



An Introduction to External Campaigns

Hello hello everyone, I'm Mia (she/they) and I'm the vice president external (VPX) on the HUS this year! I'm so looking forward to meeting you all and I hope you all have a fantastic first term!

This is just a little introduction to external campaigns and what that means. This way you can refer back, once you've settled in and survived freshers week!

What is the VPX?

The role of the VPX is to work with the rest of the support team to help with the running of the HUS and support the executive committee to fulfill their roles! The VPX also has particular responsibilities to communicate with contacts outside the college, such as businesses and wider university groups. Central to the role is attending the SU council every fortnight and voting on behalf of homerton students in motions raised, from reading week proposals, to university funding and response to strike action.

What are External Campaigns?

External campaigns refer to all things that happen outside of college, be that across the university or in the local community of Cambridge. This means that I will be a point of contact for Homerton students and the outside world when it comes to important issues affecting us as students. Previous external campaigns have included, working with Girton to establish a bus route that serves the two colleges better, a cycling campaign to improve bike lanes along Hills Road and voting drives to get students to register for elections. If there is something in particular you would like to see Homerton campaign for in the local community, please do drop me a message!

Campaigning & Activism at University

One of the big reasons I ran for VPX is because I've loved being involved with student activism and campaigning whilst at university. It is an amazing way to meet like-minded students and make a real difference! Universities across the county have a long history of student activism, and this the same at Cambridge! Whatever issues you care about most, there are bound to be other students talking about this issue too.

You can find out more about societies who regularly campaign and get involved with political issues on the SU directory:

<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/opportunities/societies/societies/>

Cambridge SU

Attending SU council meetings and voting is also central to the external campaigns role - the SU makes decisions on a range of issues and represents student voices to staff and trustee committees across the university, and are heavily influenced by the outcome of the council meetings.

There is often division amongst students about the SU and the decisions they make - this is of course a normal part of decision making and student politics. BUT, there are ways that you can have influence on what decisions are made!

Firstly, by voting for elected members! Elections usually take place in Lent term so watch out for them.

You can vote for:

SU Sabbatical officers

Academic reps within your school (eg. Humanities etc.)

JCR external officer (that's me!)

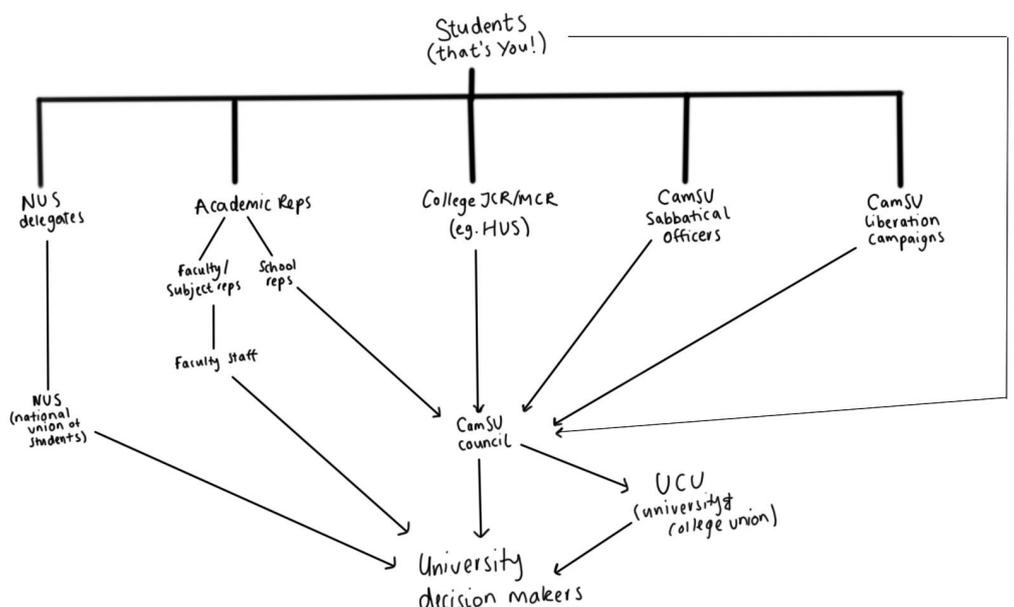
SU representatives for Double Time Students*, Mature Students*,

Part-Time Students*, and Student Families*.

