

VOTE HAJRAH for Access and Equal Opportunities Rep!



Hi everyone! I'm Hajrah (she/her), a first-year English student, and I'm running for Access!

Why vote for me?

- I've been volunteering since I was 16, so I understand the **importance of giving back** to the community, which I hope to be able to do with Merton

- I'm currently on the **committee for Right for Education as VP**. R:Ed is

an NGO which works to provide people in sub-Saharan Africa with educational resources to **widen access to information**, so I already have experience managing a team whose priority is **promoting equal opportunity**.



Dr
Susi

^Meeting Dr Susi, the CEO of R:Ed!

- My experiences with volunteering and working to improve access has made me a very **approachable, empathetic person**, and I will be peer support trained to **offer advice and support** to those who need it.

- I am prepared to **liaise with various committees and societies** in order to **reach the best outcomes** for those I would represent.

- I've been managing my degree whilst being on the committee for two societies for the past two terms, so I am prepared to **manage my time effectively** by being well **organised**.

My plans

- **Organise more joint events** with other access orientated societies e.g., **the Crankstart Scholar's society and the Midlander's society**. I've already informally spoken to these committees, and they would be open to organising joint events hosted at Merton!
- **Reach out to schools** in areas with particularly low rates of progression to higher education for organised access days and open days. The June 2021 '**Equality of access and outcomes in higher education in England**' briefing paper released by the government revealed that one of the barriers to equal access is '**Insufficient advice and support**', which I will tackle head on!
- In the past, the **Merton Access Instagram** page has promoted projects like **Oxbridging the Gap** as well as celebrating international awareness days. I would like to further this effort by **posting about access related events**, including cultural festivals on a regular basis.

