

Owen McIlwaine

for Postgraduate Taught President



Hello all, my name is Owen McIlwaine, and I'm running to be your Postgraduate Taught President for the 2026-2027 term. I'm currently studying for an MPP in Public Policy, having completed my undergraduate degree in History at St Andrews last year. After four years here as an undergraduate, I want to give back to the university and help ensure that every postgraduate student has as positive an experience as I've had, by acting as the voice for all postgraduate students. As an undergraduate class representative, I learned how to represent the student body and resolve conflicts between students and the university efficiently, and as senior editor of the St Andrews History Journal, I gained leadership experience overseeing junior editors. Now I want to bring that experience to the postgraduate community, so that your voice is heard and acted on. A vote for me is a vote to keep growing the positive community we've built together, and to strengthen career support so that postgraduate taught students leave ready for whatever comes next.

My Priorities

Communication & Transparency

- Guarantee every postgraduate taught student has access to their representative to make sure their voice is heard with a weekly time slot to meet with me.
- Deliver monthly reports on the progress being made to the student body so everyone is aware of the progress being made on their behalf.

Academic & Career Prospects

- Advocate for an increase in career focused events including workshops, networking events, and fairs that are tailored to the needs of postgraduate taught students.
- Encourage academic resources that help students reach their full potential; quicker academic feedback, stronger academic guidelines, and more centralised learning materials.

Community & Wellbeing

- Foster a stronger sense of belonging across the postgraduate taught community to help build an inclusive and positive environment for all.
- Work with the President of Wellbeing and Community to build unique programs for postgraduates to foster positive mental health while promoting wellbeing services.

Why You Should Vote for Me

Postgraduate life is short, intense, and easy to feel disconnected from; you don't have four years to find your feet, you have one. I know from my own time here how much of a difference it makes to have someone who will genuinely listen and follow through, not just at election time but every week of the year. That's what I'm offering: consistent access, honest updates, and a representative who treats your feedback as a mandate to act. I have the experience and drive to hit the ground running from day one to make sure postgraduate taught students are never an afterthought in university decisions. I intend to be held to each of these priorities and promise to carry through concrete measurable action.

Vote Owen McIlwaine!

for Postgraduate Taught President · Voting opens October 6

Have a question or an idea? Find me on campus or email me at otm1@st-andrews.ac.uk