

Reyhannisa's Manifesto for Target Officer

Why is this role important to me?

As a student from a not-so-good state school with a low income background, my knowledge on the Cambridge application process heavily depended on access and outreach programs. Without these, I feel I would have been heavily disadvantaged. Now that I am where I want to be, I would love to pass on the knowledge that I was given.

Living in East London and coming from a diverse community, the one thing that I appreciate about Homerton is the inclusivity that helps me feel at home. Speaking to other people, many agree, and I believe it is an important part of the Homerton identity. I want to be part of the reason that Homerton is so welcoming and to really just make Homerton seem like the best college in Cambridge, which it is.

Why would I be good for this role?

I've been involved in a lot of access schemes and so I know how the process generally works. I've also been a mentor for a variety of people over the past couple of years and so I am very familiar with talking to and advising younger years. For example, throughout secondary and sixth form, I have helped with academic skills, personal statements, and applications. Currently, I am working with slipstreameducation to help sixth formers with their applications to university and to Cambridge. I am also part of the Unibuddy platform where I advise prospective students.

As someone that has been on the receiving end before, I know what people want from Cambridge access schemes; they want someone that is honest and real and I feel those two words describe me well. I enjoy talking and I have a lot of experience with public speaking, having been nominated to take part in interschool competitions and also having been asked to give whole school assemblies. I am keen to put myself out there and represent the voice of Homerton.

What can I bring to the table?

I have already been working with Paul Elliot, the admissions tutor, to help train people from all over the world that wanted to know what sort of advice to give prospective students. If I were elected as the Target and Access Officer, then I would be able to include the HUS in these sorts of things and increase the influence. This way the student body is also able to have a role in how and who Homerton is recruiting. The next project I am looking to work on is with Paul again where we will work in Hackney, where I grew up. I would like to include the HUS in this and maximise the success by working with other officers to make sure that Homerton is well represented and to increase the visibility of the student body. I am also keen to take on advice from other members and previous members too to make sure that I am working successfully.

Target and Access does not just refer to working with prospective students. I believe that it also applies to current students. Once all the effort has been put in to getting into Cambridge, it is not fair to leave the support there. I would like to work closer with the communications officer to use the HUS social media to allow students to voice concerns around issues of Target and Access. Since 85% of jobs are given through networking, it is important to acknowledge that not everyone is fortunate enough to have the same extensive network that others might have. As a result, if I were elected, I would propose using the social media to promote networking opportunities and to help people find work experience or jobs. This would benefit everyone in Homerton.

Final words

I am really passionate about increasing access, especially since I have benefitted so much from it myself. I already have a lot of experience and the college would benefit from having someone that is already well equipped in understanding how best to increase access. By electing me, I am promising to work closely with the access schemes that are already happening outside of the HUS, to work with other members of the HUS, to be a voice for current students, and to deliver with passion.