

# Ross Barclay for IR President



# Manifesto

My manifesto focuses on three key areas that I think would benefit everyone who studies IR at St Andrews: the transition to first year, School events, and careers and further study.

## Transition to first year

Like many people, I found the move to IR from high school quite difficult, especially because I hadn't studied the subject before. I hope to make it easier for first years to understand both course content and expectations so that students feel more confident taking studying the subject.

- One-on-one tutoring can be intimidating, so I want to **establish a method for first years to ask questions anonymously** about expectations and coursework, which will be answered by fellow students in later years, to encourage people to ask questions whenever something comes up.
- **Have induction workshops and more material available before teaching starts** to give students a better understanding of the course, and help to ease them into first year modules.
- **Conduct a survey at the start of the semester** to see what first years are struggling with, and try to tailor skills workshops and weekly emails to alleviate or clarify any problems and issues people are having.

## School events

The School of IR hosts a number of events during the year, inviting guests with different experiences and specialisms. I believe we can increase engagement with events held by the School.

- **Survey students about events** in the preceding semester to see what people would be interested in. This could include asking about different topic areas, but also the approach of the event, e.g. using academic theory, having discussions with practitioners about their roles and experiences
- Look into **introductory briefings for IR-related events** such as upcoming international conferences, ongoing conflicts, diplomatic talks, and country profiles, in order to broaden students' exposure to the field.
- Ensure **dual delivery of events** so that they are more accessible to everyone - record in-person events live so that people who might not be able to attend are still able to watch and contribute

## Careers and further study

Many of us are interested in IR-related fields after we graduate, whether in careers or in further study. I hope to improve networking opportunities and information about postgraduate opportunities in the School.

- Work with the Careers Centre to [invite speakers from IR-related industries](#) such as the Civil Service, NGOs, and international institutions to talk about recruitment pathways into these sectors
- Promote [postgraduate opportunities and specialisms](#) which might interest current undergraduates, and would help differentiate different fields of study from each other

## Other Commitments

- Create an [IR President Instagram page](#) to promote events held by the school, opportunities for students to shape decision-making, and talk about the role
- Ensure that [notice for tutorial signup openings is communicated beforehand to students](#), so people know exactly when they can sign up to a tutorial slot and don't miss out on a time they wanted
- [Collaborate with other schools and societies](#) on (hopefully in-person!) events
- Work with student ambassadors and the SRC Member for Widening Access to [make progress on Widening Access](#) in the School - the University has made progress on admitting students from less privileged backgrounds, but more work can be done to make IR a more accessible and inclusive place