
Presidency Manifesto

My name is Declan Maloney, I'm an MPhil student in Assyriology, and I want to be the next President of the Graduate Union. Like many postgraduate students, I came to Cambridge from another institution. During the course of my undergraduate I sat on many societies' committees, where I acquired not only the skills required to run successful societies, but also to manage the challenges associated with the bureaucracy of higher education.

My involvement with the Graduate Union began when I, in my capacity as an MCR Welfare officer at Girton College, was invited to a seminar by the Graduate Union's sabbatical Welfare & Rights Officer – a position which I came to learn was relatively new, and is an example how the Graduate Union continues to seek to improve its services. I seek election in order to carry on this effort and to ensure that the Graduate Union continues to work to enrich the lives of the student community.

Key Policy Concerns

100% MCR Affiliation

- I want your concerns about Cambridge to be taken to the highest levels of governance within Cambridge University. Your MCRs have the potential to have your and their ideas heard and reflected in future university policy by working directly with the Graduate Union.
- Only 24 of the 31 constituent colleges of Cambridge are officially affiliated with the Graduate Union. I will strive for all 31 colleges to be affiliated with the Graduate Union by the end of my presidency.

Transparency

- One of the challenges faced by graduate students is a lack of awareness of what exactly the Graduate Union does and can do for each and every student.
- As such, I wish to publicise more vocally the work that the officers do for the student body in Cambridge, to demonstrate more clearly how your concerns can be heard at the highest levels of the university.
- To achieve this, I will keep and publish regular office hours and hold Q&A sessions so that no question or concern about graduate life goes unanswered at Cambridge.

Coherent, consistent intermittence guidelines

- None of us know if, during our studies, circumstances outside of our control will force us to pause our work for a period, a situation known as "intermitting". All students need the reassurance that under these circumstances all colleges will treat students equally. However, today intermitting students face a lottery in terms of potential support, with each college devising its own means of dealing with intermitting and returning students.
- I wish to continue the work of the university to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines for colleges to follow on the basis of the experiences of those students who have intermitted themselves, in order to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged at what can be a very difficult time in their lives.

Final Thoughts

If elected President of the Graduate Union, my main endeavour will be to ensure that every voice in the graduate community can be heard. I know that this university is already an excellent place to pursue postgraduate learning, and I will work hard to ensure that the Graduate Union will continue to support you, giving a voice to the entirety of our graduate community.