

# Flamur Krasniqi

## FOR GU BME OFFICER

Over the last 4-5 years, Cambridge has made some excellent strides forward to addressing the problems and issues presented to BME students when applying to Oxbridge more generally. But, there remains a lot of hard work to be done. Everybody who comes to Cambridge, knows that it is a fantastic place to be, with the opportunities for your future career almost endless. These opportunities should be as open an accessible to everybody. Yet, unfortunately, BME students, which also happen to come from some of the most economically deprived places in the country, do not enjoy the same opportunities.

One of the first things that I would strive to propose is having a stand alone section/stand/event advertising for BME students during the annual summer & winter graduate open day. In addition, I would seek additional funds and support for organising a stand alone BME open day event for graduate students dedicated to issues and problems that are most pressing and important to them. I believe that such events would not only go a long way to demonstrating Cambridge's dedication to encouraging BME students to apply, but would also make the University itself more accessible to students and show them that it understands their predicaments but that this should not preclude anybody from applying.

As the BME officer, not only do I believe that I have the right ideas to help address these issues, I also have my own personal experience to understand the difficulties of these issues. Coming from a disadvantaged background that included a lifelong reliance on social government housing, lack of local opportunities and a school upbringing that wasn't the best, I had to fight harder and more consistently to make it to Cambridge as a graduate student. Now a second year PhD student with the personal history of overcoming many of the challenges that BME students experience, my own experience will help to fuel better and more efficient outreach ideas and programs that can be of great benefit to aspiring BME students.

