

# Leeds Student Think Tank 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

17/08/2023

## Contents

0 <sup>th</sup> Topic: Key .....	1
Topic 1: Style Guide .....	1
Social Media Style Guide.....	2
Topic 2: Project Charter.....	2
Raci matrix + Organisation: Nothing to note .....	2
Topic 3: Engage Knowledge Base .....	2
Topic 4: Data tools.....	2
Main risks if we use Macrobond: .....	2
Topic 5: Writing Workshops .....	2
Topic 6: Website .....	3
Topic 7: GIAG .....	3
Risks: .....	3
Topic 7: Freshers Fair.....	3
General Discussion: .....	4
OTT: .....	4
Partnerships: .....	4
Some ideas for future socials: .....	4
Membership fee: .....	4
KPMG: .....	4
Editor of the Gryphon: .....	4

## 0<sup>th</sup> Topic: Key

**Red font** indicates important actions we should be completing.

Black font is extra context and discussion we had.

## Topic 1: Style Guide

Purpose:

- People come into the Think Tank knowing how to write consistently with previous work,
- It includes a general writing philosophy,
- Inspires everyone to write well,

- Gives all the tools needed so that writers know where to start,
- Visual templates to cut down on formatting times.

### Social Media Style Guide

- Emphasise unbiased nature/non-partisanship
  - Authors + researchers have profiles to reflect political backgrounds
  - Social media will allow for more opinionated perspectives as opposed to the research document

### Topic 2: Project Charter

- All important dates avoid academically heavy periods
- CV relevance: Nic will remove once he learns how to use Microsoft Word

Another possible risk we should consider is a lack of media presence. A connection with the Leeds Gryphon (mentioned later in the General Discussion section) is a great starting point.

### Raci matrix + Organisation: Nothing to note

### Topic 3: Engage Knowledge Base

All bureaucratic processes are explained in this, e.g., the correct process the Treasurer should follow when making funding requests.

### Topic 4: Data tools

We are approaching a company called Macrobond because the chief commercial officer for the company is an ex-Leeds alumnus.

The reason we want to use this is because it provides a Bloomberg Terminal (i.e. a software which allows people to access the Bloomberg Professional Services and thus monitor real-time financial market data). Access to this data would be extremely useful for writing reports and when doing any regressive analyses.

#### Main risks if we use Macrobond:

- If we publish a piece of faulty research which is then disseminated in the media they'd be quite upset,
  - As long as we make it clear that our opinions are our own, it will likely not be a problem.
- We'd need to have a small note at the bottom of the page, such as "powered by Macrobond".

If we don't get Macrobond it's not too bad; it would take longer and more effort to get the same data without it. It's up in the air right now. Could be a strong selling point for new recruits.

### Topic 5: Writing Workshops

Few people in mind, e.g.:

- Simoney Kyriakou, financial times writer,
- Ypern: They are interested but very busy right now "running a £50M project",

- Archie recommended the "Secrets of Academic Writing" lecturer who seems very interested in teaching students how to write,

We could get in contact with professors from the University. Some things to consider:

- Professors are usually paid
- Who would we get? Economics, or journalism?
- New recruits might get put off by an online seminar

If we can't get any academics, we'll have to do the workshop ourselves. It'll be worse, but still acceptable.

**Remember to follow the protocol detailed in the last meeting when contacting speakers.**

**Someone will be needed to make flyers to advertise the speaker:**

- Archie and Rhoda are happy to do it.

## Topic 6: Website

Good suggestions on Figma (website template designer), **Diogo (me) will implement all suggestions over the next week.**

## Topic 7: GIAG

Politics society are doing a GIAG pub quiz and are offering to do a joint GIAG with us (co-hosting).

Risks:

- We don't want time wasters, and we don't want our society to get too large as to garner some diseconomies of scale.
- PoliSoc is a very different society; its where "*people who love politics go to get pissed*" - Archie

**On the other hand**, we are really small and our social media presence is tiny; we'd get lots of visibility.

**We all agreed we should team up with PoliSoc with the pub quiz to gain a lot of visibility. We'll ask PoliSoc to have some input on the questions they make.**

A joint GIAG with LUUTIS is also on the table.

## Topic 7: Freshers Fair

The stall is booked

We'll need a banner, flyers, some posters.

- Archie and Rhoda are happy to make them.

**Everyone needs to tell Ruby if and when they'll be available to attend the stall at the fresher's fair.**

## General Discussion:

### OTT:

Market themselves as consultants for think-tanks. Most are LSE alumni. They seem "*pretty legit*" - Nic. Nic got in touch and they said they'd be interested.

We could try out their internship/placement program. They could invite us to events but can't guarantee funding to get there. They could also give talks about evidence and foreign policy in think tanks; as a *quid pro quo*, we could help disseminate their think-tank survey.

### Partnerships:

Nic has a meeting with YSTT (York Student Think Tank) in September. They said we could do some kind of event together at some point. We could double-book speakers as well. We wanted to discuss possibilities about organising external reviews with them.

### Some ideas for future socials:

Archie got a DM from an event organiser: they're doing a deal where committee members go free and society members get half-off. They hold events in Belgrave, Indie Thursdays etc. They'd be a good connection for organising socials.

### Membership fee:

We're thinking £5. Other think-tanks have the same fee. On the other hand, some academic societies such as LUTIS go as high as £15, so it seems like we have some wiggle-room.

### KPMG:

Nic emailed someone who works there

CapX editor could possibly be willing to look at what we produce

### Editor of the Gryphon:

- Before giving us a column, she wants to see what kind of things we are producing.
  - Nic, Natasha and Diogo will write for the sample
- It's very important for getting outreach - the Leeds Gryphon is a very good starting point.