



# VISION STATEMENT

<b>Candidate's Name</b>	Gracie Otley
<b>Candidate Team Name</b>	
<p>Hello everyone, My name is Gracie Otley. Some of you may remember me as your previous Wellbeing Officer for 2024/2025. If we haven't met before it is great to (meet) you! Previously in my role as an Officer, together we created the Student Self Care Movement campaign. From podcast interviews sharing the reality of student life, quotes surrounding campus or hundreds of gratitude reflections on the giant heart in The Union, somewhere along the way you may have got involved!</p> <p>Firstly, I want to say thank you. I can honestly say to this day, the greatest part of all was seeing the positive energy shared throughout the campaign and seeing genuine impact on your experience.</p> <p>I am back, with an even bigger mission. But before we get into it, let's start with why I have chosen to re-run as your Education Officer.</p> <p><b><u>Why the change of role?</u></b></p> <p>Since the end of my year as your Wellbeing Officer, I have been back in the classroom completing my final year of undergraduate study and navigating the reality of student life again. However, this time, I re-entered the classroom with a whole new perspective, one that enabled me to relive student life with the knowledge of operations and conversations happening behind the scenes at The Union, university and beyond.</p> <p>Return to the classroom after being an Officer with fresh perspective and experience, there is one fundamental factor that underpins a great education experience. Community.</p> <p>Now, community can look different for everyone. When I sit and reflect on my own experience over the last four years, creating the Lifestyle and Wellness society in my second year and throwing myself into the deep end of new challenges, driven by encouragement from my own community, really is the reason why I stayed at university and retracted my notice to leave in my first year (thankfully!).</p> <p>But and a big but here.... the reality is, finding a community for many and maintaining new relationships can be so difficult, especially with a lot to manage outside of the classroom and increasing cost of living pressures. Many students work, commute, have numerous responsibilities or experience navigating completely new cultures on top of studying. Despite any of this, there should be no barriers to community, after all connection is essential for all of us.</p> <p>Sometimes the whole experience can feel lonely with not having the time or spaces to meet new people. If you are reading this and we are honest with each other, I am sure at some point in your journey you too have experienced this. I am here to tell you that you are SO not alone in feeling this way. This shouldn't be a reality.</p> <p>My motivation in re-running as your Education Officer is underpinned by one aim. To build community into your learning experience so that no one ever feels that they are alone in their education.</p> <p><b><u>How do I plan to achieve my community driven aim?</u></b></p> <p>Community must be accessible for all students.</p>	



Arriving for lectures or seminars and feeling a part of a community is just as important, if not even more important, than the extra activities and societies (although they too are equally as wonderful!).

Today's reality means that extra opportunities to meet others outside of degree study, are not accessible for many students with working hours, commuting hours, study hours or it might just be really daunting to go to a new place or activity alone!

Community in the classroom really is essential for not only feeling a part of surroundings but also creating a safe and inclusive learning experience.

I plan to deliver my 'Community in the Classroom' initiative through 3 objectives:

1. Accessibility. Make community accessible for all students. Everyone should have a peer to say hello to.
2. Collaboration. The principle that underpins this entire aim. Building community works when we collaborate. This must be an effort driven by all stakeholders.
3. Clarity. Feedback is the mechanism which channels this initiative and ensures the student voice remains at the heart of its innovation.

Together we can ignite the creation of accessible communities and build an inclusive learning education experience for all students. No one should ever feel that they are alone.

Let's start the journey of building a community together, in the very heart of the classroom and beyond.

### **Get in contact with me**

Join this journey fuelled by community, by voting for me Gracie Otley, as your next Education Officer.

If you have any questions or want to get in contact and share your story with me, my inbox is always open. You can contact me on [gracieotley@gmail.com](mailto:gracieotley@gmail.com) or through LinkedIn by searching my name.

I am extremely grateful for your time in reading my vision for my plans as your next Education Officer. It really would be an honour of mine to represent you again and embark on the next chapter of building community into your learning experience, together.

**Vote Gracie, as your next 2025/2026 Education Officer!**

Thank you. Gracie x