and a sense of belonging, is something that I aspire to spread among everyone here at UEL, so stand with me and let's work together to make this dream, a reality.

What are your main priorities?

Clubs, events and activities, have always been at the core of my student experience here at UEL. As an events and opportunities officer, my priority would be towards propelling our university to greater heights. By making sure our students, get the same opportunities and experiences that students from top- ranked universities are getting. By creating such global opportunities and an all-inclusive environment, I want to make sure that all our students gain a world- class exposure and reputation for excellence. My experience as a Student Ambassador, will help me in organizing the right events and help our students to network with the right people and introduce them to the right opportunities, that will not only help mould their student experience in a fun and exciting way, but also pave their path towards a more fruitful and productive future. My goal is to create a fun and inclusive environment, for students from different and diverse backgrounds and help build a fun- loving community; a home away from home, that caters to one and all. A global environment, that pushes UEL to new heights and gives everyone an equal opportunity to grow and develop socially as well as professionally.

Activities and opportunities officer



Vanshika Nakul

Studying BSc Accounting and Finance
(with pathway in FinTech) (third year)

Why do you want to do this role?

I am Vanshika Nakul, a Level 6 Accounting and Finance student at the University of East London. I am running for the position of Activities and Opportunities Officer in the Students Union.

I always wanted to work for the students and make their life at the university memorable and filled with fun and opportunities. I had previously been elected as Events manager for the Indian society in the Students Union and had a lot of fun planning and organizing events for the students. I possess a passion for making students happy and making them feel at home away from their own homes and creating some amazing opportunities for students to experience and learn new things.

Why should students vote for you?

I think I possess the required skills and creativity to plan some amazing events for the students with some learning opportunities as well. My focus would be enhancing the student experience at the University of East London.

I would be working closely with all the student groups, student life, and residential life for planning integrated events and bigger events for all students. I would make sure that your time at the University of East London is a memorable one and full of fun and learning as well.

What are your main priorities?

Now, let me tell you some of the ideas which I would prioritize and improve the student experience at the University of East London:

- Encourage students to participate in the student groups and form new student groups.
- Work closely with student life, and residential life to create some opportunities for the students, like volunteering, temporary work, or any internship role to gain some experience and skills while studying at the university.
- Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Equality by planning events for students from all backgrounds, like "Global Day" where all the societies and students can represent their backgrounds and diverse cultures in front of the whole university.
- Holding an international week at the start of the university for especially international students where we can have various games, dance, food, insightful presentations about the university, and introduce the students to the student groups.
- Provide constant support and advice to the societies or clubs with the planning and organizing the events throughout the year.
- Will plan an event for the new students every year to know each other and make friends, lots of fun with dance and food.
- Planning more outdoor events and day trips which would enhance the skill of inclusiveness among the students as students from different backgrounds would spend a whole day together and try to know each other and make friends.
- Increase society integration to plan better and bigger events for students like competitions among the student groups to engage with students like "Talent Hunt" among different societies.
- Prioritize to enhance the student experience at all levels by organizing lots of workshops for better well-being and engagement of the students.

Activities and opportunities officer



Sushmitha Rajesh

Studying MA Filmmaking

Why do you want to do this role?

Being a student officer allows me to take on a leadership role within their community and make a difference in the lives of their peers. It can provide opportunities for personal development, such as the development of organisational and communication skills. Being a student officer can also be a way to contribute to important causes or initiatives, such as advocating for student rights or promoting campus sustainability.

Why should students vote for you?

I am committed to representing students' interests and working to improve their experiences at our University as a passionate advocate for extracurricular engagement and personal growth. I will ensure that students have access to resources and support systems that will assist them in managing stress and anxiety. I believe that extracurricular activities can play an important role in promoting mental health and resilience, and I will work to ensure that every student has access to these programmes. I am confident that I have the skills and experience required to succeed in this position. I will work tirelessly to ensure that every student has access to the resources and opportunities necessary for success. I will work to create opportunities for you to pursue your passions while also making meaningful connections with your peers, whether you are interested in sports, music, art, or community service. I respectfully request your vote in this election and pledge to work tirelessly to represent your interests and make a positive impact on our student community.

