

Gurkiranspreet
PREA KAUR

A VOTE FOR
POST-GRADUATE
PROSPERITY



*"I will fight for
systematic change
& support you,
with my honesty,
passion &
fierce but kind nature."*

WHAT'S ON MY AGENDA

Most of you may know me as Prea and this year, I hope to be your next KPA president.

I completed my Undergraduate and Masters degrees at Keele and I'm currently undertaking my PhD in examining the experimental and political work of William S. Burroughs.

I have been a part of the Keele/Stoke-On-Trent community for six years. Some of you may know me from Black Cats Art Collective workshops, an initiative making art and literature more accessible.

Most of you may also know me for being a KPA member of staff, a role where I have worn several hats and worked with so many wonderful individuals that I feel privileged to be able to run as a candidate for the presidency.

My two years at the KPA have given me a great insight into how it works as a charity to support postgraduates. I want to work more closely with the trustee board and the clubhouse to strengthen their relationship with the university so that we can make more positive structural changes to improve both mental/physical well-being and the accessibility of university services to different postgraduates.

I want to make your experience of Keele, whether that be on or off campus, less stressful and more invigorating

I pledge

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WELLBEING

A 2020 Randstad report into student well-being at UK universities found that:

"37% of students experienced mental health deterioration & 42% accessed counselling."

Keele needs to be aware of the growing pressures on postgraduates. I know personally how hard it is to get help for an illness that cannot be seen, and I am determined to make well-being services more approachable and dependable.

- I will obtain funding for self-help workshops so that the red flags of poor mental health can be recognised, managed and treated.
- I will lobby for more counsellors and a qualified well-being officer who can assist postgraduates.
- I will strengthen the KPA's relationship with Keele well-being services to improve their efficiency for postgraduates
- Collaborate with sexual misconduct officer Kelly Prince to prevent cases from developing, as well as making it easier for victims to seek help. .

ACCESSIBILITY

I want to improve ease of access to several university services for postgraduates. I will:

- Work with senior staff to make physical spaces more user-friendly to those with visible and invisible disabilities.
- Advance a new programme which pairs international postgraduates with Keele volunteer students who can, through training, help international students transition into their new home.
- Co-operate with the university to process GTA contracts with a greater degree of fairness.
- Continue with some online events as well as investing in innovative ways to support blended, social distanced learning.
- Continue the work of the previous committee; update the outdated language within the constitution and the rules governing the KPA. For instance, working to introduce well-being and disability officers.

UNITY

Now more than ever we must pool our resources to improve the learning environment for all postgraduates.

- The KPA must collaborate with different departments across the university, particularly the SU where our postgraduate voices need to be represented.
- We are still reeling from the effects of the pandemic which I want to address through working closely with senior staff to make positive changes for our community.
- What I can promise you is that, if you elect me, I will advocate for your requirements. Therefore, this manifesto will change depending upon what you want and need to support your studies while at Keele.
- As a postgraduate and an organiser who has experience working with different departments in the university, I shall steer with strong leadership and there will be empathy in everything I aim to accomplish.

I WILL ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOU, BECAUSE IT IS THE COLLECTIVE POSTGRADUATE VOICE THAT HAS THE POWER TO HELP ME MAKE POSITIVE STRUCTURAL CHANGES