

U0837_2: Nominations Form

Role Category*

Nation and Area Representative

Preferred name*

Connor

Candidate Question 1: What attracted you to stand for this role

University-level education should be open to all, regardless of personal circumstances, location, or academic background. Being diagnosed with multiple learning difficulties, I have seen first-hand the value of the support provided by the Open University Students Association. I wish to work with the association to make these opportunities accessible to everyone within our nation.

Travelling from north Wales to Cardiff for our student consultation alongside actively engaging in virtual socials and the student voice festival taught me how valuable every single student's experience is to building an open and accessible education for all. During these events I have made it my mission to ensure that every student gets heard and listened to. This has included challenging the status quo where reasonable and acting as a source of information wherever I can to enrich our wider student experience.

Living in Wales without an elected representative, any face-to-face meetups or dedicated socials can feel isolating. This is why I have been in contact over the past few months with the association to use my voice as a fellow student to organise these social opportunities to foster greater collaboration and sharing of experiences to support our fellow students within our nation.

If elected as the area representative for Wales, I will continue my work, amplifying the voices of all students and creating more opportunities for socialisation and collaboration within Wales. Together, we can build a more inclusive and supportive academic environment and support all students to thrive on our academic journeys.

Candidate Question 2: What are the top two issues that you would want to address as part of the 2024-26 Student Leadership Team?

Transparent Growth in Wales

The absence of a Welsh students representative and face-to-face meetups in Wales while the Cardiff students consultation was in full-attendance demonstrates the need for change. This is why I want to give each student in Wales the opportunity to speak and be listened to. I will be receptive and feedback to every single student who I represent to ensure that everything shared with me is heard and used constructively to enrich our collective student experience.

Community Development

By engaging with fellow Welsh students at association events I have seen a collective sense of isolation. This is why I aim to develop more opportunities to connect with every student in our nation including each neurodiverse student and every member of the LGBTQIA+ community. By working closely with the students association, I intend to drive a greater sense of belonging and strengthen our open university community within our nation."

