

U0837_2: Nominations Form

Full name*	Katie Hickmott
Role Category*	Vice President position
Candidate Question 1: What attracted you to stand for this role	<p>Sitting on the board of studies and Academic committee for ECYS and WELS has taught me about the necessary need for student voice and knowing I'm fighting in students' corners behind the scenes being that representative to fight for change so students have a better experience and get more out of their learning. It all starts with raising the issue, joining the meetings and debating the issues students are facing and knowing that it's being taken on board and then you start to see the changes happening whether that takes weeks, months, or years being a part of that change is a confidence booster and knowing students are getting the experience they rightly deserve to be a part of the Open University community. I don't give up; I take on the challenge and I listen to other students' issues, whether that's around student issues with tutors, Student Services, DSA, retention, or discrimination. I take these issues to the board meetings/academic committee and raise them at retention meetings. I put students at the centre of everything I do and think of solutions that could fix these problems. We have the right to be treated fairly and equally as students. I'm a neurodivergent student, so I know the struggles when it comes to disability support and mental health support and I feel so much more needs to be done to support students to reach their potential and aspirations.</p>
Candidate Question 2: What are the top two issues that you would want to address as part of the 2024-26 Student Leadership Team?	<p>The lack of mental health support and recognition I feel the open university association should be offering more voluntary positions for students as mental health first aiders and suicide prevention awareness training. Making their mental health ambassador programme more recognised and just more awareness day events around mental health it's so important for a distance learning student it can be a lonely journey.</p> <p>Student representation when it comes to making decisions that will affect students short term and longer term. The Open University need to include underrepresented groups like hearing from People in secure settings, Pride Communities, Disability Student Groups, and BAME communities. Inclusion and Equality and being heard when students don't agree with a decision the Open University makes without student consultation can cause uncertainty and affect student retention and whether a student withdraws from their studies. Transparency is key to being a good student leader that's between OU colleagues and reporting back to students to keep everyone included.</p>
I am not currently employed by the Open University*	yes
Constituency*	Vice President Academic Student Voice

