

Ieuan Smith

KPA President Manifesto

Who Am I?

- I am a **Masters student** studying Politics (Political Parties & Elections), I also **did my undergraduate degree at Keele** (also in Politics).
- I have always been involved in Keele's community, becoming a **Student Ambassador** and a **Honorary Lifetime Member of the Keele Debate and Discussion Society**.
- For the past year I have also **served you as your Vice-President** (in my renowned blue hoody!).



What Have I Done As Your Vice-President?

All of my work has been as part of a team, but some achievements that have stood out for me include:

- **Overnight Summer Study Space** - Whilst not finished yet, I am in the final stages of establishing overnight summer study space so postgraduates can continue to get access to 24/7 study space in summer.
- **Continuation Fees** - I worked on the review of continuation fees, conducting research on what Keele's benchmark universities charge. This work has led to continuation fees being charged on a pro-rata basis.
- **Increased KPA National Presence** - The government has been taking more interest in postgraduate education, this requires a national response. This year I have travelled the country connecting with postgraduate unions and officers, raising the profile of the KPA and making sure we're included in these important discussions.
- **Promoted the KPA with the Membership** - When I entered office, not many members were aware of who the KPA was. This year, I have worked tirelessly to meet postgraduates when they arrive and throughout the year to make sure they know who we are and what we offer. What we have seen is an increased engagement from you all, well done and thankyou!

What Will I Do As Your President?

- **Continue to Promote the KPA Nationally** - The government continues to take an interest in postgraduate education and the few postgraduate officers out there are working to respond to this. I have done some great work already to make

sure we're included in any national discussions but I want to continue that work and continue to develop our networks. I want to make sure that when people think of postgraduates, they think to invite the KPA.

- **Create Greater Event Variety** - Our postgraduate community is diverse, which brings so much to Keele, and our events need to reflect this. Whilst events such as the coffee morning and *KPA Goes To* have seen engagement from other elements of our community, I would like to broaden our event offer to reflect our diverse community. I wish to create more events for non-alcoholic drinkers, international students, commuters, but also different courses such as PGCE and Medicine students. As part of this, I would like to increase the opportunities for postgraduate sport.
- **Improve Clarity of Information for PGR Students** - Over my year as Vice-President, I have seen that the information provided to PGR students (such as for funding and procedures) is not always clear and easy to find. This has caused confusion for many students (and myself!). I wish to work with the University to help improve the clarity of this information.
- **Approach PGR Mental Health** - Whilst being Vice-President, I have become aware of the struggles PGR students face whilst conducting their studies. As a result, a high proportion of PGR students will struggle with some form of mental health by the time they complete their studies. This can often be overlooked by universities and I want to make sure that PGR students get the necessary support they need when doing their studies.
- **Increase PGT Engagement in Research Presentation** - PGT students undertake some fantastic and I want them to have every opportunity to showcase this great work. Some schools are already doing Masters Dissertation Conferences, and I wish to encourage this. But I also want to help PGT students present alongside PGR students, allowing all to experience their research and also allow PGT students to get a sense of the PGR experience.
- **Tackle the Wednesday Afternoons Policy** - At the moment, PGT students are not included in the Wednesday Afternoons policy, despite my protests. I wish to continue working with the University to try and change this so PGT students also have the opportunity to be involved in extracurricular activities and competitive sport.

If you have any questions about myself or my manifesto, please do not hesitate to speak to me in person or email me at v8k93@students.keele.ac.uk. I don't bite and I love a chat, particularly over a cup of tea or a pint!