



# Elections 2025

Vote online by  
Thursday 3 April



[eastlondonsu.com](http://eastlondonsu.com)

# What are Students' Union elections?

Students' Union elections are your chance to choose who will represent you. The students you elect will become either student officers or school representatives, and will act as your voice in the University. They have the power to drive real change in the Students' Union, University and beyond, so it's vital that you have your say on who wins.

## Why your vote matters

Education is one of the biggest investments you will make in your future. Voting means you get to choose who is working on your behalf, helping you get the best experience - and best value - from your time at the University of East London.

The people you choose have the power to create change, and will have a noticeable impact on your life at uni, from academic matters to your social life and wellbeing. It's also the best way to get your voice heard by the University.

With that in mind, it's really important to spend a little time having your say on who should hold that power. This is your chance to shape the next year of your life. Don't miss out.

## Key dates

### Candidate Question Times

These events are the best way to hear from your election candidates. Get to know what the candidates are all about, and ask your own questions, too!

Student officer candidates: Monday 24 March, 13:00, Stratford

Tuesday 25 March, 16:15, Docklands

School representative candidates: Wednesday 26 March, 16:00, Microsoft Teams

### Online voting

Monday 31 March to Thursday 3 April (08:00 - 20:00)

### Results announced

Friday 4 April

Find the full details at [eastlondonsu.com](http://eastlondonsu.com)

## How does voting work?

We use the single transferable vote (STV) system. This produces more representative results than other systems. The system's name says a lot about how it works.

You have one vote, which can be transferred to lower-preference candidates if needed. This means no vote is ever wasted. If your first-choice candidate doesn't win, your second or third could instead.

All the student officers will be elected in a single election. The specific roles will be allocated after the successful candidates are confirmed.

## How to vote

1. Rank candidates in order of preference. Number your favourite candidate 1, second favourite 2, and so on.
2. You can rank as many candidates as you like, but we encourage you to rank as many as possible - at least five in the student officer election.
3. If you don't like any of the candidates, you can vote to re-open nominations. In the case that this is the most popular option, no-one will be elected, and a new election will take place.
4. The system will take care of the rest, transferring your vote where needed. This means you will have a say even if your top choice doesn't win.

## How do I decide?



Read through the candidates' statements in this booklet, and watch their videos online and on Instagram (@eastlondonsu)



Attend one of our candidate Question Times



Discuss the elections with your friends

# Candidate conduct

It's really important that all our candidates follow the rules during elections.

It is against the rules for someone to:

- Pressure you to vote for a candidate
- Try to make you log in to vote
- Try to make you use their device to vote

Our elections are designed to be free and fair. You are entitled to vote in private, and your choices will be kept confidential.

If you think a candidate has broken the rules, report it to us at [su.elections@uel.ac.uk](mailto:su.elections@uel.ac.uk) so that we can investigate their behaviour.

# Best practice for voters

- Get informed. Take the time to read the candidates' statements and watch their videos on our website or Instagram before you log in to vote. Don't make a snap decision.
- Consider the candidates on merit and vote for those you think will be great student representatives. Don't just vote for someone because they're on your course or from the same place as you. Really consider who would do the best job for students!



# ★ STUDENTS' UNION ★ AWARDS

Celebrating the best of the University of East London with awards for course representatives, student groups and staff.

Nominations are open until Tuesday 8 April.

[eastlondonsu.com/awards](http://eastlondonsu.com/awards)



# Candidates for student officer

Student officers are our highest level of student leader. The students you elect will represent the entire student body, acting as your voice to University decision makers.

Student officers play an integral role in the continuous improvement of things in the University, Students' Union, and in our local communities, so it's important that the elected students are people you trust.

Along with the school representatives, the student officers are members of the student leadership committee. This committee is responsible for deciding Students' Union policy on matters affecting students, and for working together to improve the University.

The student officer remits cover activities, communities, education, inclusion and wellbeing. You won't vote students into particular roles – each position will be assigned to a winning student according to their strengths and interests.

The new officers will start their roles in July and represent students for a year.

## Student Officer



### Sampath Ganesh Sangu

Studying Master of Business Administration (with placement)

Currently Communities Officer

#### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I want to be a student union officer because I am really excited about making a real difference for students at our university. I have been involved in various campaigns and I have seen how much of an impact the union can have on improving student life. I've always wanted to be a leader, someone who can listen, represent, and create positive change. Being a part of the Union is a great way to take on that responsibility and help improve student life for everyone. I've been involved in a few projects and I've seen how much of an impact the Union can have whether it's organizing cool events or just making sure students feel heard. I want to be that person who helps create an environment where everyone feels welcome, supported, and ready to have a great time during their time at uni.

#### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I am currently working as the Communities Officer at East London Students' Union. I have received training from the Students' Union and also from the National Union of Students (NUS) UK. I regularly attend various committee meetings at the university, where I actively participate in discussions and contribute ideas to help improve student life and address important issues. Through these experiences, I have gained a deep understanding of the different services offered at the university, how they function, and how each department plays a vital role in supporting students.

Before being elected as an officer, I worked part-time at the university, supporting students during enrollment while working for the HUB. I have also worked as an MBA mentor, where I assisted students with course-related queries and looked after their well-being.

#### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

One of the things I want to improve is the engagement and support for Postgraduate Research (PGR) students. Currently I am working on a project introducing the Postgraduate Research rep at the university and in the next year I want to ensure that their concerns are heard and effectively addressed. By offering better support systems and helping to resolve any academic or well-being challenges PGR students face, I hope to make their experience at the university more fulfilling and connected.

