



# Adam Dickson

## Postgraduate & Mature Liberation Officer

My name is Adam Dickson and I am running to be re-elected as your Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer at York St John Student's Union.

As your current officer, as well as a society president, I work closely with the Student's Union team as well as the wider university to work to facilitating real change that counts. Currently at York St John, around 1/5 of the student population is made up of mature and postgraduate students and I strongly believe that by fostering these relationships, widening participation and bridging the gap between the SU and the student body we can create a positive change and strengthen student experience. One of my greatest achievement this last academic year is increasing mature student engagement by over 350%.

My manifesto is divided into three sections:

### Engagement

As a member of an under-represented group within the Student's Union, it is our commitment to you to find out why and come up with solutions to change that:

- I will host regular, drop in sessions to allow an open forum for mature and postgraduate students the opportunity to voice their opinions
- To provide a direct link between the student body and the sabbatical team, working proactively to achieve their goals
- Provide events and networking opportunities to immerse mature and postgrad students in the SU
- Active encouragement for students to participate in societies and sports clubs. They are for you to use too
- Utilise 'WellU' access for mature and postgraduate students – liaise with officers to accommodate for mature student sessions

### Access

- Upgrading study spaces – many of our students do not feel like they can work effectively in the library. Utilisation of the postgraduate study centre and a formation of a mature student study area will create the maximum student experience
- Timetabling and deadlines are key problems facing mature, commuting and PG students – flexibility and understanding from subject leaders is vitall
- Maximise visibility for ILS services – focusing on returning to education, how to write assignments and juggling family life and education
- We all know the demands of PG study, for some education students the best times to work on assignments are during the times when the library is under holiday opening hours. I will work to ensure flexible hours are utilised to help students reach their full potential

### Support

- It is vital to recognise that the needs of 21 year old students vastly differ from those who are 40 – working together to facilitate change is the way forward
- Increase participation in a mature and postgraduate student network, allowing for a support group for those who want to fully engage in university life
- Run campaigns to highlight key issues affecting adult learners (student poverty, childcare etc)
- Work closely with the officer team to focus on the wellbeing of postgraduate and mature students

By working together, we can and we will facilitate real change in our student's union