

## **Welfare Officer**

Hello everybody! My name is Aila Bicer and I'm a 22 year old MPhil World History fresher at St. Catharine's College. I may be new to the university but I'm very familiar with positions relating to the welfare of people. During my undergraduate degree at the University of York, I was course representative for a year and dealt with various student issues: from day to day difficulties with work to more personal problems people faced among their peers. As a point on the side, I also grew up looking after my mother, who had a stroke when I was 6 years old. Life can be difficult for us all sometimes and as a result, we need a comfortable environment to unwind in... especially amongst people we trust that are willing to listen and understand!

I know how stressful it can be to be studying at one of the greatest universities in the world and even the best of us can struggle to cope sometimes – after all, the work is demanding and there is always something going on socially! If you elect me as your Welfare Officer at your Graduate Union, I hope to be able to create a space that you can come to where you can forget about everything else and seek advice.

An initiative I'd really love to start up would be Welfare Anonymous, similar to the fantastic anonymous groups you get in comedy movies, it would involve us sitting around in a group with some drinks and snacks and discussing our issues and problems or simply having a vent about life. The aim is to let go of some frustration or simply speak of your thoughts in a stream of consciousness to feel a little lighter and better off. Sometimes getting an outside perspective on your problems could help significantly!

I have plenty of ideas to make your experience at Cambridge that much more comfortable and as an approachable person, I will be here to support you with whatever you may need.

**[VOTE AILA FOR WELFARE, BECAUSE BICER IS NICER 😊](#)**