My plan for the next year is to improve engagement with partner students by creating more opportunities for them to get involved and feel connected to the Union and university community. I am currently working on a project to understand the relationship between partner students and East London Students' Union.

I want to enhance student representation with key public sector bodies like the NHS, local councils, the police (MET), and Transport for London (TFL). My goal is to build stronger connections and ensure that students' voices are heard and considered when decisions are being made in these areas. By strengthening these relationships, I hope to create more opportunities for students and ensure their needs are represented in the broader community. I have started working on this by participating in some campaigns but there is a lot more scope to improve.

# Student Officer



## Stuti Sah

Graduate of MSc International Business Management

Currently Wellbeing Officer

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

For me, being a student officer is not just a role—it's a responsibility to make a real difference in students' lives. I have a passion for supporting and empowering students to lead a happier, healthier, more sustainable, and inclusive life on the University of East London campus, where they will not only thrive in their studies but also feel a strong sense of community and belonging. My incredibly rewarding journey as a Wellbeing Officer has enabled me to positively impact the student community through various initiatives and projects. However, there is still much more I can accomplish, and I am committed to continuing my efforts to create a supportive and vibrant campus environment. Re-election would allow me to build on the progress I have made, complete projects, advocate for students' needs more effectively, and introduce new ideas to enhance student life.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

As the current Wellbeing Officer, I have worked relentlessly to improve student welfare in multiple areas. I have initiated and led several impactful campaigns and projects, thereby exemplifying my resolve for student welfare:

1. Sustainability Campaign: Promoted environmental awareness by encouraging students to become sustainability volunteers. With numerous events planned in the coming months; I am dedicated to fostering sustainable behavior within our campus community.
2. Health and Wellbeing Initiatives: Launched several campaigns, including:
  - No Smoking Campaign: Raising awareness and encouraging healthier choices through Poster making competition
  - Sleep Awareness Campaign: Educating students on good sleep practices for physical and mental well-being.

- Eating Disorder Awareness Campaign: Helping students understand the challenges related to eating disorders and promoting support resources.
  - Mental Health Activities: Organizing events like "Time to Talk Day" and letter-writing activities to encourage open conversations about mental health.
  - Physical Wellbeing Activities: Arranging free spin class, dance class and working on initiatives like free bike training sessions and running programs to encourage active lifestyles.
3. Students Union Hall Representative System: Currently working on a representative system within university accommodations, empowering students to voice their concerns and better represent themselves.

All these experiences have given me insight into what really works and what doesn't. I have also built valuable relationships with university staff, student groups, and external organizations, which I will continue to leverage for greater collaboration and impact.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

1. Enhancing Sustainability and Environmental Awareness: I plan to continue promoting sustainable behavior through workshops, offering volunteering opportunities and campaigns.
2. Promoting Inclusivity and Cultural Exchange: Introduce initiatives that make students from diverse backgrounds feel more welcome and included. E.g., cultural exchange events, anecdote sharing sessions, and celebrations of diversity.
3. Boosting Physical and Mental Wellbeing Initiatives: Building on past successes, I will continue to offer physical activity sessions, like free bike training and Couch to 5K (a running program) and promote mental health by celebrating key events like Stress Awareness Month and University Mental Health Day.

# Student Officer



## Khumananda Bishnu Gyawali

Studying BA (Hons) Hospitality Management (second year)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

My name is Khumananda Gyawali and currently Studying Hospitality Management. I am nominating myself to be your democratic leader for the Student's Union. I am passionate about taking on a leadership role and assisting students in solving their problems. My ability to understand others feelings and desires has been developed through my experiences with Scout and Nepal Red Cross.

Serving as a course representative at level 4 has had a positive impact on me. I have witnessed how students worry about the challenges, which has fuelled my desire to create a productive environment within the university. I have encountered numerous obstacles that took a long time to resolve due to the lack of a proper information provider. These experiences have energized me to seek change and reduce the gap between the university and students.

I am aware that my colleagues are dissatisfied with the current university situation, and I believe that they deserve better service than they are currently receiving. I am not standing for my personal benefit this all am doing for those students who are really having a bad experiences and struggling to raise the voice. I promise that my performance will fulfil your expectation and motivate you to enhance your academic career.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

My experiences as a course representative have significantly improved my leadership skills. Understanding and quick-resolving student problems has boosted my confidence level. My involvement in planning social programmes, conducting awareness campaigns, and working with non-profit organisations has enhanced my ability to communicate clearly to diverse audiences.

The confidence that I have built would be instrumental in advocating for students. I believe that passion is more powerful than experience alone; as a passionate candidate, I can initiate change more quickly and effectively.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

Student wellbeing: I prioritise wellbeing because students cannot perform their best when burdened by mental stress. This encompasses mental, physical, and emotional health. To build the confidence, I will implement a student development plan to enhance industry-based skills in collaboration with the career zone.

Reducing the gap between university and student: The distance will be reduced by establishing the concept of 'Feedback Day' where students can directly express the problem with the union and responsible bodies.

Sustainability Campus initiatives: The increasing number of concerns over the environment is important to the planet and it would be wise to provide similar support from the university. Use of renewable source of and improving recycling management on campus.

