

Hey, I'm Rhiannon and I'm running for President of the Lancaster University Students' Union!

I'm a third-year Biomedical Sciences student, the current President (and founder) of the First Aid Society, former President of the County College and former President of the Students' Union.

Here is a list of what I think are some of the biggest achievements during my time as SU President:

Academic Peer Mentoring

I created a system whereby a less-experienced student could be assigned a more-experienced student as a mentor, who would provide various forms of academic support. The project was piloted in departments across all faculties and is still ongoing.

Higher Education and Research Bill

Our lobbying techniques resulted in members of the House of Lords citing and thanking us for Lancaster's contributions, and the development of a policy document for our local parliamentary representatives.

Negotiated accommodation prices and created 'Accommodation Bundling'

I ensured that the price of certain University rents remained below £100p/w for the academic year 2017/18. I introduced a system which allows students to add certain services, such as laundry and gym memberships, to their termly rent payments (some discounted). This scheme will be available for the next academic year.

General Election

In cooperation with the local council, we promoted the importance of voting in the 2017 snap General Election. We hosted a panel featuring all of the local candidates and wrote a student manifesto outlining the issues that students face and how a local MP could address them. As a result, we saw the highest voter turnout on campus since 1997.

LINKS Volunteering unit

I established a St John Ambulance volunteering unit through which students can attend training courses and become certified first aiders. The LINKS team is now working alongside the Sport Centre to provide opportunities to volunteer on campus (e.g. BUCS fixtures, Roses).

I have grouped my campaign pledges into five main themes where I hope to affect real change if I am again elected to be your SU President.

Academic, Extracurricular and Employability

53% of students' main motivation for going to University is their career;

I will:

Diversify volunteering opportunities and careers events available; improve the University's feedback and submission policy; increase study spaces on campus; make gym memberships more flexible; and improve the Union minibus hire system.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Welfare and Community

40% of LU students have struggled with work-life balance and 35% have struggled with mental health;

I will:

Campaign for further mental health funding and support; help students develop skills to manage work-life balance; improve the signposting to welfare services on offer; build Lancaster University's green reputation; and improve our relationship with the City & County Council.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Cost of Living

41% of LU students think savings students money should be one of the Union's top priorities;

I will:

Provide budgeting tips and advice; expand the accommodation bundling offer; ensure our voices are heard in the national debate on tuition fees; provide clear information on all mandatory costs associated with university life; and provide further offers through the Purple Card.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Governance/ Transparency

Only 22% of students feel represented by the Students' Union;

I will:

Assess the successes and failings of the Students' Union's 2015/16 Democratic Review; promote the distinct roles of the Union, the University and the colleges; improve publicity of all Union and student achievements; ensure students are aware of the full range of services the Union has to offer; use social media platforms to provide information and receive ideas and feedback from students; and better support the JCR Execs & PG Board.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Postgraduates

60% of PG Research students and 56% of PG Taught students said they had never used the union.

I will:

Adapt the Union so that it can better represent postgraduates; promote a greater research culture within all faculties; empower Postgraduate Taught students to have more of a say on their course design; provide further information to students that are new to both the University and the city through more in-depth pre-arrival information; and build a stronger relationship with the UCU.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Please consider me as your #1 candidate for the role of President.

#RHlect

[The data sources are: the 2017 Lancaster Students' Union Segmentation Project report, conducted by Red Brick Research (2,431 respondents); the 2017 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (1,029 respondents); and the 2017 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (1,059 respondents).]