

Hi my name's Luke I am a second year philosophy student and I'm re-running for the position of Societies President.

I've been in societies and clubs' my entire life and it's an area I feel passionately about. I know from experience that societies are a great way to get to know people who share common interests with you and I think Roehampton offers a wide choice of societies to choose from. You just have to have gone to freshers fair or look on the RSU website and you'll see a wide range of societies some of which I've helped to support or facilitate over the past year. I feel that over the past year I've done some really good work within the RSU, helping societies prepare for both freshers' and re-freshers' fair, improving their visibility around campus and helping deal with some financial difficulties.

Once again I've been an active member of several societies, I'm now treasurer of the philosophy society and I've been in both the Roehampton Players productions this year and hope to be elected to the committee at their next AGM. Continuing on in these societies has let me see them from a new perspective; I now understand the importance of a strong committee and good continuity from one year to the next.

I still feel a big issue facing Societies is communication. I've worked with both Anant (the VP communications) and Tash (the VP activities) to try and increase the visibility of societies this year. This has included a societies page in fresh which I'd like to continue using and offering free photocopying to all societies. However I still feel more work could be done, particularly using the student unions website page and the up-coming Societies achievement ceremony.

Societies aren't just about sharing a common interest they are also about making friends and getting to know new people. If I were re-elected I would make sure that societies continued to have a welcoming and supportive atmosphere. I would also like to work closely with college social secretaries and the events team to make sure societies have a platform for any larger events they would like to host. Particularly in relation to the college bars, as nights in the bar seem to have been hugely popular this year. I would also encourage societies to run day events, some of which have happened this year but I think more can be done, and this would help encourage membership from off-campus or mature students.

I would also like to hear from you the students on how you think societies and clubs could be improved, societies are after all run by the students for the students. If you think a certain society is missing, then we could do research to see if other students were interested and then create that society with you. I would also like for particularly academic societies to work closer with their relative school, particularly as the academic re-structure of the university would better allow for this. Whether this includes inviting teaching staff to participate, give feedback, or generally support the society itself.

I know I have gained so much from being part of societies over my time at Roehampton, not just making friends but having some great nights out. I would love to make sure everyone at Roehampton has the opportunity to be part of a society they were interested in and have as good a time as I have.