# Student Officer



## Yash Gupta

Studying Master of Business Administration  
(with placement)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I'm running to be your student officer because I genuinely want to make a real difference—not just by raising concerns, but by actually improving our university experience. I believe this role is about more than just fixing problems; it's about making sure every student feels heard, supported, and included.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

A little about me—I've led teams as an operations manager, worked in hospitality, and handled media engagement. All of that has taught me how to connect with people, solve problems, and make things happen. But more importantly, I know how to listen. I want to take what matters to you and turn it into real action.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

If you elect me, I'll focus on three key things:

1. Career Growth - We all want to be ready for life after university, so I'll work on bringing in more job opportunities, mentorship programs, and hands-on workshops with industry professionals to help us gain real-world skills.
2. Inclusivity & Well-being - University should feel like home for everyone. I want to support student-led initiatives, organize cultural events, and create safe spaces where everyone feels welcome. Plus, I'll introduce wellness programs like mindfulness sessions and fitness groups to help us manage stress and stay balanced.
3. Better Campus Facilities & Community - We need more study lounges, co-working spaces, and social events that bring us together. I'll push for better facilities and more student-led activities that make campus life more engaging and fun.

I'm not here to make empty promises—I'm here to get things done. Let's work together to create a better university experience for all of us. Vote for me, and let's make it happen!

# Student Officer



## Daniel Olawale

Studying MA Media and Communication Industries

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I am Daniel Olawale, currently a master's student at this prestigious university and I aspire to be your student officer. The truth is you need a chance to participate in an administration and a place where your voice can be heard. Fortunately, I am offering you both.

I envision governance where power is in the hands of the students, where your opinion will be sought on any and every important decision to be made. You will not feel left out and have orders forced upon you like we're in the military. We grow together. I could mention all the problems currently faced by all of you but that is not what you require of me because you already know all your problems. What we need is solutions. What we need is all hands to be on deck. Let us not be blinded by our differences, different cultural backgrounds, different countries we come from, different skin colours and mentality. Therefore our differences shouldn't weaken us, they should make us stronger.

I understand that sometimes, we face poor cultural integration, financial strains, and difficulty finding sufficient support services. All these significantly impact our social and academic lives. Every student should have an equitable, encouraging and joyful time at UEL and I am prepared to take steps to make this a reality.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

As the president of the Nigerian society; with over 70 students in attendance, I organised the first major event of the year, right there and then we promoted a sense of community among new and existing students by creating networking, cultural exchange, and academic collaboration opportunities which in turn increased campus-wide cultural understanding and engagement in our community.

I also started a podcast for the Nigerian society where we discuss cultural shocks and complex adaptations, share experiences and offer insightful commentary on university life.

However, before I became the president, I worked as a social media executive for the Nigerian Society by raising our society's online visibility, engagement and presence while honing critical digital strategy and communication skills pertinent to representing students across the institution.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

Cooperate with other student officers to encourage student groups to organise more collaborative events every quarter of the year. Students should be able to learn from other cultures to better understand their culture when relating to their fellow coursemates, whether in or outside the school.

Introduce a feedback form at the end of every quarter to send to all students across all 5 schools and levels. The benefit of this feedback is that it will help the Student Union and also the University understand students' concerns and act on them when necessary. This will be sent via email.

Work closely with the university to bring more food varieties at affordable prices, including African dishes to the school's restaurant. Students need to have an experience of their native dishes during their break or free time.

So, when it's time to cast your vote, kindly remember my name: Daniel Olawale.

# Student Officer



## Abhishek Roy

Studying Master of Business Administration  
(with placement)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I have a strong passion for improving the student experience, and I truly enjoy speaking to students, understanding their concerns, and working towards their welfare. I am very well acquainted with the activities of the Students' Union (SU) and believe it is the best platform to advocate for student welfare. I see numerous opportunities for improvement that can significantly enhance the student experience and better align with the SU constitution and bye-laws. This role will allow me to represent students effectively, align the Union's efforts with their best interests, and create positive change at UEL.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I believe I am well-suited for the role of Student Officer due to my leadership experience and dedication to improving the student experience. During my undergraduate studies in India, I served as a course representative, secretary of a student group, and department captain, which helped me understand how to effectively represent students and manage multiple projects. At UEL, I am currently serving as the President of the UEL Kerala Society and the leader of my placement team. Balancing academic responsibilities with leadership roles has refined my organizational and communication skills. By God's grace, I have developed strong leadership qualities that allow me to thrive in various roles. My passion for student welfare, combined with my leadership experience and ability to balance multiple responsibilities, makes me confident I can be an effective Student Officer.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

My focus will be on improving the student experience by addressing three key areas: Placements, Events, and Academics.

- 1. Placements:** I will advocate for better placement and career support services for all students, particularly international students. I will propose initiatives to improve the placement process by collaborating with the Career Zone and university departments to organize employer-led workshops, recruitment drives, and placement fairs. I will also work with local authorities to advocate for programs that support student welfare. I will collaborate with the Compliance Team to improve support for international students regarding post-graduation visa sponsorship.
- 2. Events:** I will work to ensure all three campuses are equally represented in events, making sure that every student feels included and has the opportunity to participate in campus activities. I aim to foster a vibrant and inclusive campus community by revitalizing underactive societies and encouraging student involvement. I will propose events like "One Blood, Many Nations" to promote diversity and inclusivity, ensuring these initiatives are supported by the university and help combat discrimination. I will focus on wellbeing and mental support in events, providing students with resources for their mental health.
- 3. Academics:** Improving the academic experience is my priority. I will propose regular surveys to assess student satisfaction with teaching quality, study resources, and overall student experience. I will engage with students to collect their concerns and raise them in university meetings. By focusing on bridging the gap between students, course representatives, and faculty members, I will ensure effective communication and timely resolution of academic concerns. I will push for policy changes that directly benefit students and enhance their learning experience at UEL.