SU campaigns (Women's campaign*, BME*, LGBT+*, Disabled Students*,

Ethical affairs, International students*, and Class Act*)

*These officers are elected by students who identify with the specific campaign eg. only LGBT+ students vote for the LGBT+ officer.



^^ Very basic interpretation of how students' voices are represented across the university



Cambridge SU Council

The Cambridge SU council happens every 2 weeks - As VPX i will attend these meetings and vote on any motions on behalf of Homerton students.

However, the SU council is open to all students - so if you're interested in finding out more or have a particular motion you are invested in please do come along! If you're nervous to turn up alone, just let me know and we can go together!

If there is something you'd like to see Cambridge SU do, or a stance on an issue you'd like to see Cambridge SU take, you can do this by taking a motion to the Student Council. If the motion passes, this will mandate Cambridge SU as an organisation to follow that stance or take actions towards the issue raised.

Any student can also submit their own motions to the SU council for consideration. If you need any help or guidance for submitting a motion to the SU council, please do drop me a message!

Also, if you haven't got someone to second your motion, or if you're nervous to speak in the council, please reach out and myself and other HUS members can support you and propose/second the motion on your behalf.

You can find minutes from past and current meetings here:
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/yourvoice/studentcouncil/papers/>

How to submit a motion

Motions should be submitted to chair@cambridgesu.co.uk and matt.kite@cambridgesu.co.uk by 12pm on the Tuesday before council.

You can find more guidance on how to write and submit a motion to the SU council at:
<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/policy/>

Motions should be written in a particular format, as follows:

Title: Motion to/for/supporting.... (Add in topic of motion here)

Proposer: (Your name)

Second: (name of the person seconding)

Section 1: Cambridge SU notes...

- Use this to set out factual background information

Section 2: Cambridge SU believes...

- Opinions that follow on from facts and support the action you want to see

Section 3: Cambridge SU resolves...

- This is the important bit!

- Use this to tell the SU what they should do as a result of the motion.

Eg. give an apology/ change course/ lobby staff in a certain way.



Liberation Campaigns

The SU also has numerous liberation campaigns to represent students and provide peer support and opportunities to socialise with each other!



The SU liberation campaigns are:

Women & Non-Binary

BME

Class Act

LGBT+

Disabled students

International Students



Getting involved with the SU Liberation campaigns is a great way to meet new people and build community. I'd really recommend joining the Facebook groups of campaigns that you identify with!

At Homerton we also have our wonderful liberation officers who are here to help you settle into college life, and they will be able to support you in raising any issues or contacting the liberation campaigns at the SU if you need to.

NUS Delegates

www.cambridgesu.co.uk/yourvoice/nusdelegates/

NUS delegates speak on national student issues and vote on behalf of Cambridge students at the National Union of Students council meetings. This is especially important when it comes to large issues that impact students such as staff strikes, rent issues and access for disabled students.

Elections will be happening this term, so look out for those!

Registering to Vote

University students can be registered to vote in both your home and university constituency. In general elections you can choose which constituency to vote in, whilst in local elections you can vote in both.

Whilst there aren't any scheduled elections for the next year, it only takes a few minutes to register and will save time when it comes to the next elections.

You can register to vote here: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

For students living in Homerton, our constituency is South Cambridgeshire and the current MP is Anthony Browne (Conservative).

If you want to contact our MP about an issue, he can be contacted by email at:

anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

For local elections to the Cambridge County Council and Cambridge City Council, Homerton is in Queen Edith's Ward.

And that's about it for an introduction to external campaigns! Please do get in touch if you want to find out more, get involved or have any ideas at all! I can't wait to meet you all and get started with the year ahead!

with lots of HUS love,
Mia :)