

Bring Justice,
Equity, Diversity
& Inclusion (J.E.D.I.)
to Students
Development.

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INTRODUCTION:

Hello! I am Abd, a third-year PhD student researching collaborative online writing in the School of Computer Science.

Through my academic and career experiences, I have gained useful professional skills and established excellent relations with various stakeholders at our University that will help me contribute effectively to my role as Postgraduate Development Officer. I have volunteered and worked across several teams at the University of St Andrews, which helped me understand the nitty-gritty of working with different university stakeholders, such as the CEED, St Leonard's Postgraduate College, and Career Center.

My academic and professional life back in my home country encompasses communication skills I acquired from working and volunteering at several institutions and NGOs. I developed event management experience and confidence by organising academic, development, and cultural events for my alma mater and other foundations, which required being savvy at project management, leadership, networking, and marketing.

Staff from around the University and I established an interdisciplinary network to drive equity and human rights in open knowledge through research and community activities.

Finally, having volunteered before with the Students' Association as a Postgraduate Academic Convenor & St Leonard's Liaison Officer for the 2019-20 academic year, I feel thrilled and enthused about joining the union again on my new challenge. This will enable me to blend more fully into the university community and serve our students with my research and experience.

MANIFESTO

Development Opportunities Through Contributing to Filling Open Knowledge Gaps:

There are multiple opportunities for students development at our University. However, there **is a lack of opportunities for increasing awareness and contribution to open knowledge gaps**. For example, Wikipedia is one of the most visited websites in the world. However, despite its overwhelming ubiquity, **only 18.2% of English language Wikipedia biographies are about women**, and only 8.8% of the Wikipedia community are women. The concept of open knowledge aims to make the world's information available to all on an equitable basis.



PROPOSED SOLUTION

I will bring Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) to students' development by creating opportunities to **have fun** with friends and **gain vital 21st-century skills** to empower them in their domain. These opportunities will improve their **digital media literacy, writing, research, team collaboration and critical thinking skills** while **filling content gaps on Wikipedia's underrepresented subjects**.

Staff from around the University and I have established an interdisciplinary network called **IDEA Network** to drive equity and human rights in open knowledge through research and community activities.

We have run many training events, with Wikipedia edit-a-thons organised around the University. An example of the edit-a-thons: **there was a Wikipedia article on Agnes Blackadder Hall but none on Agnes Blackadder**. There is now one, thanks to our students joining one of my training. Searching for Agnes Blackadder on DuckDuckGo finds the article as a first hit, Google still has to catch up!

HOW?

Increase Development Opportunities that Contribute to Open Knowledge Equity:

In collaboration with The IDEA Network and Wikimedia UK, we will create a web portal for students and staff to register for events on demand.

The events will target students and staff groups, societies, committees to help them develop the skills needed to contribute to open knowledge about underrepresented categories and topics in their areas of interest.

THINGS WE AIM FOR ARE:

AIM 1:

Increase Capacity and Awareness at the University of St Andrews as an Open Knowledge Equity Supportive Organisation:



This could be achieved through:

- Collaborating and partnering with entities, such as the Main Library and students societies, to run awareness spreading events where speakers talk about the benefits and needs of contributing to filling knowledge gaps.
- Supporting technical innovation that helps to deliver on our strategic aims.

AIM 2

Increase Digital Literacy Development Opportunities through **Wiki Engagement**.



This could be achieved through running periodic open knowledge contribution training (Edit-a-thons).

AIM 3

Increase Engagement & **Representation Of Underestimated Groups.**



Achieving this aim could parallel building a network of people aware of development opportunities that contribute to addressing the knowledge gaps in the world.

CONCLUSION

My efforts are focused on creating development opportunities that increase the engagement with, and representation of marginalised people and subjects on Wikipedia. With the support of the student union, The IDEA network and Wikimedia UK, we build a community of individuals who incorporate open knowledge into their day-to-day practice. We will build structures that enable this approach to flourish at the University of St Andrews and beyond.

Ditto above. Long term objectives that we can be working towards, e.g. we will significantly increase free, online access to knowledge and information, Wikimedia will reflect our diverse society and will be free from systemic bias, learners in the UK are able to understand and effectively engage with open knowledge, high levels of information literacy have strengthened civil society and democratic processes, the University of St Andrews is recognised as a leading organisation for open knowledge.