# Student Officer



## Akash Vanzara

Studying BSc (Hons) Computer Science  
(second year)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

We all need a strong representative who truly understands our challenges and works tirelessly to improve student life at University of East London. I have been that voice since the day I joined this university, first as a Course Representative, then as a School Representative and now, I want to take it to the next level as your Student Officer.

I believe that every student deserves an engaging, supportive, and best university experience. Whether it's improving academic support, enhancing student engagement, or making student life better overall, I am here to make a real difference.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I have already worked to improve students' life by adjusting lab session timings and pushing for faster feedback on coursework as a Course Representative.

As a School Rep, I worked with Student Officers on the "Better Sleep, Better Life" campaign to raise awareness about sleep issues and how to improve them. I gathered student feedback to improve the Academic Advising System and helped organize events and activities such as, movie nights, plant pot painting, campus games, open days, the SU Fair, and Welcome Week events. I have also been working to get better academic resources for students in the School of ACE (Architecture, Computing, and Engineering).

Dedicated to Student Engagement - I want every student to feel involved, heard, and valued. More events, better communication, and stronger student networks.

Committed to Real Change - I don't just talk; I act. As your Student Officer, I will push for policies that directly improve your university experience, from academic improvements to better student support services. I know what needs to change, and I know how to make it happen.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

Academic Excellence- Ensuring fair and efficient feedback, flexible learning support, and better resources for all students.

Student Engagement - Creating more student-led initiatives, networking opportunities, and societies to make university life more vibrant.

Student Experience - Enhancing student life by improving campus facilities, career development opportunities, and overall university support to make every student's journey fulfilling.

Well-being & Support - Advocating for mental health services, Well-being services, stress-free academic policies, and better support for international students.

Inclusivity & Diversity - Making sure every student, regardless of background feels represented, supported, and empowered at UEL.

Let's make UEL better, together!

Your vote is your voice. Vote for Akash and let's create the university experience we all deserve!

# Student Officer



## Nidhi Narasimhamurthy

Studying MSc Pharmaceutical Science

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

Working as a Student Officer at the University of East London, I am eager to serve as a representative for all the students. I want to give them good experiences and a welcoming environment to help them perform well. I am motivated because I have seen the numerous issues students go through not just in academics but in all areas of university life.

As a Student Officer, I would love to campaign for more student representation across the board, from academic issues, student activities, welfare, and inclusivity. I would love to help improve campus facilities and make mental health provision more accessible. I hope to create a more inclusive and active university life where all the University of East London students can identify, grow, and truly belong. I am committed to making sure that the University of East London offers the opportunities, facilities, and support for every student to achieve their best potential.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I graduated with a degree in biotechnology engineering and I am enrolled at the University of East London pursuing a master's degree in pharmaceutical science. My academic experience has improved my research, communication, and problem-solving abilities, all of which are critical for promoting the needs of students. Attending a national conference while pursuing my bachelor's degree allowed me to network with professionals, talk about new developments, and build my confidence-boosting presentation skills. My networking, leadership, and public speaking abilities improved as a result of this experience, equipping me to effectively represent students.

As a pharmaceutical science course representative at the University of East London, I try to close the communication gap between students and teachers. My research projects, volunteer work, and internships have all helped me strengthen my listening, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. I am dedicated to making sure students at the University of East London feel heard, encouraged, and empowered because of my experience in engineering, research, and leadership.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

As a student officer, I will prioritize three things. My first goal is to improve academic and digital support by making it easier to use platforms like Teams and Moodle by creating a Digital Support Hub that includes peer mentors, live chat, and instructions. Additionally, I will advocate for more study sessions, quicker assessment reports, and more robust academic coaching.

Secondly, I want to boost student engagement by promoting flexible event timings, clear activity communication, and increased funding for societies, ensuring all students can participate.

Implementing a proactive Student Well-Being Check-in System will be one of my major priorities as well. With the help of this cutting-edge online platform, students will be able to receive individualized well-being check-ins, guaranteeing that they may get help without having to actively look for it. Students will experience a sense of gratitude, support, and connection during their stay at the University of East London.

# Student Officer



## Dhiren Panjwani

Studying Master of Business Administration (Business Analytics)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I am highly passionate about making sure that every student at UEL has the best possible experience. As applying for the leadership role I want to be voice of student, also to provide the strategic suggestions for meaning full changes which are required and create a supportive environment. This role will help me in developing my personal skills, for instance improve my networking skills, leadership quality, to understand different perspectives. I ensure if I become the student officer I will work on engagement programs with university, provide easy accessibility and listen to student needs and be their voice.

Do vote me.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

Being an active course representative of MBA September 2024 intake, I have been extremely connected to my colleagues as a good listener I listen to students problems and analyze the situation try to connect them with mentors or the course leader to provide the optimum solution, even though there are different course representatives for different intakes, student come to me with their problems and I make a way to them. I worked as volunteer in UEL for rotary club event and many more events. I had worked with NISAU, UK in their team worked hard to manage things and having constant coordination with the head of NISAU as I was personally handling things. Also back in India in my university I had been worked as head of volunteering department and managed things.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

To improve, Being a student I know the perspective of students and I think that in many things there are very long processes in every thing so I think that this processes should be short down and there is the communication gaps between university and student as students are not knowing about the activity happening in the university and also about particular cells like very few people know that in our university wellbeing cell exist or incubation cell exist so I think there should me increase communication and engagement activities.

