



University of  
Nottingham  
Students' Union

# **Union Development Officer**

## **Candidate Manifestos**



# Harry Chapman

## Hi, I'm Harry, my pronouns are he/him, standing for Union Development Officer in your SU.

Your SU exists to represent the interests of the student body. It is therefore crucial that the UDO is someone who can stand up to an executive board looking to profit off students in a time of crisis as opposed to someone looking for a boosted CV. I am standing because as a current second year, welfare officer in Nottingham Labour Students, and vice-president in PokerSoc, I deeply care about the direction the SU is set to take, and pledge to do better.

I pledge to:

- Stand up to university bosses

The VC, Shearer West, has gone from rarely communicating with students through email to complete silence. This is at a time when students have possibly never been worse off financially. All evidence suggests they don't really care about us – it is as if there is no communication out of shame over just how badly our university is behaving towards its biggest asset – the students. It is high time we made the leaders of our university start listening.

I pledge to make our VC and Pro-VCs visible and accountable by demanding increased communication between University leaders and students.

- Address the Cost of Living Crisis

Your SU Officer team has put together some great events and advice on the cost of living, which is hitting students harder than other groups in society. The issue is things are about to get worse. Inflation is at 10% (January 2023) and yet our SFE maintenance loans are only increasing 2.6%. This is grossly unfair relative to the generations of students that studied before us. Meanwhile our university in 2020 cut the core bursary in half, and continue to hike prices on hall accommodation well above the proposed rise in our maintenance loans, which amount to considerably less than a living wage.

I pledge to lobby the university to intervene on failure of government and ensure that students are no worse off financially than this year. I will work on this issue extensively which is at the forefront of students' minds.

- Schedule check-ins

I pledge to support every full-time and part-time officer in their respective elected roles and cooperate where required in helping them achieve the goals they are setting out in their manifestos for an SU that achieves more.

- Increase Union participation

Turnout was only a little over 1000 votes in the UCU Support referendum, which despite being quorate is still extremely low relative to the student population at UoN. UoNSU plays a crucial part of student life here, and more needs to be done to connect the union with the students.

I pledge to increase the opportunities available to get involved by making the union more active on socials and on campus, and attempting to interact with everyone, from SU staff, to the students in elected positions in societies, to liaising with the crucially important institution of the NUS and other student unions, working together to collectively promote a better student experience.

Vote to do better. Vote Harry Chapman for Union Development Officer.



# Jessica Nuttall

## Empowering you to have the best possible student experience. Don't settle for less, vote for Jess.

Hi, I'm Jess! Welcome to my manifesto! I'm running for Union Development Officer! I'm a 4th-year student studying MSc Marketing. I've been involved with many Students' Union projects in my time here: I'm a SU Brand ambassador, I organised and lead 200 amazing mentors for Welcome Week, and I'm currently the Volunteering Director of Karnival. I love the SU- but these opportunities also highlight where improvement is needed to enhance the overall student experience. My experiences will be vital in making change, therefore, I'm running for Union Development Officer(UDO).

My manifesto has four points:

- Open Conversations- being visible and accessible to all students, everywhere!
- Student-centred decisions- with your feedback, demanding the change you want to see and giving you a voice!
- Volunteering and CV-Building- improving access to part-time jobs and volunteering opportunities!
- Campus Connectivity- more events, fairs and freebies on ALL campuses!

Open conversations:

- The main role of the Union Development Officer is representing the students.
- Therefore, it's important I'm present and ready to listen.
- Every week I will host 'office hours' so anyone can easily ask questions or raise concerns about the SU and university.
- I will go to different buildings on every campus each week rather than just the Portland offices so I'm accessible to everyone.

Student-centred decisions:

- Feedback from these conversations will be taken to weekly meetings with Shearer West(Vice Chancellor) so your voices are heard.
- Positive student experience will be the CENTRE of all major decisions, e.g., I'll advocate for more study spaces to prevent libraries overcrowding.
- I will restructure the Union Council (where SU motions are discussed and voted on) to ensure stronger representation of the student body.
- I will stop students being treated like consumers of a product and ensure you are treated as individuals with unique and diverse experiences.

Volunteering and CV-building:

- Volunteering is important to me, it has helped me better myself, the local community, and build a strong CV.
- You deserve to graduate in a positive professional position.
- I will work with the careers and student communities' teams to connect students with volunteering opportunities throughout your university career to aid personal and CV development.
- Considering the cost-of-living crisis, I will hold fairs with local businesses looking to hire students for reasonable part-time work, providing accessible jobs, helping you develop skills during your studies.

Campus connectivity:

- The Students' Union offers many incredible events, fairs, and opportunities for students.
  - However, if you aren't constantly in the Portland Building, you could miss out!
  - That's why I will bring these events to you, ensuring they happen on every campus, and increase the advertisements so no one misses out on fun, freebies, or even work opportunities!
- I'm constantly striving to give students great opportunities through my work in Karnival and Welcome Committees, and I'll do even better as YOUR Union Development Officer! Ultimately, I want to support and empower as many students as possible.

Thanks for reading, please vote for me<3.