What are your main priorities?

If elected, I will prioritise extracurricular activities that promote inclusivity, support mental health, and foster a sense of community. Every student, in my opinion, should have the opportunity to pursue their interests, develop their talents, and form meaningful connections with their peers. My vision for this position includes expanding existing extracurricular programmes and developing new ones to accommodate a broader range of interests and abilities. I will collaborate with the administration and student body to identify gaps in current offerings and propose innovative solutions that meet the diverse needs of our student body.

Activities and opportunities officer



Syed Sirajudeen

Studying MSc Information Security and Digital Forensics

Why do you want to do this role?

I will improve communication by developing a network of course reps across the University to understand the issues affecting students, and have regular meetings with the course REPS regarding issues arising in specific schools. Also, as the officer, I will report back to students on the work done for them through Internal communication and create a network of students to be able to receive further feedback. Also, I would improve communication by making sure all campuses are receiving feedback on the concerns they have raised.

I would also like to campaign for workshops to run for students on how to access everything they need online, by doing tutorials on how to navigate Job portals, Library, and Job fairs and by requesting more books from the library to be made online. Making sure the online system runs more coherently, and consistently and making sure it's accessible and beneficial to the students. I would like to work on improving the learning experience so it's of higher quality and ensuring students and staff work together to develop a curriculum. Education needs to cater to students with additional needs, so we must overhaul the support system.

Why should students vote for you?

As I have been elected as a course representative at UEL. I have represented many students throughout my time here. I have attended Course representative and Student representative meetings where we discuss and try to improve the overall experience here at the University of east London. I have trained to become one of the student ambassadors of the University of East London where I empower and mentor students in different activities.

I know what it's like being a student. Sometimes you feel there is so much pressure on you, things could be better or just someone to speak to while your feelings down. If I get elected, I want to be there for students, help them get through their time here at the University of East London and generally make students' life better at the University.

I will improve employability for students with Jobs fairs and help to get possible part-time jobs during their studies. And as well as conducting CV workshops, Mentoring sessions and Mental health and Well-being.

I will make the university or union more inclusive by working with the University to make the curriculum more diverse. I would also like to campaign to create a leadership programme for BAME students, having a safe space for BAME and LGBTQ+ students. Finally, it is important to make sure there is a union present across all campuses to make the university more inclusive.

Engagement and support for International, postgraduate, and mature students.

I will work closely with the university to bring more food varieties at affordable prices including Asian cuisines at cafes.

Services for students at UEL need to be addressed too and must be improved. I will work with different departments to ensure student services are improved to support you while here at UEL.

Education officer



Pippa Evans

Current education officer
Graduate of BA International Development
with NGO Management

Why do you want to do this role?

I believe that representation and raising the student voice is the best way to create meaningful change and progress within the university. I strongly believe that every student at UEL deserves the best experience possible and I want to run again for the education officer role so I can do my bit in making sure this happens.

Why should students vote for you?

Throughout my last year in office, I have worked on many projects and campaigns which have brought about meaningful change for our students. This includes a cost-of-living campaign, and panel discussions during black history month and disability history month where I challenged the university on their work and progress to ensure everyone at UEL has the best possible outcome and experience. I have also ensured that I represent the student voice in the most effective way, not afraid to speak out about issues affecting students and continually pushing to get their voice heard.

You should vote for me so I can continue to do this for another year. I will use every possible opportunity, working with the rest of the Students' Union team and the University to raise issues, and find solutions to the challenges you are facing.

The situation in our society today raises new challenges for our students. I believe that I am the perfect person to ensure we keep up to date with changes and developments in society and the higher education sector and keep pushing the Union and University to support students in the best possible way.

What are your main priorities?