To introduce, I thing there should be some sort of networking activities for students to do networking with the students of different departments, so that people with business ideas or activities can connect and plan further.

For change, I think that there should be little change in lectures patters like there should be question and answer time before the lecture ends which will improve student engagement in lectures.

In the end, I would like to say will do every thing that is needed to be done for satisfaction and improve their experience in university.

Do vote me.



# Student Officer



## Dipika Gokulnath

Graduate of Master of Business Administration  
(with placement)

Currently Inclusion Officer

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I want to re-contest for the post of student officer, because I've seen firsthand how powerful the student voice can be and how often it goes unheard. Working as the current Inclusion Officer, I've met so many students struggling, not because they lack potential, but because they don't have the right information or support. Too many don't know their basic rights or the opportunities available to them. That's not okay. Every student at UEL deserves the best experience, and I'm passionate about making that happen. I want to keep fighting for real change, real support, and a university where every student truly belongs.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

Ever since I joined UEL in 2022, I've thrown myself into student-facing roles because I truly care about making a difference. As a Student Ambassador, I represented UEL and supported students. As a Residential Life Scholar, I was the first point of contact for students in halls, helping them settle and address issues. As President of the UEL Indian Society, I created spaces for cultural celebration and belonging. Working in the Student Hub, Enrolment, and Applicant Relations teams, I guided new students through enrolment and arrival challenges. I have also worked as an intern for the Mayor of London, helping young students. As a Career Zone Peer Mentor, I supported students with academics, careers, and social life. Sitting on the APP Advisory Board, I ensured student voices were heard at the top. Now, as Inclusion Officer, I am working on bridging the gap between home and international students, setting up underrepresented student groups, like the Disabled students and LGBTQ+ student community groups and campaigning for clearer standards of acceptable student behavior. I've dedicated myself to the students at UEL, and I'm not stopping now!

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

As Inclusion Officer, I've seen what needs to change. It's time to improve engagement, awareness, and student representation at UEL.

#### 1. Increasing Student Engagement & Representation

We need more students involved in events, societies, and groups. Other universities see students from all backgrounds attending each other's cultural events, why can't we? We need diverse representation, more participation, and stronger student communities. Every student should feel seen, celebrated, and included. I'm pushing for real integration, educating students on cultures beyond their own and celebrating key months to build true understanding and unity.

#### 2. Raising Awareness of Opportunities

Too many students miss out on career services, funding, events, and support, simply because they don't know they exist. Whether it's home student benefits, international student support, career services, information on securing part-time jobs, or mental health services, I want a clearer communication system that ensures every student knows what's available to them.

#### 3. Amplifying Student Voices, Especially the Underrepresented

Decisions at UEL should reflect the voices of ALL students. Underrepresented groups need a voice, and I will fight to amplify it. I will work on real ways to push their concerns forward, improve their university experience, and prioritize their mental health and well-being. Every student deserves to be heard, and I won't stop until they are.

# Student Officer



## Shriram Senthil Kumar

Studying BSc (Hons) Business Management  
(second year)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

When I first joined UEL, I was completely lost. Everything was new; the campus, the people, the way things worked. I didn't know where to go for help, how to balance my studies, or even find people I could connect with. It was overwhelming, and sometimes, I questioned myself if I belonged here. I struggled to find the right resources, yet had no clear answers. I recall feeling frustrated when I needed academic support but didn't know who to approach. It wasn't easy and I don't want any other student to go through that experience.

That's why I'm running to be your student officer because no one should feel alone or unsupported at our university. I want to make sure that every student, no matter what their background, feels part of our community and truly thrives at UEL.

In my time as a student officer, if I manage to make even one student feel at home in UEL I would consider it as my biggest achievement.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

One of the most valuable experiences I've had was setting up the Tamil Union staff at the student fair. It gave me the chance to engage with a wide range of students, listen to their struggles, and gain insight into the issues they face at UEL. From academic pressures to feelings of isolation, I heard about the challenges many students experience. This reinforced the need for a student officer who is approachable, empathetic and actively works to address student concerns.

I helped to manage the stall, ensuring students received information about our society and the resources available to them. Beyond that, I also took the time to really listen to their feedback, ask questions, and understand what changes they wanted to see on campus.

This experience taught me the importance of effective

communication, problem-solving, and active listening skills that are essential for a student officer. I learnt that being in this role means not only listening to students but also taking action to address their concerns, whether it's improving academic resources, creating more inclusive events with the help of student groups, or ensuring that all voices are heard.

