

U0837_2: Nominations Form

Role Category* President or Deputy President

Preferred name* Natalie Baker

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

As the current Vice President Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (VP EDI) working with the current Student Leadership Team (SLT) has given me a lot of confidence, skills and experience that makes me feel ready to step up and stand for the role of President. I have seen first-hand the hard work and dedication that goes into the work at the association, and I want to lead and empower the next SLT to ensure that we advocate for, represent and support students at all levels and areas of the OU on the issues that matter to them. The OU student body is diverse and unlike many other higher education institutes and as such ensuring we have an equal, inclusive, and accessible Association and University where all students can be their authentic self is incredibly important to me. My current role has meant that I have a lot of experience of having difficult conversations and effectively advocating and challenging (when needed) in the interests of all students and if elected president I will continue to do so. I want to ensure that we are transparent, engaging, and accountable in the work that we do and ensure that we are always listening to students and representing them on issues that are important to them. The best way to do this is to ensure we have an effective Student Leadership Team that can work collaboratively and feel supported to achieve their own goals and as a team to work on shared priorities and responsibilities.

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

Support for underrepresented students.

There are several barriers and challenges that our students face in their studies and the wider world. I want to ensure that we are providing the most effective student support we can at the association and the OU. I will do this by continuing our work on the student support groups to ensure they are effective, sustainable and the voice for those who may not feel heard.

Isolation and loneliness

Having a community and sense of belonging can help combat a lot of the isolation and loneliness that students can feel especially being remote learners. Having a disability and being able to study at the OU has given me a chance to have a second shot at life, it has built my confidence and opened a whole new world of possibilities. Every student should have this opportunity and I am committed to ensuring we have an inclusive and welcoming student community/university that helps students thrive.