My main priorities for this year will be:

- Reducing educational inequalities and ensuring that all courses, systems, services, and spaces are accessible for all.
- Improving the academic advisor system so that every student has access to one-to-one personal guidance and support throughout their time at UEL.
- Working on student facing policies so that they protect and ensure that students receive the experience they are entitled to.
- Ensuring that university remains affordable to students, working to reduce the cost of living for students at UEL.
- Ensuring that there is consistency between schools and courses and every student receives the same high standard of teaching and learning, and feedback.
- Increasing participation, knowledge of, and access to study abroad opportunities so that our students don't miss out on the valuable experience and benefits that these programmes bring.
- Providing skills and opportunities needed to prepare students for work, regardless of the sector they want to go into.
- Working closely with school and course representatives so that authentic student voice is heard and used at every level.
- Promote effective and transparent communication channels between the university, the union and students.
- Increase support for the changing and varying needs of both home and international students.
- Creating opportunities for students across courses and schools to work together, building and learning from each other's skills.
- And most importantly, continuing to hold the university to account to provide the highest quality education and experience that all students deserve.

Education officer



Aswin Mathew

Studying MBA (Project Management)

Why do you want to do this role?

My name is Aswin Mathew, currently serving as a Student Ambassador for UEL. As an MBA student, I can relate to your student journey and all struggles that come with your studies. I am driven by a strong desire for social justice, as well as advocating for your voice

Why should students vote for you?

I am relatable, accessible, and dependable; a person who will represent your needs, issues, and concerns to the university. As I have experience working with the university, I believe I am equipped and suited to being a successful Education Officer who is FOR you

Vote me in and I will ensure, YOUR SAY about YOUR EDUCATION is heard!

What are your main priorities?

- Ensure total transparency from the university about learning. I will make sure student voices are noticed.
- Work for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion- Making sure BAME and LGBT+ communities are reflected in the lectures helps decolonize the curriculum, resulting in students feeling like they belong and are identified within the university.
- collaborate closely with course reps and student reps to improve students' academic experiences.
- A holistic approach to and focus on student outcomes
- Promotion of well-being and mental health- workshops
- campaign on behalf of the student body to guarantee that the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on you and your studies is considered when determining your progress and award
- Work for diversifying and Inclusive Assessment
- Efforts for decolonizing the Curriculum
- Promoting mental health awareness.
- Work to provide better Disability Support
- Support students whose first language is not English

"Together, we are better"

Wellbeing and community officer



Bibin Bobachan

Studying LLM (International Law and Legal Practice) with Placement

Why do you want to do this role?

I always thrived to be part of social engineering that enables me to bring the best out of the society wherever I engaged. Because of the same reason I have been part of college student union in my home country India where I believe I succeeded in bringing the best student experience, as Magazine Editor to my College Union. Being part of various social welfare groups in my community I was able to realize the beauty in collective working towards achieving the goal of social upliftment. Being so I feel that I can contribute to the student community in a better way by stepping into the UEL student union activities. I firmly believe that my experience over the time and attitude to bring collective efforts make me an ideal candidate to run for the post of Wellbeing and Community Officer.

Why should students vote for you?

I believe that my previous experience both as a student representative and my engagements with the local community as a practicing lawyer in India, I would be able to showcase my abilities as a coordinator of diverse opinions in an even more challenging platform like UEL Student's Union. I would like to also add that I will try to preserve the best interests of the student community in an even better way compared to what I have done in the past in the exhibition of my duties. But in this democratic process all I need is the fullhanded support of the students of UEL, with which together we would be able to bring positive results.

What are your main priorities?

If I turn successful in this election process, in addition to the commitments of the current Union, the foremost priority would be on promoting inclusiveness of students of the diverse community in UEL to build a more participation based academic year. Also, I would try to develop a platform where the voice of every student will be heard on various matters within and outside the university. The other area that I wish to focus on is to add more in-campus events and sports events as well as outdoor activities to enable the students to socialize more. One key concept I have in mind is to build a project to develop a point-based competition to improve more in-campus participation, where students with high participation on programs will be declared as champions. Due to the influence of my earlier roles, I have also in mind a student magazine that showcases the hidden talents of the precious students of UEL.

Wellbeing and community officer



Samuel De Souza

Studying International Foundation Year in
Business and Management (Malvern House)

Why do you want to do this role?