With these experiences, I'm ready to represent students and make UEL a place everyone feels supported.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

1. I want to improve access to mental health resources. I also aim to make the well-being team more visible and shorten the wait time for students.
2. I want to expand opportunities for networking with the university's partner organization, so students can grow in their career.
3. Introducing Sustainability and Green Initiatives
  - Bike sharing programs
  - Book for a book initiative and more

# Student Officer



## Anbu Jagadeesan

Graduate of BSc (Hons) Computer Science  
Currently Activities Officer

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

The main reason behind I'm running for the student officer role is I am deeply passionate about student representation and making real changes that enhance our university experience. Over the past year, I have worked closely with students, listening to concerns, advocating, and ensuring that your voices are heard. I believe that strong leadership, and proactive initiatives are essential in shaping a more inclusive, supportive, and vibrant student community. If elected, I will continue to push for better student welfare, academic support, and enriching opportunities to make our university a place where everyone thrives.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I have served as a Student Officer last year, I have better experience navigating the challenges and opportunities of student leadership. I have previously worked with university management to improve policies and supported students on key their issues. My experience has equipped me with the skills to negotiate effectively, organize impactful initiatives, and ensure student concerns are addressed. I understand the demands of this role and am committed to continuing the progress we've made together. With your support, I will use my experience to make meaningful change and represent you effectively.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

- 1. Expanding student spaces:**  
Many students struggle with limited social spaces on campus. I will advocate for more dedicated student areas and secure lockers for commuter students to store their belongings, making campus life more convenient and comfortable for everyone.
- 2. Introducing a student-led newspaper:**  
I believe students should have a platform to express their voices, share opinions, and report on issues that matter. A student-led newspaper will not only give aspiring writers and journalists an opportunity to develop their skills but also serve as a powerful medium for student representation and advocacy.
- 3. Enhancing the sense of belonging for all students:**  
Our university is home to a diverse community, and I want to ensure every student feels valued and connected. I will work on bringing students together, fostering a strong sense of belonging.

# Student Officer



## Aryan Sareen

Studying BSc (Hons) Computer Science  
(Web and Mobile Technologies) (third year)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

I want to be a student officer because I am passionate about improving student life and creating a more inclusive, supportive, and vibrant university environment. I believe that every student deserves to have their voice heard, and I am committed to working tirelessly to represent your interests. My goal is to foster a sense of community, enhance well-being, and ensure that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed. I am committed to being a transparent and approachable student officer. I will actively engage with the student body, listen to your concerns, and keep you informed about our progress. Together, we can create positive change and shape a university experience we can all be proud of. With your support, I aim to make the University of East London a place where everyone feels valued and empowered.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I have actively participated in student organizations and have experience organizing events that bring students together. This has equipped me with the skills to plan and advocate for activities that foster personal and professional growth. My experience in working collaboratively with diverse groups has taught me how to listen to different perspectives and translate them into actionable solutions. Additionally, I have been involved in initiatives to improve mental health support and campus facilities, which has given me a deep understanding of the challenges students face and how to address them effectively.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

**More Social and Cultural Events:** I will advocate for increased funding and support for student-led events, including cultural festivals, volunteer opportunities, and professional networking sessions. These events not only foster community and cultural understanding but also offer personal and academic enrichment. I will ensure that all students have access to resources to bring their ideas to life, making campus life more dynamic and inclusive.

**Enhanced Mental Health Support:** Mental health is crucial to student well-being. I will push for more accessible counselling services, reduced wait times, and regular mental health workshops. I also propose creating peer support programs where trained student volunteers can provide guidance and emotional support. Together, we can break the stigma surrounding mental health and ensure that no student feels alone in their struggles.

**Better Campus Facilities:** I will advocate for improved study spaces, more charging stations, better lighting, and enhanced accessibility for students with disabilities. Furthermore, I will promote sustainable practices by improving recycling initiatives and creating green spaces on campus. These changes will contribute to a more comfortable, supportive, and eco-friendly university environment where all students can thrive.

# Student Officer



## Kushal Anumasa

Studying MSc Artificial Intelligence  
(with placement)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

Being a student is not only just attending classes and submitting assignments. It is more than that, it's about feeling supported, making connections and having access to the right opportunities. As an international student, I know how stressful and difficult university life can be from adjusting to a new country to managing finances and academics at the same time. That's exactly why I'm running for student officer. I want to make sure every student should feel heard, supported and encouraged to make the most of their university experience.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I'm currently the Finance Officer of Telugu Society, where I've helped organise student events, manage funds, and create a sense of community among students from different backgrounds. This role has given me experience in leadership, budgeting and student engagement.

Additionally, working in customer service and hospitality has taught me how to handle different perspectives, solve different problems in an efficient way and make sure people's concerns are noted. These skills are important for a Student Officer, as the role involves representing students and working to improve their experience at university.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

Firstly, better student support and well-being. Many students struggle with academics, mental health and finances but don't know where to find the right help. I want to simplify access to university resources, mentorship programs and well-being services so that students don't feel lost or unsupported.

Secondly, more career and networking opportunities for all students

Whether you are studying AI, business, Computer Science, nursing or any other course, you deserve better access to career fairs, internships, and networking events. I'll work on things which will provide skill building opportunities to help students plan for the future.

Finally, stronger community and student engagement

University life should be fun and engaging. I want to support student societies, cultural events, and student-led initiatives so that everyone feels part of a vibrant community.

Coming to the end, I'm not here to make any empty promises. I'm here to take action and make real changes that matter to students. If you want someone who listens, understands and will actually work to improve student life, I would love your support.

# Student Officer



## Preethi Venkateshwaran

Studying BSc (Hons) Clinical and Community  
Psychology (third year)

### Why do you want to be a student officer?

As an international student who moved to a new country at 18, I've experienced personally the challenges of adjusting to a new culture, environment, and academic system. These experiences have shaped my drive to make sure all students, especially those from diverse backgrounds, feel supported and included. I'm running for student officer because I want to use my understanding of these struggles to advocate for positive change. By listening to students and creating more inclusive opportunities, I believe we can build a campus where everyone feels seen, heard, and like they truly belong.

