

Manifesto for International Officer

As an international student from outside Europe, I understand that it can be quite challenging to start studying in a new country. My main aim in becoming the International Officer is to make the inevitable transition for the international students as smooth as possible. I want to help them overcome the common obstacles so that they will enjoy their time in Cambridge sooner and greater. I appreciate that just a little help at the beginning can be enormously beneficial for the students bewildered by the new environment. My own experiences will enable me to better comprehend their difficulties and identify their needs.

My primary role as the International Officer is to provide information to international students about how to settle in Cambridge. Personally I benefitted enormously from the 'Guide for International Students' produced by the Downing College. Still I feel that more useful information can be added, such as the insertion of a map around Downing College labeling important offices such as Porter's Lodge or T&A office. What would also be helpful would be addresses of major banks around Cambridge city centre and their opening hours. Furthermore I would suggest that a copy of the guide should be emailed to the students before they come to Cambridge, so that they do not have to search through the Downing website themselves. I also found the welcome functions organized by the MCR committee very helpful as I made many friends there. As the International Officer I will make my own contribution to its improvements. Furthermore I will facilitate the communication between international students, Downing College and the MCR committee.

My other plans include sending surveys to international students already resident at Downing asking for the common problems they experienced when they first arrived and their suggestions at what the MCR committee could have done to help them. The feedback will be very useful.

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