



VISION STATEMENT

Candidate's Name	Katie Grimwood
Candidate Team Name	
<p>Hi my name's Katie, I'm a 22 year old masters student in Business Management and Sustainability, with a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Promotion. I'm here to share my passion and enthusiasm, as to why I would love to be your next Societies and Development Officer. As the current Social Secretary of the Running Society, I've had the privilege in connecting with a wide range of students over the last year and not just from running, from societies all across the University. This role has personally enabled me to grow in confidence whilst building relationships with students from all different backgrounds and I genuinely love the feeling that I have helped others along their own University journeys.</p> <p>I am extremely grateful to have this opportunity to run in the 2026 election for the next Societies and Development officer. I want to carry on building a Students Union where every student feels welcomed, supported, and inspired to get involved. This is something I feel MMU already envisions excellently, but drawing from my previous first year experience of feeling slightly afraid to take the first step of joining a society, I will be sure to make every new student feel confident to do so. Through my own experiences I believe that being part of an MMU Society is an amazing way to meet some of your closest friends, get involved in so many different activities and let off some steam when University can feel daunting. To make sure this sticks, I'm committed to strengthening the foundations that help societies thrive. Which includes clear communication, accessible support, and the ongoing opportunities available to the students.</p> <p>My goals as Societies and Development Officer are to portray my own passions into the role, really making it my own and a new fresh start for the students. Inclusivity and diversity are something that I feel strongly towards and are at the top of my priorities list. I believe every student deserves to feel represented and valued, regardless of their background, interests, or level of experience. My passion for student wellbeing drives me to create environments where people feel safe as well as supported. In doing this I aim to help students thrive at the University both socially and personally.</p> <p>How would I help Societies develop upon yearly goals?.</p> <p>Something that I would love to incorporate into this position is introducing a societies starter pack to support new groups, with clear guidance on the funding, governance and event planning for the year ahead. Something I feel that would be really beneficial for the individual societies would be to expand training through a societies skills hub. This platform would offer workshops in leadership, budgeting, and promotion. Something that is already proudly presented by the Union and that I wish to keep to boost morale is the weekly societies spotlight series, celebrating achievements across our community and to further encourage collaboration between groups.</p>	

From being a previous committee member myself, I've experienced the highs as well as the challenges of the role. My goal is to put in place more support for better room access and booking systems. Many societies struggle with last-minute changes, unclear availability, or complicated processes. I want to work closely with the Union to streamline this system, making it a more transparent and reliable space. Clearer communication channels are also essential, societies should never feel unsure about who to contact, how to get support, or where to find important information. I want to create more consistent communication between the Union and societies, ensuring updates are timely and guidance is accessible. Of course emphasise that support is always available when needed! Ultimately, my aim is to build a network where societies feel valued by their students union. An environment that celebrates everyone's success and where societies can support each other to help one and other grow.

I want students to know what's available to them and how to get involved. When I started my journey at MMU I remember feeling nervous to take the first leap into joining a society, and it wasn't until second year that I put myself out there and became a dedicated member of running. In order for me to be successful in doing this, I would like to enhance campaigns or fundraisers societies run through the year, improving the overall communication across the uni. This being a huge sector around the development of the students over their time here at MMU. And of course ensuring no student feels left out or unaware of the opportunities around them.

I feel as though I'm someone who leads with empathy, enthusiasm, and authenticity. With my overall experience in the Running Society, background in business and promotion, tied with and my passion for the MMU community overall, I have found my own creative way in which I like to approach leadership. I want to be a Societies and Development Officer who listens, takes quality time to act upon students queries and who genuinely represents the voices of students.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I would be honoured to represent you and support you. Continuing to make MMU a vibrant student community !