

SU MANIFESTO FORM 2020/21

Position: International Officer

Name: Syed Harris Bin Salim Albar
(He/Him/His)

Course: BA Drama, Applied Theatre and
Education

Year: Year 1

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Please state up to 5 of your aims for the year

Work with the SAS and members of the international student community to create an International Student resource pack.

Create 'International Student Representative' positions in each strand and cohort

Host regular focus group discussions with the school management to address international student concerns

Work closely with other officers to ensure the international community is considered in their plans

Establish a stronger online presence for the international student community

Manifesto

Hello! My name is Harris Albar. I am a first year DATE student from Singapore and I am running for the role of International Officer. Studying abroad is not easy, what with the exorbitant school fees and leaving the familiarity and comfort of home. Despite this, we commit to this decision because we believe studying at Central will be a worthwhile experience. If I were to be elected, I will work to ensure that our experience lives up to its expectation.

The current pandemic, while unprecedented, has exposed gaps in Central's support system for international students. While the SAS provides useful advice, there is definitely room for improvement. I would like to create a new resource pack for international students that is extensive, accessible and easily shared. Building off the existing resources by SAS, this resource pack will include more information on the fundamentals of living in London. To compose a well informed and relevant pack, I will work closely with current international students, to hear what information they feel has been lacking. As much as Central has a responsibility in guaranteeing a fruitful time, we must acknowledge that we have a role to play too. As such, I hope to initiate the position of 'International Student Representative' for each strand and cohort. They will serve as additional contact points, allowing us to engage more with Central's large international base. Furthermore, I aim to hold regular focus group discussions with the school management to ensure these points are actively considered.

I also aim to amplify the voice of the international student body. Within the SU, I hope to achieve this by working closely with other officers to ensure that international perspectives are being included in their plans. I intend to establish a stronger online presence for the international community as a space to connect internally, and with non-international students.

Times will be challenging for an international student, especially given the current state of the world. More than ever, we need to work for a meaningful, valuable experience. If I were elected, I will devote time and effort into ensuring we reap the best possible experience. Thank you for reading and you can always reach me @Harrisalbar on Instagram or Twitter!