### What relevant experience do you have for this role?

I believe I'd be an effective student officer because I'm deeply committed to understanding and addressing student needs. My experience as a Student Ambassador, Course Representative, Co-curriculum Scholar, and President of the Psychology Society has helped me build strong leadership and communication skills. I've worked closely with students, advocating for better academic support and mental health services. Additionally, working as a teaching assistant for Special needs students has given me a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by diverse student groups. This experience, combined with my passion for inclusivity, drives me to create a supportive environment for all students.

### What three things do you want to improve, change or introduce in the University?

- I'm passionate about creating more opportunities for both international and home students to come together and truly connect. Through cultural exchange events, open dialogues, and inclusive celebrations, we can break down barriers and build a community where everyone feels welcomed and valued. These moments of connection are powerful, and they can truly transform our university experience by making us all feel part of something bigger.
- Mental health should always be a priority, and it's something I care deeply about. We need to make sure our counselling services are not only visible but also accessible when we need them the most. I will push for more in-person support that's culturally sensitive and personalised to each of us. I'll work to introduce more therapy workshops and drop-in sessions, offering students flexible options to access mental health support whenever they need it. I want mental health care to be a proactive part of our university experience easy to access, personal, and responsive to our needs.
- I believe that students need more access to career building opportunities. I will push for increased networking events, internships, and industry talks to help students gain real world experience and connect with professionals in their field. By creating more opportunities to engage with industry leaders, we can better prepare ourselves for life after university. Whether it's through career fairs, mentorship programs, or alumni connections, I'm committed to opening doors for all students and making sure that opportunities for growth are accessible to everyone.

# Candidates for school representative

School representatives work to improve the academic experience of students in their schools. They work part-time throughout the autumn and spring terms.

School representatives work closely with our course reps and the student officers to make sure students' voices are heard, and that their academic experience is the best it can be.

Along with the student officers, the school representatives are members of the student leadership committee. This committee is responsible for deciding Students' Union policy on matters affecting students, and for working together to improve the University.

## School Representative (Architecture, Computing and Engineering)



### Ernest Igbede

UG Cert in Engineering leading to  
BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering (first year)

#### Why do you want to be a school representative?

As students, we face both opportunities and challenges daily, but I believe we have the power to create change. I am running for School representative to represent our collective goals and work tirelessly to enhance our school. My vision is to foster a more inclusive, supportive, and dynamic environment where every student's voice is heard. With your support, I will advocate for better resources, improved communication, and initiatives that benefit us all. Together, we can make meaningful progress and ensure a brighter future for our school community.

#### What are your three main strengths for this role?

For this position, my three primary talents are communication, leadership, and experience. I have direct experience promoting the interests of students, resolving issues, and collaborating with teachers to enhance our learning environment as a course representative. I am able to take charge, make wise choices, and defend the rights of students because of my advocacy and leadership abilities. I can also actively listen, interact with a variety of viewpoints, and successfully communicate ideas thanks to my strong communication abilities. These attributes will enable me to speak for you with assurance, make sure your opinions are heard, and promote constructive changes in our student body.

#### If you are elected, what would you help to improve?

If elected, my priorities will be career development, campus involvement, and academic support. To improve learning, I will advocate for more study materials, skill-building seminars, and improved communication between students and teachers. I'll plan additional events, networking opportunities, and extracurricular activities that are open to all students in an effort to increase campus involvement. I will also promote career development initiatives like internships, mentorship programs, and training on job preparedness. My objective is to establish a welcoming atmosphere for students where everyone is encouraged to thrive and feels heard.

# School Representative (Business and Law)



## Sarim Kumal

Studying BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance  
(first year)

### Why do you want to be a school representative?

I was an Air Cadet in a leadership position, where I was responsible for managing teams, making decisive calls under pressure, and ensuring that squadrons objectives were met with tight deadlines. This experience instilled in me a commitment to practical, results-oriented leadership. I want the students at this university to directly benefit from this approach by having an approachable and focused school representative who prioritises communication and tangible improvements.

I want to be a school representative because I believe that effective, no-nonsense representation can bridge the gap between student concerns and administrative action. My experience as an Air Cadet, where I held a leadership role and taught my squadron, taught me the value of clear communication, decisive action, and accountability. I want to use these skills to ensure that the ideas and challenges of our student body are not lost in bureaucracy but are addressed with practical, timely solutions. I am driven by a desire to improve everyday student life by cutting through red tape and focusing on real issues, such as academic support and study environments to campus facilities and mental health resources. My goal is to make sure that every student not only feels heard but sees tangible improvements that enhance our university experience.

### What are your three main strengths for this role?

**Proof of Leadership:** My time as an Air Cadet and the leadership recognition I have earned through multiple Jack Petchey Awards demonstrate my ability to lead with clarity and purpose. Creating a target objective, and cautiously working through it is critical.

I understand how to organise teams to drive initiatives that make a real difference.

**Direct Communication:** Teaching air force-related content at my squadron refined my communication skills, enabling me to clearly convey ideas and ensure that feedback is accurately shared with decision-makers. This approach ensured that issues raised by cadets were swiftly addressed and effectively resolved, and I aim to foster that same level of clarity and responsiveness within our university community.

