



**LOTTIE  
DOHERTY**  
For  
**Association  
President**

**Manifesto**

## WHO AM I?

Hello, I'm Lottie! I'm currently a 4th year joint-honours student taking Art History and Philosophy. I'm originally from a small village in Kent but I spend most of my year in St Andrews, living with my partner and our cat, Beau. Outwith my studies, I love going to museums and galleries, lifting heavy weights at the gym, and trying different beers.

## WHY AM I RUNNING?

I'm running to be your Association President for the upcoming year because I want to work to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of this amazing University. I'm an experienced and active campaigner, having been involved in both local and national campaigns, and I believe that this experience means that I'm well placed to represent students and stand up for our interests and needs.

## WHY AM I QUALIFIED?

I've been a society chair for two consecutive years, and have held a variety of roles on committees including Women's Officer, and PR assistant. I've been involved with the Campaign for Affordable Student Housing (C.A.S.H) since its inception, the campaign to get Leyla Hussein elected as Rector, and campaigns against Universal Credit. I've also coordinated the donation of thousands of items to our local foodbank through St Can-drews. I've spoken to both local and national news outlets about the impact of the pandemic on students. I like to work in teams, and collaborate with a variety of people, to make sure that I'm promoting inclusivity, accessibility, and doing what is right for everyone.

## COVID-19

Over the past year, I've been very vocal about how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected students, both here in St Andrews, and nationwide. Unfortunately, it currently looks like the pandemic will have effects on the university and our education for the foreseeable future. I will continue to speak up about the effects of the pandemic, making sure that the University puts student's concerns at the heart of any decision making.

Students need clear information about what they can and cannot do, and how their experience at St Andrews will be affected by changing government guidelines, communicated to them as quickly as possible. I have voiced my concerns about the lack of clarity and transparency when it comes to University communications throughout the pandemic, and will use the position of President to continue to voice concerns directly to the University.

Students have been fined £60 for breaches of Covid-19 guidelines, but where this money is going has not been made clear by the University. During the UCU strikes, the wages from striking staff went into the hardship fund, and the money generated from Covid-19 fines should do the same.



Online learning over the past year has shown that requiring students to hand in hard copies of coursework assignments is completely unnecessary. Printing hard copies of coursework assignments wastes masses of paper, costs students money, and can be a stressful experience—especially for commuter students—as they rush to hand in coursework before the deadline. As teaching returns to normal after the pandemic, I will make sure that the practice of only requiring coursework to be submitted online continues, making coursework deadlines more environmentally friendly, and reducing unnecessary stress for students.

Additionally, the return to in-person teaching and exams will be especially difficult for students who are yet to experience in-person lectures and tutorials, and haven't sat exams in over a year. I will work with the DoEs and DoWell to make sure that there is adequate support during this stressful time, such as increased study skills workshops, and easily accessible information about the location of lecture and exam halls, and the process of sitting in-person exams.

There needs to be a full student body survey and report on how the University has responded to the pandemic, so that if something like this happens again, mistakes can be learned from and successes emulated.





The pandemic has highlighted the importance of collaboration and teamwork when approaching complex situations.

Approximately 95% of all students' unions throughout the U.K. are affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS). Not being part of NUS means we are missing out on opportunities to work and campaign with many other universities, on issues which affect students everywhere. I will explore the possibility of affiliating to NUS through consultation of the whole student body, and assessing the arguments for and against affiliation.

## Key Points

- Students need information about how the pandemic is going to affect them, communicated clearly to them as quickly as possible
- Full student body survey on how the University has responded to the pandemic
- Increased support for students as we return to in-person teaching via workshops and easily accessible guides
- As we return to in-person teaching, coursework should continue to be handed in online only

# ACCOMMODATION

In 2020, the University agreed to adapt its accommodation policies based upon the result of a student-wide Accommodation Survey. Nearly a year later, the results of this survey still have not been published. Analysis and publication of the results from this survey needs to be a priority, so that they can be swiftly acted upon as the university develops more student halls.

Accessibility should be the most important factor in decision making processes regarding the development and construction of new student halls. University halls should be accessible to students from all income backgrounds, and to students with disabilities. I will work closely with the Campaign for Affordable Student Housing, (C.A.S.H.), and with the Disabled Students Network (DSN) to ensure that the University is considering the needs of all students when developing plans for new halls.

As the University is buying properties in Leuchars, and may continue to use the hall in Dundee, it also needs to increase support for commuting students. I will campaign for the University to provide extra funding for commuter students' travel fees, as although the cost of living may be cheaper for those living outside of St Andrews, the cost of commuting to attend classes when in person teaching restarts can quickly add up. Additionally, I will continue the work of the current president to make sure that an additional commuter room is set up in the North Haugh.



University run accommodation is not as environmentally friendly as it should be. Small renovations such as improving insulation, carpeting floors, and installing double glazing, could greatly improve the energy efficiency of University accommodation. I will campaign for the university to renovate existing halls and University run accommodation, making changes that are beneficial not only for the students living there, but for the environment.

The housing crisis in St Andrews not only negatively affects students, but massively impacts the wider community. I will work with both the University and our local councillors to find solutions to the problem that benefit the St Andrews community as a whole, such as building affordable housing, providing more affordable rooms in student halls, and moving away from ineffective policies like excessive HMO restrictions.

