

ANNA CHOWCAT

#1 For Block of 15

As a full-time Postgraduate Officer, I have the experience to stand up for those perpetually mistreated by the system. I am the candidate with the passion to fight for the future of Postgraduate funding, access and widening participation and fairer conditions for PGR teachers. A position on the Block of 15 would enable me to enact real change.

My Record 12/13:

- Lobbied the Vice-Chancellor on postgraduate funding.
- Launched the first ever Postgraduate Association at Warwick SU.
- Worked closely with the University to create a vibrant postgraduate community on campus. Increased Postgraduate engagement with the SU.
- Got the most responses for the NUS Postgraduates who Teach Survey.
- Lobbied national media on the issue of postgraduate funding with signatures from various Students Unions.
- Ran Warwick SU's outreach programme to widen participation in the local area.
- Ensured the continued investment in bursaries.



Postgraduate Funding

Postgraduate education has been neglected by the UK Government. A crisis in funding and access is now materialising. There's a big question mark over the future of PG education with the first 9k students graduating in 2015. Funding for postgraduate taught students has been restricted and students are struggling to meet upfront fees.

I will lobby the government and the HE sector on this issue and demand for a sustainable funding system to ensure students are no longer priced out of postgraduate education!

Widening Participation

More and more young people are unable to go to university and universities have a responsibility to widen participation. Without AimHigher, EMA or Connexions, Students' Unions need to step up. Universities are consistently failing OFFA targets and not spending enough on widening participation activity. This has to change.

Having run an outreach programme, I will work with Students' Unions to develop outreach activity and will continue to lobby universities to increase bursaries and remove fee-waivers, increase expenditure on WP and increase the use of contextual data.

Postgraduates who teach

The recent NUS survey on Postgraduates who teach reveals how PGR students are consistently exploited by Universities. They are not paid for the hours they work, are not given proper employment contracts, do not receive proper feedback from their students and are generally not unionised.

I will continue to fight for this issue by raising awareness and ensuring Students' Unions lobby their university for fair working conditions for PGR's who teach!



Experience:

- 12/13 – Warwick SU's first Postgraduate Officer.
- 11/12 – Course Representative.
- 11/12 – Postgraduate Social Sciences Faculty Representative
- 10/11 – 3rd Year Representative on Student Council.



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Vote Anna Chowcat #1 For Block of 15