

## NUS Full time Officers 2016/17



### **Malia Bouattia**

NUS National President

Malia has become the first Female Black Muslim President after beating re-running President Megan Dunn by [44 votes](#). Malia is the current Black Students Officer and was elected to the NUS NEC before that. Malia, who studied at the University of Birmingham, has led on a number of campaigns including, [#LiberateMyDegree](#), which looked at liberating education and transforming it so it is more representative of students in the UK. Malia also created a scheme around the [Black](#)

[Attainment Gap](#) which has since been introduced by Vice Chancellors. Malia has led calls to boycott the [Prevent](#) agenda and hosted a nationwide 'Students not Suspects' tour which provided training workshops aimed at tackling the prevent agenda.

Malia has been elected on pledges to build a stronger movement by creating more regional links between students' unions and supporting more grassroots campaigns. Malia has also pledged to campaign for free and accessible education. This will be working alongside Part-Time, Mature & Disabled students to make sure education works for all. Malia has a strong record for liberation campaigning. This is something she will carry through to her term as NUS National President. Malia will ensure that all priority campaigns and budgets are reflective of liberation campaigns. Malia aims to unify local efforts for liberated curriculum into a national movement. Malia's full Manifesto can be found [here](#).

Since Malia's election she has been forced to defend herself against claims that she is an '[anti-semitic, Isis sympathiser.](#)' There have also been a wave of students' unions who have called into question their links to NUS and a number of SUs have hosted referendums on [affiliation](#).



### **Shakira Martin**

VP Further Education

Shakira was re-elected to her role as VP Further Education after she was uncontested for the post. Following a few attempts at various college courses, [Shakira](#) took time out and got a job as a secretary for a doctors surgery. Shakira later enrolled at Lewisham sixth form college and was elected as Woman's Officer. In 2014 Shakira ran for VP Further Education for NUS. It was in this role Shakira launched the FE Unplugged campaign which lobbied the government to reverse the cuts

proposed to [Further Education](#). Shakira has also been very vocal during

reviews. The reviews looked at merging a number of colleges which will affect students all over the country.

Shakeria was elected with a mandate to continue the fight against cuts to Further Education. Shakira will look to host demos, actions days and direct action campaigns in order to lobby the government. Shakira will aim to build the representation of FE unions at all levels of NUS. Shakira's Manifesto can be found [here](#).



**Sorana Vieru**  
VP Higher Education

Sorana was re-elected as VP Higher Education beating Cambridge University's Precilla Mensah by 55 votes. Previous to her term at NUS Sorana was the full-time PG Education Officer at Bristol SU and a student in HE for 7 years. Sorana is currently studying for a PhD. In Sorana's time as VP HE she has already successfully campaigned for the government to introduce Post-Graduate loans and remove the age from them. Sorana has launched a collection of toolkits for SUs to improve teaching and learning locally on issues like timetabling, assessment & feedback, learning resources and personal tutoring. Sorana launched NUS's [Quality Doesn't Grow on Fees](#) campaign in response to the HE Green Paper which was aimed at opposing the government's proposals on linking fee increases with a Teaching Excellence Framework. Sorana also worked alongside the Black Students campaign in campaigning against diversity in the curriculum of universities.

In the coming year Sorana will continue the fight against any increase in fees and fight for free education. Sorana pledges to work on transforming assessments so it recognise a wide variety of skills and different learning styles. Sorana will work on lowering the attainment gap for students from [disadvantaged backgrounds](#).



**Robbiie Young**  
VP Society & Citizenship

Robbiie has been the the LBGT+ (open place) officer for 2 years and before that studied for an undergraduate degree at the University of Plymouth. Robbiie, who is a member of the Labour Students National Executive Committee, has had a strong track record of campaigning for change in the LBGT+ community. He lobbied NUS to introduce a Full-Time Trans student officer, which was voted through at this years conference. Robbiie won gender neutral titles for students applying through UCAS as well as running a project on the LBGT+ community and faith. In his time as LBGT+ (open place) Officer, Robbiie has conducted a number of research projects which aim to highlight experiences of LBGT+ students at not only

University but also Further Education. Robbiie was also instrumental in lobbying the government to allow the [HPV vaccine](#) to be given to men.

Robbiie ran his campaign around 3 main manifesto pledges. The first is creating a more political union. This involves more grass roots activism, working with universities on auto-enrollment for voter registration and campaigning for votes at 16. The sustainable unions campaign involves working with Unions and universities to impliment the national living wage to all campus staff. Robbiie will also campaign for universities to invest in new and greener energy ad fight climate change for a more sustainable future for students. The final strand involves campaigning for fairer unions. This campaign will challenge the government on the prevent agenda, challenging the governments immigration rhetoric and finally reviewing anti-semitism in NUS. Robbiie's full manifesto can be found [here](#).



**Richard Brooks**  
VP Union Development

Richard was re-elected to his current role of Union Development beating Sahaya James by 70 votes. Prior to his role within NUS, Richard was the President of Hull Students' Union for 2 years. In his first year as VP UD Richard delivered a review of the officer development programme which led to year round support for student officers. Richard also led on a project with tools which allow for students unions to demonstrate the impact of Sports teams, societies and other volunteer projects. Richard led a national campaign in response to the higher education green paper which highlighted the value of students' unions to universities and wider society. During a recent debate about free speech, Richard defended the NUS and the 'no platform policy' on BBCs [Victoria Derbyshire](#). Richard has been vocal about the need for NUS to be more representative of its members and has led calls for reviews of NUS Democracy and decision making.

Richard has been elected on a mandate to continue a lot of the work he has already done. The [#LoveSUs](#) campaign will be continued and expanded so that more students' unions will have gone through the Quality Students' Unions scheme. This will be accredited by NUS and show that we are well governed & accountable organisations. Richard will continue calls for reform in NUS, he has pledged that by 2019 all core business costs of NUS will be paid through membership fees. This will remove any hidden costs associated with NUS. He will also work to deliver a new decision making model for the democratic and corporate structures. Richards full manifesto [here](#).



## Shelly Asquith

VP Welfare

Shelly was re-elected to her current role of VP Welfare beating Munya Mudarikir by 53 votes. Prior to her role as VP Welfare for NUS Shelly was President of University of the Arts London. Shelly, who was on Jeremy Corbyns campaign team, led a group of students in a protest about cuts to courses at [UAL](#). The group took over one of the building of the university and as a result had an injunction imposed by the courts. During her time as VP Welfare for NUS Shelly Launched national Preventing Prevent [campaign](#), prompting calls for a review and the first student consultation in 10 years. Shelly has also Secured grant funding to renew Ready to Rent training for student tenants and delivered workshops in students' unions up and down the country.

Shelly was elected with a mandate of looking at implementing more financial support for students. She has also made calls for a better health provision, particularly support SUs to defend local health services against cuts. Some other campaigns on Shelly's manifesto include continuing her work around the prevent strategy and continue to campaign against religious repression, providing further support to unions. Shelly wants to bring about more grassroots campaigning for students and students unions and champion activism within NUS. Shelly's full manifesto can be found [here](#).