

## U0837\_2: Nominations Form

**Role Category\***

Nation and Area Representative

**Preferred name\***

Isabelle Hoyet

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

It is important for our international community to have our voice heard and to have an International Representative who has an understanding of the issues affecting students studying from outside the UK. As the current International Student Representative, my main reason for standing for this role is that, as an international student myself, I know what specific issues we have and the challenges we face, some of which became even worse after the UK left the European Union.

I would like the opportunity to continue to meet with fellow international students, to hear their individual voices and in turn to be their voice towards the OU. I believe I would add value to the international student community by continuing to advocate for them, making sure that they know they have someone looking after their interests.

As Event and Meet-Up Host, I have been hosting online meet-ups for international students since 2020 and I feel that I am integrated with the international community at the OU. I am a member of the International Students Club and engage with other international students through the Association forums and the Club's WhatsApp group. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience with other students. I try to answer their questions and signpost them to available resources. I also kept in close contact with the previous International Representatives while they were in their role.

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

Reachability Student Support Team

I would advocate for extended opening hours of the Student Support Team (SST) and additional ways of contacting them. Since 2020, the OU considerably reduced the SST opening hours, thereby making it harder for students to contact them. Calling the SST is also very expensive for international students and not everything can be resolved via webchat. This issue could easily be resolved if students could call the SST, for instance, via Teams, Skype, Adobe Connect or WhatsApp.

Dedicated team for international students

I would advocate for the creation of a dedicated team for international students within the OU. International students have specific needs and face many common issues, but there is no-one at the OU with overall responsibility for international students. Any feedback received from international students cannot be addressed specifically and there are no student consultations specifically for international students. Having a dedicated team would allow issues to be resolved more quickly and more efficiently.