**Practical Problem-Solving:** I take a straightforward approach to challenges. In my time as an Air Cadet, I learned to break down complex problems into manageable parts. By evaluating issues logically, I was able to identify the root causes and apply lessons learned from real-world situations to develop effective solutions. This practical mindset means I'm not interested in theoretical fixes, rather solutions that work in the real world.

### If you are elected, what would you help to improve?

By applying the same principles of clear analysis, prompt action, and ongoing refinement, I aim to address everyday student concerns, whether it's enhancing study spaces, refining feedback channels, or encouraging staff to adopt a more technical approach, staying current with digital tools. When faced with operational challenges during cadet training, I would analyse the situation, consult with my team, and implement changes immediately, rather than waiting for a perfect solution. I believe this hands-on approach is exactly what our university needs. This method not only ensures prompt, effective responses but also builds a culture of continuous improvement and accountability among students.

# School Representative (Business and Law)



## Michael Shonibare

Studying BSc (Hons) Sport Business Management  
(first year)

### Why do you want to be a school representative?

I want to be a student rep because I genuinely care about the well-being of students. Over time, I've heard many students voice their frustrations about various issues, yet little to no progress has been made in addressing them. I believe students deserve real change, not just empty promises. With my logical approach and problem-solving mindset, I aim to introduce innovative solutions that will make a real impact. By taking a structured, analytical approach, I will ensure that every issue raised is met with practical and effective action.

### What are your three main strengths for this role?

As a mature student, I have taken the time to fully assess the current state of the university, allowing me to understand the key areas that need improvement. My experience as an international athlete has equipped me with valuable life skills, including discipline, resilience, and the ability to perform under pressure. Additionally, I have a strong network of people who could help implement meaningful and realistic change. I also consider myself an approachable and confident speaker, meaning I'm never afraid to voice my opinions—especially when it comes to improving the student experience. If something is not working, I will challenge it.

### If you are elected, what would you help to improve?

The biggest issue I've heard from students in my school is frustration over some of the joint modules on the course and their lack of relevance. Many feel that certain modules do not provide real value for their future careers, which ultimately affects engagement, motivation, and satisfaction. If elected, I will go beyond just acknowledging these concerns I will take direct action.

I will ensure that student voices are not only heard but accounted for by presenting concrete data and statistics to board meetings. I will conduct surveys, gather feedback, and provide a clear breakdown of student concerns, making it impossible for decision-makers to ignore. By backing student concerns with evidence, I will push for meaningful curriculum adjustments that align with industry needs and student aspirations.

Beyond academics, I will also work to improve overall student well-being. This means pushing for more mental health support, fairer workload distribution, and better communication between staff and students. My goal is not just to raise concerns but to secure real solutions that will enhance the overall student experience.

If given the opportunity, I will be a strong and relentless advocate for students, ensuring that their university experience is both fulfilling and beneficial for their futures.

# School Representative (Childhood and Social Care)



## Jacob Cliff

Studying BSc (Hons) Sustainable Development and Social Change (first year)

### Why do you want to be a school representative?

I have always wanted and enjoyed helping out and volunteering from a young age such as helping out at events as a prefect at secondary school and a member of the student council at college. Also volunteering at scouts, most recently fundraising for a trip to Nepal where we were supporting a charity called 'class room in the clouds' which improves education for children in Nepal who live in more rural and less developed areas. And consistently and have volunteered at church with helping set it up and down at my church back home. As well as the children's group. I also volunteer at the church food bank back home and in London depending on my timetable. I enjoy doing all this especially as it has a positive effect on people's lives.

### What are your three main strengths for this role?

I'm a team player, committed and passionate about making a positive difference in the world. I have demonstrated these skills by volunteering at church, foodbanks and scouts. All three I have fundraised for and helped out for. I have represented all three of these places at various points.

### If you are elected, what would you help to improve?

I have spoken to students in my course who don't like the fact that compulsory work experience/Job placements for fee, reduces the amount of paid work they can do. For international students or students who live on their own in the UK rely on this money to live as they don't have the luxury of being able to live with parents or receive money from their parents. This affects people not just in my school but any school that has this job placements/work experience. So, I would like to find a way of being able to give the most support possible for these people to make it as easy as possible to solve this issue.

Doing a course 'Sustainable development and social change' I am a student doing one of the many courses in and outside my school that want to improve sustainability such as 'Politics and International relations. I would want (a long with other people) to brain storm ideas that allow this to happen. A few ideas I have thought of is are having compost bins which reduces waste and is good for the soil. Or looking to see if we can improve where the ingredients are sourced for the food sold at UEL. Both these things in particular the first one can be implemented to so all three campuses. Harder for USS but still possible to some degree.

I want to push for better advertising for all events at UEL happening at any campus as not all events get an equal level of limelight, and it is a shame the students don't take the opportunity to participate in all activities due to them not being aware of the existence. It is good that students get to experience a variety of cultures, become aware of certain issues and use skills they can put into practise.

# nook

# THE COOLEST NEW CAFÉ ON CAMPUS

A brand new student space and social enterprise, where your purchases make an impact.

All of Nook's profits are reinvested into the Students' Union's work to improve your student experience.

Choose Nook for your breakfast, lunch or coffee fix today.

**School Representative (Arts and Creative Industries)**

Visit [eastlondonsu.com](http://eastlondonsu.com) for details of this election.

Find Nook in Docklands Square.





**Vote online by  
Thursday 3 April**

[eastlondonsu.com](http://eastlondonsu.com)