



**BIRKBECK  
STUDENTS'  
UNION**  
HERE FOR YOU

# Ella

# Edwin

## Disabled Students' Liberation Leader



# About Ella's Role:

Ella is a **Disabled Students Liberation Leader**. The purpose of this role is to represent the needs and views of all disabled students at Birkbeck. You will work on behalf of Birkbeck students to improve the student experience; lobby the University to make positive change at Birkbeck, attend University committees and meet regularly with leadership and create a Birkbeck community.

## Her main responsibilities include:

- Represent the views of students at Birkbeck.
  - As a representative of Birkbeck students, be the face of the Students' Union
  - Be a point of contact for Birkbeck students
  - To proactively collect feedback and input from students regularly to ensure work is representative.
  - Attend University meetings and committees, elevating the student voice at these levels
  - Sit on Academic Panels
  - Meet regularly with key leaders in the University
- **Work with Birkbeck University to ensure their work meets students' needs, and improve the student experience.**
  - Chair and organize the Disabled Students Network
  - Create initiatives to improve the student experience for disabled students at Birkbeck
  - Lobby the College for change
  - Negotiate best outcomes for students
  - Run campaigns, events and activities to benefit and enhance the student experience
- **Develop a community for Birkbeck students .**
  - Create initiatives to improve the student experience
  - Create opportunities for students to network with other students, or to increase engagement with Union activity
- **Attend Student Union meetings.**

# Manifesto:

*“To achieve my dreams towards a more aware and inclusive environment for students, my top priorities for the year are:*

## **1. Creating awareness and understanding around disabilities.**

*This is crucial to promote inclusion and eliminate stigma. I plan to organise two disability awareness workshops for students within the year and establish a resource center with information on disability-related topics, support services*

## **2. Make accessibility a fundamental aspect of our campus design.**

*Conduct accessibility audits and take surveys from students to understand what needs to be met and implement necessary modifications to our facilities.*

## **3. Advocate for the rights and needs of students with disabilities.**

*Develop a feedback mechanism to ensure students can express their concerns and suggestions, ensuring their voices are heard. This will be done by including a feedback widget to our website to collect student feedback*

## **4. Encourage community building and collaboration.**

*Organise networking events termly to bring students with disabilities together, fostering a sense of community and support. One of these events would be held during the welcoming week to sensitise incoming students of the community and support they can access during their time on campus*

## **5. Promote academic support and empowerment.**

*Organise study groups and mentorship programs specifically tailored to the individual needs of students with disabilities. This is to eliminate the “one size fits all” approach we have towards providing support to students with disabilities.”*

# Committee Attendance Stats:

## **Board of Trustee Attendance:**

Term 1: 3/3

Term 2: 0/1

## **Student Parliament Attendance:**

Term 1: 0/1

Term 2: 0/1

## **Executive Committee Attendance:**

Term 1: 3/4

Term 2: 2/2

## **Recommendations from Scrutiny Term 1:**

Commendation

Recommendation #1: Don't use capital letters in report.



# Report

**Name:** Ella Edwin

**Role:** Disabled Students Liberation Leader

**Term:** 2

## **Manifesto Related Projects Update:**

- Establishment of Peer-to-Peer Network
- Disability Campaign
- Disability Webpage
- Term survey
- Feedback Mechanism for Early Access to Materials

## **Other Projects:**

- Access to lecture slides and notes for disabled students

## **Achievements:**

- A feedback form has been created for student representatives to report on how early lecture materials are distributed. This feedback will help us understand and address the unique challenges that disabled students face in accessing these materials in a timely manner.
- A comprehensive plan for the establishment of the peer-to-peer network has been created

## **Notes to Panel:**

- Peer to peer network: Two points in my manifesto are to encourage community building and collaboration and to promote academic support and empowerment. For these reasons, I have created and submitted a peer-to-peer network plan for approval to create a support system where students can connect, share experiences, and offer each other support. It is designed to promote inclusivity, foster empathy, and ultimately enhance the academic and social experiences of disabled students.
- The disability campaign is focused on creating awareness about different disabilities, foster empathy and understanding and celebrate students with disabilities
- Accessibility of Educational Materials: Efforts are underway to ensure the availability of slides and lecture materials well in advance for disabled students. By doing so, we aim to provide equal learning opportunities and empower all students to participate fully in their educational pursuits.