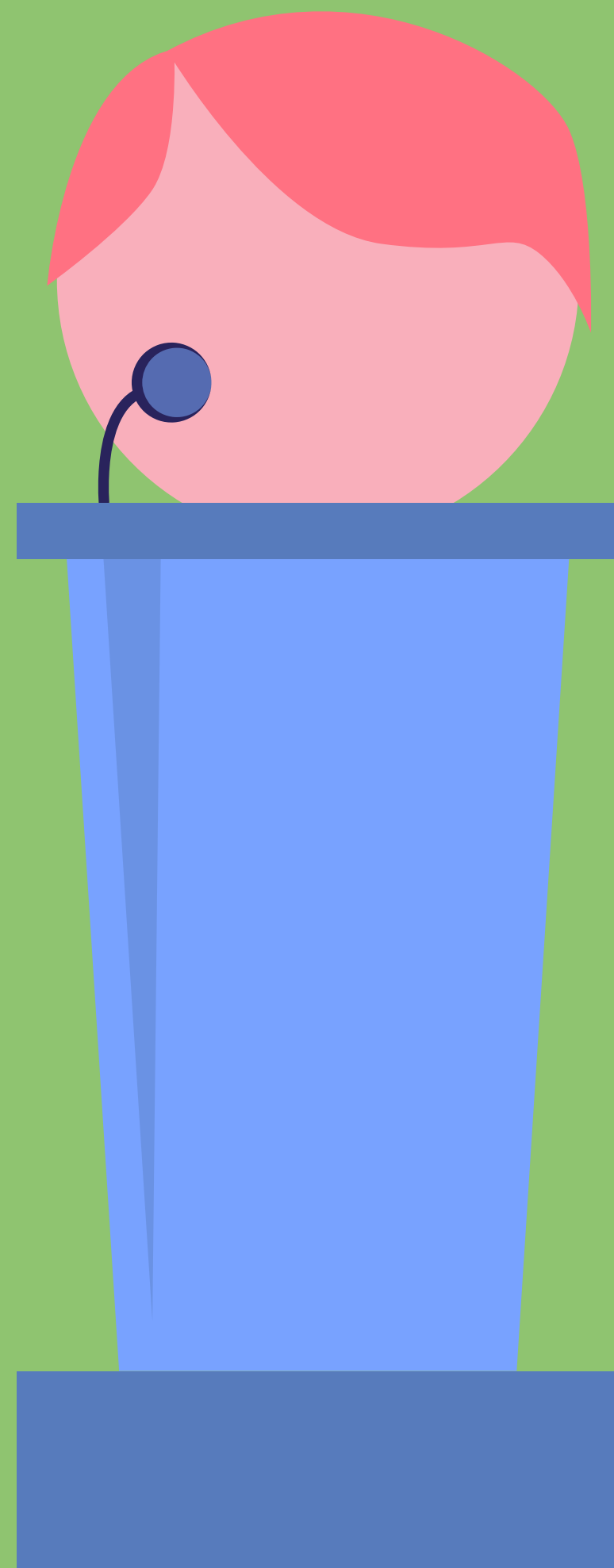




# Caitlin Tonge

## Postgraduate & Mature Liberation Officer



Hello there! My name is Cat Tonge and I want to represent you. I want to be able to give postgraduate and mature Students within York St John University a louder voice, better support, and a community.

### Equality

One of my key goals is for the postgraduate and mature student population to be a part of the wider YSJ community rather than a separated minority of the student body. To do this, I will develop a drop-in session opportunity. Students will be able to voice their concerns, opinions, and wishes that they feel might make them feel more a part of the wider University. By joining together, there is a greater opportunity for change that supports everyone, and for everyone to be listened to.

Additionally, postgraduates and mature students should have equal support and access to resources. They require access to texts, materials relating to the individual course just the same as undergraduates. Subsequently, I will put forward that postgraduate students become eligible for access to Aspire's funds and resources.

### Support

Postgraduate and mature students require as much support and encouragement from the University as any other student. By working with the well-being team, I aim to create specialist support and resources for them. This way I hope that despite only forming 12% of the University, postgraduate and mature students feel just as able to cope with their unique pressures that of their study as any other student. To encourage a greater community, feel I hope to create friendly environments for students to meet, talk, and work. It is important to understand that the community does not socialise in the same way that undergraduate might, so I put forward study sessions and even coffee afternoons depending on what students feel they would enjoy.

### Awareness

YSJ offers a diverse range of postgraduate opportunities. Prompting postgraduate opportunities and creating a greater support network for third years looking at life after their degree. Drop-in sessions and talks from staff and students to provide undergraduates with quality information and the opportunity to ask questions. Having done this myself, I know that there are so many questions ranging from finance to how to apply. However, this does not just extend to opportunities within YSJ. I want to be able to provide information and support in all forms of postgraduate opportunity, be it how to apply for a PGCE teaching qualification, or how to search the job markets and graduate programs. All of this would be done while working in a close relationship with the launchpad services that YSJ offers.

During these uncertain times, I believe that community and working together are vital for everyone to achieve the best that they can. I hope that I will be able to work with the postgraduate and mature student community to achieve this for as many students as possible.