

## Jaz Brook

Power back to students 

I'm **Jaz Brook**, current *Environment Officer*, and I'm standing to be your **next Campaigns and Democracy Officer**.

### **UEA students are being priced out.**

Education is becoming more **commercial, expensive, and less democratic** - students are losing power over decisions that shape our lives.

From rent and food prices to ethical finance and democracy, too many choices are being *made about us not with us*.

The **Students' Union** should exist to challenge this – we need a union that is *anti-commercialisation, pro-student control, pro-justice, and pro-democracy*.

A *union* that doesn't just support students to fight for themselves but **actively fights for them**.

As Environment Officer and an NUS representative, I've focused on **ethical, political, and structural change - not just one-off events**.

I've helped *mobilise students* for **Climate Week, UEA Disability Week, and UEA Sustainability Community** and represented students on university committees.

I've seen *first-hand* how **powerful students can collectively be**- and how much *more* we could achieve if that power was supported.

### **1. Fighting the cost of being a student**

Education isn't just tuition fees- it's *overpriced food, unaffordable accommodation, fees on extracurriculars, paid "extras,"* - the **constant monetisation of student life**.

While *universities face funding pressures*, students should not be treated as an **endless source of income**.

I will...

1. Campaign **against the creeping commercialisation of campus services** — *food outlets, accommodation, sports, and more.*
2. Push for **transparency and student consultation** *before new commercial contracts* are signed, and **expand subsidised options** for food, resources, and events.
3. Support **rent justice** campaigns, **fair accommodation contracts**, and protections *against exploitative pricing*.
4. **National campaigns** tackling student debt, interest rates, and the lack of grants.

**Students shouldn't have to pay more just to exist on campus.**

### 1. Ethical finance and student money

**Student money** - through *fees, rent, and on-campus spending* - supports unethical practices without our consent.

From banking and insurance to suppliers like Nestlé, *our money* can be linked to **fossil fuels, arms companies, and human rights abuses**.

I will...

1. Campaign for **stronger ethical banking, investment, insurance, and procurement policies** at UEA.
2. Push for **student oversight** of financial decisions that affect us
3. Support **fossil fuel and arms divestment**
4. Make *university finances* **accessible and understandable**.

**Students deserve a voice on how their money is spent.**

### 1. Democracy that works

*Turnout* in student **elections is low**, and democratic systems often **feel distant or confusing**. Democracy shouldn't be something students engage with once a semester.

I will...

1. *Review and improve* the **new UEA50 system**
2. Establish *clearer communication channels* between **students and the union**
3. Move away from *officer-led campaigns*. My role is to **support, facilitate, and organise student ideas — not dictate them.**

**1. Building student power**

The union should be a *political actor* that **the university has to listen to.**

I will...

1. *Strengthen* **student representation** in decision-making bodies
2. Organise **students around major justice issues**, *creating liberation groups*
3. **Train students** to lead campaigns, negotiate, win.

**This campaign is about one thing: giving power back to students.**