



Citizens'
Manifesto
2023/24

This manifesto has been prepared from available student feedback regarding key issues students face at the University of Roehampton.

Sabbatical Officer candidates are encouraged to consult with points raised in this manifesto when preparing their own candidate manifesto and when campaigning.

Please note this is a non-exhaustive list of topics relevant to students at Roehampton.

Accessibility

Accessibility is the quality of being able to reach or use something easily. For students, this relates to affording equal opportunities, information, and services to a diverse student body. Creating an accessible environment ensures that every student has an equitable university experience.

Accessibility takes shape in many ways, whether online or on campus, and is very important to uphold.

- *Ensure all university spaces, both on campus and online, are accessible to all students*
- *Make sure all university spaces are accessible*
 - *Ensure all campus pathways are wheelchair-accessible*
 - *Ensure close caption options for all online lectures*
 - *Provide appropriate social spaces for students with accessibility needs*

Inclusion

Inclusion is the practice of providing equal access to opportunities and resources to people who might otherwise face marginalisation. Creating an inclusive environment ensures that every student feels valued, comfortable, and confident in themselves whilst at university.

- *Identify and remove all barriers students face to engagement with the university community*
- *Encourage relevant staff to work with LGBTQ+ groups to better learn about the views, experiences, and needs of LGBTQ+ students*

Climate

Climate has a significant impact on many aspects of our lives, including food sources, transport, infrastructure, environment, and health. Climate change has had a widespread impact on our environment: glaciers are melting, species are rapidly becoming extinct, and bodies of water are drying up. It is essential that we actively implement strategies and change our behaviour to better our planet.

- *Create a plastic-free, zero waste campus*
- *Increase biodiversity and green spaces on campus and in the surrounding areas*
- *Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030*

Cost-of-living

As the cost-of-living has increased without a matched increase in wages, households across the UK are left with less disposable income. Students are particularly impacted by this, with 77% of UK-based students concerned that this rise may affect their studies and 29% of students choosing to miss optional lectures to save money.

By providing students with appropriate resources and information, the student experience in key areas like social life and studies can be preserved.

- *Extend the provision of community fridges and ensure all students have access to a balanced diet*
- *Implement new strategies which save students money: transport to and from campus, available food options, and regarding social life*

Student safety.

Safeguarding students, both physically and mentally, during their time at university is paramount. Good wellbeing is a fundamental pillar to enable students achieve their goals. A safe environment enhances creativity, productivity, and promotes a welcoming social environment.

- *Oversee zero tolerance on all forms of harassment and abuse*
- *Work with campus security to ensure around-the-clock support and safety to reduce crime on campus*

Mental health & wellbeing

Good mental wellbeing enables students to overcome difficulties and achieve their goals in life. University students are at high risk of developing mental ill health due to pressures they face academically and socially.

- *Support the development of culturally competent approaches to university support services*
- *Work with wellbeing services to ensure the universal provision of mental health support*

Teaching & learning

Teaching and learning resources are a fundamental part of university. Through the provision of a rich and diverse curriculum, high quality teaching and learning resources, students can achieve their goals and develop knowledge and skills both in and out of the classroom.

- *Ensure fair student representation throughout curriculum and programme reviews*
- *Ensure all students receive a quality education which constitutes value for money*

Graduate outcomes

The future after degree completion is different for everyone. Whether students continue into further study or begin their career path, having tailored guidance and support is important in helping students achieve their goals. Providing clear pathways is therefore essential in supporting students during their time at university as well as after graduating.

- *Continue to fund varied and engaging extracurricular activities which are accessible to all students*
- *Continue to fund and promote the Careers Service*