

## U0837\_2: Nominations Form

**Role Category\***

Vice President position

**Preferred name\***

Ross

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

In March 2020, I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, which is a form of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. As such, I was introduced to what it means to have an invisible disability. Through my own lived experiences, I have the knowledge on what it means to live with a disability; the ups and downs that come with it; how every day can be different with no predicting what the day will bring. Most importantly, I know how this can impact work and studying.

Since my diagnosis, I have been a huge advocate for equality and inclusion when it comes to invisible disabilities and disabilities in general. I am a Local Network and Awareness volunteer for the charity that supports those with my condition. Through this, I have assist in fundraising and educational presentations to community groups aimed at raising awareness.

I was attracted to the role of VP for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion because I know that I can bring my knowledge, experience and compassion to the role. I want to proudly represent every individual, from any background, that experience inequality or exclusion, whether directly or indirectly. After all, unless you have a disability or protected characteristic, it can be hard to put yourself in the shoes of someone who does.

I can be that voice. I will proudly represent those that need it as Vice President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. No matter is too trivial as I truly belief in equality and inclusion for all.

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

### **Education for ALL**

The OU is in a unique position as a distant learning university that disabled and under-represented people can truly benefit from. Higher education and the challenges it presents can be daunting, but I believe in proudly promoting the accessibility of OU courses to those that may have been put off of the idea of a conventional university. No one's true potential should be limited, and they should not be defined by their characteristics. I want to work with the OU to expand the outreach to potential students with disabilities or protected characteristics.

### **Listening Circles - Improvement Together**

No two experiences as a student at OU are the same, and I recognise that. I, alone, cannot speak for the difficulties other students are facing. Similarly, not all solutions look the same. I want to address this issue by creating a safe, judgement-free way for students to have their say on what can help them.

