



# **MARTIN GOODHEAD**

## **FOR KPA INTERNATIONAL OFFICER (MANIFESTO)**

The International Officer role requires: **an accessible and capable listener; someone committed to seeking out and acting upon students' views; an individual able to work alongside the KPA committee, societies, university teams and the membership; as well as someone committed to provision of events and opportunities reflecting the diverse needs and talents of Keele's international PG population. I can meet each of these needs and more.**

### **EXPERIENCE:**

Working with the President, VP and team, as well as SU, societies, and PGs themselves I want in turn to create better conditions for research, learning, leisure and social contributions amongst International PGs. A current PGR in the School of Humanities, my experience outside of Keele in administrative, teaching, project-coordination and 1-2-1/group support work roles has provided me with the skills necessary; these have been supplemented by roles within the Keele community as well as my engagement with Keele's International community. **I can bring experience in navigating university structures, proactive and creative involvement in cross disciplinary research activities as a conference organizer, Under Construction Peer Liaison/Editor/E-I-C and research forum committee member, commitment in my research and extra-curricular activities to social inclusion as well as proven practical abilities in managing projects and workloads.** My experience as a **PGR Rep since 2017** means I have already fought for PGs at Keele and worked to ensure the university remains accountable to us. This has included free printing for researchers, funding provision, and reviewing workloads of PGs who teach. **I have been involved in KPA as an active member since starting** and I have brought motions to AGMS and EGMS and held officers to account.

**Throughout my studies, interests and work I have displayed a cosmopolitan outlook to differing and unified global cultures and a commitment to showcasing the voices of groups from across the world.** As a charity volunteer I worked with arts groups and cultural diasporas from the Near East, South Asia and South America to put together festivals and displays showcasing cinema, poetry and visual art as well as collaborative cross-community pieces. Before coming to Keele I worked as a support worker specializing in Activities and Education, in which capacity I promoted awareness of, and events celebrating, cultural and religious festivals relating to every major world faith and from every continent, together with supporting homeless asylum seekers around their core practical, cultural and mental health-related needs. I have taught in Asia as well as Europe and have travelled widely, along with possessing a passion for poetry, cinema and fiction from across the globe and an active interest in world affairs relating to political self-determination and social justice. Meanwhile, **in my capacity as a research forum facilitator within Keele's HUMSS Faculty, I have promoted work from members of Keele's international postgraduate community as well as upon topics relating to non-European politics, philosophy and philosophy.**

**As a proof-reader I am familiar with some of the challenges PGs completing courses in their 2nd or 3rd language face and where further support might be necessary. As a PG Rep and active member of the KPA community engaged with members of the international community, I am familiar with many of the wider academic and holistic needs of International students relating to isolation, mental health and building social networks, financial support, language support, and supervisory issues. I am also aware of the intelligence, creativity and enthusiasm which International students are able to, and do, bring to scholarly and social activities, and would be delighted to help further facilitate this.**

## **MARTIN'S MANIFESTO COMMITMENTS**

As an **International Officer** my policies would include:

- **Regular International Officer Surgeries around Campus, including accommodation hall visits, and Coffee morning/PGWL Attendance (plus even more diverse snacks!)**
- **Implementing International Student surveys in order to register needs as well as collating ideas from PGs about activities of interest**
- **Encouraging PG engagement around supportive university groups, including BAME, WOKE and Decolonize the Curriculum, learning from groups as a committee member, and supporting International Students in diversifying their curricula as well as sharing their insights with other students/staff**
- **Lobbying for better International-student Proofreading and Academic support provision**
- **Working with Activities and E&D Officers to devise subsidized and free activities celebrating cultural and religious diversity, from trips to Clubhouse events**
- **Liaising with PGT, PGR reps and KPA to further incorporate International student concerns within university decision making, as well as improving PGT/PGR Induction support in the form of local information, loan and grant advice, accommodation and property provider recommendations, cheap furnishing sources and service providers**
- **Providing an update of key general and faculty-specific International Student scholarships and part-grants both for further study and for supplementing existing studies**
- **Engaging with SU societies - from diasporic and religion-specific groups through to cultural societies and sports teams - to encourage more PG relevant activities as well as society engagement with International PG students/the whole KPA community**
- **Implementing a buddy-system for Keele-based and town events where International students can be linked up with other KPA members or committee reps.**

## **ABOUT ME:**

Raised in Newcastle under Lyme I have a long-standing attachment to Keele's campus. After living in Oxford, London and Glasgow I eventually came to study here in 2016, completed an MA in English and began a Phd in Literature. My research is cross – disciplinary, taking in Literature, Sociology and Philosophy, as well as analysis of social impacts, and I have supported others in sharing work across Faculties. Whilst at Keele I have been involved with PG Sports, Creative Writing and KPA events/parties as well as the Chapel and KPA/UCU/Equality campaigns.

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