



Candidate for the position of International Students Officer - Non EU Place (PT)



Irfan Rahman

Your Voice. Your Support. Our Future.

Hi fellows, I'm running for **International Students Officer- Non-EU Place**, and I want to make sure every student from outside the EU feels heard, supported and truly part of life at UEA.

Coming here as an international student is exciting but it isn't always easy. We're managing a new culture, a new system, sometimes a new language, and all of that while studying full time. I want to use this position to make sure those experiences aren't overlooked and that solutions are practical, straightforward and genuinely helpful.

First, I want to strengthen communication. Many of you have told me that it can be hard to find the



you're left to figure things out alone.

Second, I will improve support networks. Moving far away from home can feel isolating, and it shouldn't be. I will help develop regular social, cultural and peer-support events that bring us together in relaxed, welcoming spaces. I want every non-EU student to feel they have friends, allies and places where they belong. I'll also push for better partnership between the SU and international student groups so we can celebrate diversity, share traditions and build community across cultures.

Third, I want to make sure academic issues that affect non-EU students are acknowledged. If there are concerns about feedback, assessment, language barriers or access to resources, I will raise these with the right university teams and push for fair, consistent improvements. I will be your voice in academic meetings and ensure that decisions are made with understanding of how they impact us. Another priority for me is wellbeing. Stress, homesickness and pressure are common and real. I will work with campus wellbeing services to make sure they are accessible and culturally aware. That means more counsellors who understand international experiences and more workshops on managing stress and adapting to life in the UK.

I will also advocate for financial transparency and support. Many non-EU students manage tight budgets and fluctuating costs. I will campaign for clearer guidance on tuition fees, cost of living, employment rights for students and bursaries where possible. I want everyone to feel secure and informed about their finances.

Most importantly, I will listen. My door will always be open. I will hold regular drop-ins, surveys and forums so that you can tell me what matters to you, not what you think I *should* know. I will take your ideas and concerns straight to decision makers.

I'm committed to making your time at UEA positive, connected and empowering. If you want better support, stronger community, and a voice that truly represents you, I would be honoured to serve as your International Students Officer.

Let's make sure your experience here is more than just studying. Let's make it meaningful.

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