

BECAUSE YOU MATTER!

Hi I'm **Emily-Jane** and I am running to be your **welfare officer**. I want to tell you a little bit more **about myself**, why I am running for this position and **why you should vote for me**.

As cliché as it sounds I **really care about people**. I dedicate much of my time to **helping others** and I have volunteered with many organisations over the past 6 years. I have campaigned on a **nationwide level to improve awareness of mental health**, have spoken at **conferences, Primary Care Trust meetings, on educational resources** and have helped **to work toward improving services**. I have also appeared on national and local television. In 2010 I was awarded a b-eat award for my dedication to helping others with eating disorders. In 2011 I **founded a youth support group** with a local charity and was selected to carry the Olympic Torch, in 2012, for my **contribution to the community**.

During my time at Imperial I have been involved in a variety of societies including **co-founding Mentality**, a hugely successful student led campaign promoting **better mental health at Imperial**. Last academic year we carried out both the **largest ever student survey at Imperial and the largest mental health survey at any UK university**, with over 1000 responses. Armed with this data we have already begun to elicit change on campus: **counselling services have expanded, college tutor training is being revised and mental health is being talked about by staff and student bodies alike**. However, there is a lot more work to be done and if appointed as Welfare Officer I will do my utmost to ensure that Mentality's great work continues and that Imperial becomes a happier, more supportive community. **Happy students are Successful students**.

I have struggled with my physical and mental health during my time at Imperial and have **first hand experience of the current support systems in place**. Personal experience gives me **insight** into where **improvements are needed** and where **success needs celebrating**. I have also taken an **interruption of studies** due to my health and have experienced associated problems of re-enrolment, cessation of student loans and isolation from friends, if elected as Welfare Officer I will work **towards better support for students taking an interruption of studies and introducing more options for those with health problems: an interruption of studies should be a last resort**.

During my time at Imperial I have faced **financial difficulties** and have struggled to access appropriate **support or advice**. **No student should be left without an income**, confused about finance or unable to feed him or herself. If elected as Welfare Officer I will aim **to increase access to emergency funds for all students**. Additionally, I will arrange **education sessions on changes to student finance and how they affect you as changes to student loans have been poorly explained, imposed greater stress and affect a large number of students**.

Imperial is a **multicultural university** and I have been lucky enough to experience this first hand. I have immersed myself in and learned about different cultures during my time here, enriching both my educational and social experiences. I believe that the **heterogeneous student population** at Imperial is one of the **university's greatest assets** and thus if elected as welfare officer **I will ensure that racism, sexism, homophobia and bullying of any kind is tackled**.

Additional policies include exploring the potential to join with other student unions to give our students a **larger support network**, lobbying college to accept documentation from and form affiliations with addition GP practices thus **tackling the long ICHC wait times**, providing **consent, safe sex and substance abuse education**, and introducing **more welfare workshops, resources and stress less events**. However, my **principle policy** is to **listen to YOU** and act upon student feedback. **This is your welfare, have your say!**

- ✓ **VOTE FOR SOMEBODY WHO BELIEVES YOU MATTER**
- ✓ **VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE**
- ✓ **VOTE FOR YOUR VOICE**
- ✓ **VOTE EMILY-JANE**



Voting opens

4 - 11 March



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