I am Samuel De Souza, and I am running for the position of Mental wellness officer for the student union at UEL.

I understand the pressures and stresses that come with studying and living in a fast-paced environment. However, I strongly believe that together, we can build a supportive and positive community where everyone feels valued and supported.

My main focus as a mental wellness officer would be to create connections, make a difference, and prioritize the welfare, mental health, and equality of all students. I aim to create a positive, supportive environment that makes the world a better place for all.

Why should students vote for you?

As someone who has had personal experience with depression and anxiety, I have learned a lot about coping mechanisms and resources that are available to us. I highly recommend the free phone therapy services provided by NHS and would suggest that everyone should have access to them.

I plan to build a community where students can share their thoughts and receive feedback to overcome their weaknesses and build their strengths. I will also provide private sessions and I guarantee that your secrets will remain safe with me.

Organizing events such as pizza parties, tea sessions, book reading, self-help movies, and speeches in collaboration with other officers and student communities will be my priority. These events will help us overcome weaknesses, build our strengths, and create a positive change in every person.

What are your main priorities?

My main priorities will be to make everyone feel like the same person, make them feel comfortable, give everyone a platform, and guarantee a positive change in every person.

As your mental wellness officer, I will strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment. I will strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all students ensuring that we all thrive academically and personally. Let's make mental health and well-being a priority and work together to make UEL a better place for all.

Wellbeing and community officer



Timothy Martin

BSc Psychology (third year)

Why do you want to do this role?

Through my time at UEL, I have understood the importance of actively engaging with effective wellbeing support services as well as finding support amongst my peers. Both are essential parts of a positive education experience. I want this role because I know I can carry it out effectively and have the experience and knowledge to do so.

Why should students vote for you?

Being a student of Psychology I understand empirically the importance of Wellbeing and Community, as well as having theoretical and applicable knowledge of how to help better standards of wellbeing support and strategies for students. I have a special interest in Organisational Psychology meaning I have a fundamental base of knowledge of organisational structures such as universities, how to challenge them, and inevitably better them. Having lived in East London all my life I understand what community can and should look like for us, there is room for improvement in creating a stronger community across our schools, for both home and international students.

What are your main priorities?

During my time in office, I hope to address as many issues and promote as much positive change as I can however it's important to identify a few concrete ambitions for the year. The following ideas have been identified through observation of existing issues and possibilities for improvement.

- **Improving Common Spaces**
It is no secret that we have insufficient space for downtime, I want to consult the student body and identify what we need from and in common/break rooms be it leisure or productivity, as well encourage the introduction of student lead common rooms and paid roles.
- **Academic Advisor System**
Whether this is more closely checking or mandating the amount of contact hours you have with an academic advisor, I think it's extremely important we have a member of academic staff or otherwise be someone we can rely on throughout our university experience for both academic support and to help carry the burden.
- **Multicultural Sharing and Mental Health Support**
Our university is home to so much diversity rich in cultural differences and varying upbringings, and during the next year I want to facilitate days in which we can share our respective cultures, foods, practices, and ways of communication. Introducing workshops for mental health like yoga or boxing, enlist the help of signposting services and further tailor the mental health support system at UEL to better meet the needs and demands of us as students. One thing I know for sure is that students also need more access to financial support in times of strife, the first step of this is making students aware of bursaries both internal and external and securing any funding we can to provide more support from charitable organisations.

Wellbeing and community officer



Ashfaq Ali Vattaparambil Amanullah

Studying MSc International Business Management
(with Placement)

Why do you want to do this role?

As a student at the University of East London, I have witnessed first-hand the challenges that students face in their academic and personal lives. I am passionate about creating a positive and supportive environment for all students, and I believe that I can make a significant impact in this role. I am running for this position because I want to contribute to the well-being of our student community. As a student myself, I understand the stress and anxiety that can come with academic pressures and the importance of having access to support services. I believe that every student should have access to the resources and support they need to thrive academically and personally. As the Wellbeing and Community Officer, I am committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where all students can feel supported and empowered.

Why should students vote for you?

