

Archna Shah

for

MCR President 2017-2018

Hello all! I'm Archna and I would like to represent you, the MCR, by running for the role of President.

I am a first year DPhil student in Structural Biology and moved into Oxford in September 2016. Since starting here at Oxford I have immersed myself in the MCR community and College life. I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Warwick in Biochemistry and during my third year I represented my cohort in the Student and Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC). The SSLC is a forum made up of elected student representatives from each degree stream, the staff and head of department to discuss concerns of students regarding teaching, learning and student support. As a SSLC representative I attended bi-termly meetings where we discussed issues and concerns relating to academic work (lectures, laboratories, seminars etc.) with relevant academic staff of the School of Life Sciences and resolved them.



I have done a small amount of out-reach work (and plan to do some more) to state secondary schools about degrees and careers in science, one of the branches of STEM. I feel passionate about my subject and I want to make secondary students aware of the opportunities that are available, opportunities that students aren't necessarily aware of, when undergoing a STEM degree. During my presentation I hope that I was a role model for young female students who wish to pursue science.

I am organised, approachable and I believe that I will be a good representative for the MCR to College and the University. I will maintain a good relationship between the MCR and College whilst emphasising the importance to College of the MCR to Queen's graduate students. I want to represent you and your views and further build the MCR to what you want it to be.

If I am elected for Queen's MCR President I would like to achieve:

1. Increase MCR involvement in out-reach events

I understand that the JCR is heavily involved in out-reach activities with College to schools within the area. I believe that the MCR should be involved as well because, after all we are all passionate about our subjects otherwise we wouldn't be doing our Masters or DPhils! I want to involve Arts, Humanities and STEM graduate students in

out-reach events to make school students aware of all possibilities in their favourite subject.

2. Maintain a good relationship with College

I know that the current MCR committee are working hard to improve relations with College. I will maintain that trend and further build on the improving relationship between College and the MCR. By doing so, the College will understand how important the common room is to graduate students as the central hub for social events, to a place for relaxing with a cup of tea/coffee with friends. As a result this may improve the provisions/budget the College gives to the MCR.

3. Budgeting

The effective and efficient use of money will be beneficial to the MCR in terms of offering a wide range of events and services to its members. A defined budget and plan of expenditure by each committee member will ensure that the entire committee has a clear understanding of what is planned.

4. Organise more events in the MCR

During my first months here I loved how many people got together to watch Bake Off and the community spirit people showed by bringing homemade or bought bakes. Therefore I want organise more of these such as watching Bake Off, popular nature documentaries like Planet Earth II and movies. In addition I want to carry on the current welfare events and ensure that welfare officers have the resources in order to do so.