Students should vote for me because I have a strong track record of community involvement and leadership. Throughout my academic career, I have been actively involved in student organizations and volunteering activities. I have also been a mentor and tutor for students, providing support and guidance for those who need it. I am committed to serving the student community and ensuring that their voices are heard. As the Wellbeing and Community Officer, I will work tirelessly to improve the well-being of all students and create a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone.

What are your main priorities?

Mental Health and Well-being Support: Offer support services to students and staff to help them cope with stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Create online resources, organize workshops, and partner with mental health charities and organizations to provide specialized support.

Community Events: Organize community events that bring students and staff together, such as cultural festivals, open-mic nights, charity fundraisers, and community service projects. These events can foster a sense of belonging and help build relationships among members of the university community.

Campus Sustainability: Develop and implement sustainability programs on campus, such as waste reduction initiatives, energy conservation, and sustainable transportation options. Work with student groups and local organizations to create awareness and promote eco-friendly practices.

Diversity and Inclusion: Promote diversity and inclusion on campus by organizing events and initiatives that celebrate diversity, such as cultural and religious awareness weeks, LGBTQ+ events, and disability awareness campaigns. Also work with faculty and staff to create inclusive curriculum and policies.

Health and Fitness Programs: Encourage students and staff to lead healthy and active lifestyles by offering fitness classes, health education sessions, and wellness programs. Partner with local gyms, health clinics, and wellness centres to provide a wide range of health services.

Student Accommodation: Work with student housing providers to create safe and affordable housing options for students. Provide resources and support to students who are struggling with housing issues.

Advocate for student rights: As the Wellbeing and Community Officer, I will be a strong advocate for student rights. I will work to ensure that students have access to the resources they need to succeed and that their voices are heard on campus.

School representative (business and law)



Jemimah Akinola

School representative (business and law)
(first year)

Why do you want to do this role?

I want the opportunity to represent you all in influencing the university's policy.

Why should students vote for you?

I have previously been involved with the union by being the course representative for year 1 law students and delegate representing our student union at the National Union of students (NUS) conference in March 2023. I have developed the following skills;

- I have successfully analysed feedback and offered potential solutions, which frequently produce beneficial results.
- I am used to problem-solving effectively and efficiently because I have worked in and managed several teams.
- Communication skills/ Interpersonal skills; I can actively discuss with several people from different countries as we all know that UEL is a diverse university.
- Public speaking skills: I have been able to address a large number of students in class.
- Leadership skill

What are your main priorities?

If elected I would aim to:

- Be your Voice; I aim to always act in your best interest and communicate issues back to the right university authorities. I aim to discuss with the university to enable students to change their seminar tutors under a new condition other than the one currently provided by the university.
- Sense of belonging and community; University of East London has not been the best regarding this aspect, especially for law and business students on the same campus. I aim for occasional fun activities on the USS campus that will bring us together, such as board games to relax our minds in between lectures.
- Increase funding by seeking out financial aid such as sponsorship opportunities and grants for both home and international students. We have put so much effort into our studies and should be compensated for excellent performance.
- Mental health - going to university in London after the pandemic has affected our mental health, especially being tasked with so much work. I aim for our mental health to be prioritised by the university either by organising events such as funfairs regularly or providing counsellors on campus to listen to and help students.

School representative (business and law)



Faith Otene

School representative (business and law)

Why do you want to do this role?

It is my interest to become a School Representative because we need a fresh vision for making University of East London a more welcoming and inclusive place of Learning and Training, to do that we need someone who will stand for equality for all students in this institution.

With my dedication and your commitments, we shall as a Team in the University of East London bring about a Better Tomorrow together. I am currently the Course Representative of Level 4 Law students and a member of the student union. I have also been exposed to a lot of Leadership training skills which makes me believe that I am the most qualified for these skills and efficiency needing position as a School Representative in the School of Law.

Moreover, it is my desire to become a School Representative because I have enjoyed my time as a student here and would love to share my experiences with incoming students about the positive environment and high learning standards we have at this university.

Let me close this manifesto by acknowledging and appreciating our current School Representative for their selfless service and the good job in reviving the school spirit. Be rest assured that you will be handing over the mantle to another dedicated Leader and your good works will not be lost as I shall dedicate myself to making sure that all students feel and embrace that spirit and have opportunities to shape it.

Why should students vote for you?

If I am elected, I will make it my number one job to bring all University of East London students together as one great body. I have several additional rich ideas for ways to bring more pride to our school and your ideas will be invaluable to the cause. This is the Team I mean. I will work out ways and invite students to talk about sensitivity in this school, open more clubs for students to join and start mentoring club programs to aid students who may be having hard times in their studies. Additionally, we will form a peer of mentoring club to encourage students to guide others and act as a support system so that no one is left behind.

As a Course Representative in my previous university, I worked with local Lawyers to build a mentorship program and acquired donations from local offices so that students could have the materials they needed for their academic experience.

Leadership is not about the next election; it is about the next generation. I believe that leadership is service to people and there is power in giving to helping students, to inspire and motivate them to reach their fullest potentials. I will use that attitude of service to help other students to grow up and grow with them.

What are your main priorities?

My priority would be to assist students to have their voices heard and also encourage those who double up as students and parents like me and let them know

School representative (psychology)



Rebecka Ranthe

School representative (psychology)
(with Foundation Year) (first year)

Why do you want to do this role?

I want to go from being a Course rep to becoming a School rep because I care about the student experience at UEL. I want to be of service to promote change, strengthen student voices, and ensure they are heard. So that I can advocate for student feedback to bring about adjustments and improvements at UEL. I want this role because there is always room to enhance the student experience and make UEL an even better and more enjoyable place to study. I came to UEL to study Psychology, wanting to make people's lives and mental health better after I graduate. But I also find myself while studying, also wanting to make people's lives at UEL better too.

Why should students vote for you?

As course rep since autumn 2022, I have proactively raised student concerns and feedback to the appropriate UEL staff and departments as they arise. But also, starting as a foundation student in 2021, I would always stand my ground and speak to staff and services about student concerns or feedback around my course. I go the extra mile to ensure students are aware of the support available at UEL, and I am vocal when the support and services at UEL require improvements. Early intervention in problem-solving and preventing issues from arising when possible. This is important in preventing students learning and well-being from deteriorating. I am an advocate for mental health and want to advocate for students' well-being while they study with UEL. I believe this to be vital for your engagement in your studies at UEL, but also in extra curriculum activities and making friendships that can last beyond your Uni degree. If you vote for me, you will have someone assertive and will ensure you are heard and taken seriously.

What are your main priorities?

The quality and accessibility of learning support for all students (both on-campus and distance learning), regardless of individual differences such as but not limited to disability, race, and age. This includes meeting the requirements and adjustments for students with a Teaching and Learning Support Record (TSLR). Students are receiving adequate support in their studies from UEL academic staff.

Improving on-campus study facilities, such as having more dedicated quiet study spaces for individual studying and spaces for combined group work. Working towards improving the assistive technology facilities and policies for students with extenuating circumstances.

Encouraging an on-campus community outside lectures, particularly at the Stratford campus. With lectures and students back on campus, I would like to work towards rebuilding that community post-lockdown through student societies, events and extra curriculum activities to bring together students with common goals and interests.

Having more focus groups and ways of actively gathering feedback from students on a more regular basis. And from this present feedback to make changes much sooner. As every student has a uniquely different experience at UEL, their input can help make UEL a more inclusive place to study.

Candidate behaviour and best practice



It is vital that all our candidates follow the rules during the elections. If you think a candidate has broken the rules, report it to us on su.elections@uel.ac.uk so that we can investigate their behaviour.

Best practice

- Consider the candidates in each election on merit and vote for your favourite candidates.
- You can vote for any, some, or all candidates in each election in order of preference.
- You are entitled to vote in private. Your vote is kept private from everybody.
- It is against the rules for someone to pressure you to vote for a candidate, to try to make you to log in to vote, or to try to make you use their device to vote

**Vote online by
Thursday 23 March
eastlondonsu.com**