## Key Points

- The results from the Accommodation Survey need to be published and acted upon
- I will work with C.A.S.H. and the DSN to make sure that the affordability and accessibility of University accommodation is improved
- Existing halls need to be renovated to improve energy efficiency and sustainability
- I will set up a commuter room in the North Haugh
- I will work with the University and wider community to find solutions to the St Andrews housing crisis

# INCLUSIVITY

Diversification and decolonisation of the curriculum needs to be a focus for all schools of the university. Many students are frustrated at the lack of representation of the BAME, LGBT+ and disabled communities, especially in modules where racism, sexism, disability, and homophobia are addressed. I will work with the DoEd, BAME students' network, the Disabled Students' Network, and Saints LGBT+ to make sure that where possible, module topics and reading lists are diversified and inclusive for everyone.

Extra-curricular activities and hobbies are an essential part of the university experience, providing an environment in which to make friends and release some stress after a busy day of studying. The recent campaign to save the Barron theatre has highlighted how important it is for the University to provide environments for extra-curricular activities to take place, and the negative impact funding cuts can have on students' university experience. I will work with the DoSDA, DoEs, and AU President to make sure that extra-curricular activities—both arts and non-competitive sports related—are properly funded and supported by the University and the Students' Association.



The need to listen to the student body and provide better support for students, has been emphasised by the stories of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) published on St Andrews Survivors, and the support groups started by The Healing Collective. I want to collaborate with The Healing Collective, Got Consent, and St Andrews Survivors, to make sure that student leaders, such as society presidents and senior students, are provided training on how to handle disclosures of SGBV, how to support survivors, and how to report incidents.

In the run up to elections, St Andrews' political societies have often collaborated and debated in order to explain their party's policies, and encourage students to vote. But political education is important, even when an election is not occurring in the near future, as the political situation in the country we live in affects all aspects of our daily lives. I will make sure that the forum for union affiliated political societies (POLIS) is reinvigorated and formalised, with a dedicated budget to run nonpartisan political education events for all students.

Measures need to be taken to make sure that the University is inclusive of students who are trans and non-binary. There are not enough gender-neutral alternatives to the gendered spaces across the University, such as toilet facilities and changing rooms. I want to work with Saints LGBT+ to make sure that the university is aware of the needs of all students, no matter their gender identity, and provides more gender-neutral spaces for those who wish to use them.





The process for changing your pronouns and 'known as' name on the University system needs to be simplified and more easily accessible. Currently, students must email the University registrar in order to update the university on their chosen name. Many students are unaware of this process. To simplify this process, I will oversee the construction of a form on MySaint where students will be able to change their 'known as' name and pronouns, as easily as they can edit their contact details.

## Key Points


- I will work with the DoEd, BAME students' network, DSN, and Saints LGBT+ to diversify and decolonise the curriculum
- I will oversee the construction of a MySaint form for changing your 'known as' name and preferred pronouns
- I will collaborate with The Healing Collective, Got Consent, and St Andrews Survivors to make sure support is provided for survivors of SGBV and proper training is given to student leaders
- I will work with the DoSDA, DoEs, and AU President to make sure all extra-curricular activities are properly funded and supported
- I will work with Saints LGBT+ to make sure the university is aware of the needs of all students, no matter their gender identity, and improve the provision of gender-neutral facilities

# ACCESSIBILITY

The isolation and stress resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for easily accessible mental health support. It is unacceptable that students are having to wait weeks, sometimes even months, for a Student Services appointment, when their mental health is suffering. I will campaign for greater funding for Student Services in order to improve and expand the services currently available, including the provision of urgent appointments for students currently in crisis.

The need to study remotely has highlighted how difficult it can be to access the resources students need. Unfortunately, access to essential class materials can be difficult even when we are not in the middle of a pandemic due to the high cost of textbooks, and shortage of hard copies in the library. The university needs to make sure that where possible, all essential and recommended class resources are available online, or there are enough copies of essential and recommended books in the library for students to access when needed.

Even when resources are available online, they are not necessarily accessible to all. I will work with the DoEd and DSN to encourage module coordinators and teaching staff to take measures to increase the accessibility of online resources, such as using E Books where possible—as these are more screen-reader friendly than scanned books— and making sure that pdf documents are editable, allowing them to be easily annotated and highlighted.



Additionally, many students have benefited from lectures being available online, as demonstrated by the increase in student satisfaction and attainment reported by the University this week. As we return to in-person teaching, lectures should still be made available online, as this increases accessibility and is a valuable study-aid for many students. I will make sure that the Campaign for Lecture Capture continues to be a priority for the upcoming year.

The University has committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2035, including balancing the emissions from student travel to St Andrews. More sustainable modes of transport for traveling to St Andrews can often be more expensive than flying or driving. In order to make sustainable travel more accessible, I will work towards establishing a 'sustainable travel fund,' allowing students to apply for funding which would allow them to choose more sustainable modes of travel which they would otherwise not be able to afford.

Physical activity is a brilliant way to take a break from study, with benefits for both physical and mental health. However the cost of gym membership prevents many students from accessing the University's sports facilities; full Saints Sport student membership is £170 for the academic year, £90 per semester, and £78 for the summer. I will work with the AU president to explore ways of removing the barriers preventing access to the sports centre, such as extending the programme of free fitness classes, making free gym trials available throughout the academic year, and the option to pay membership in smaller instalments rather than the entire amount in one go.



Many students feel compelled to buy a red gown for over £150, which they only wear a handful of times when participating in University traditions. I will continue the work of the current Association President to make sure that a short-term gown rental scheme is implemented, and is affordable and accessible for all.

## Key Points

- I will campaign for greater funding for Student Services
- I will continue the work of the current Association President to implement the short-term gown rental scheme
- I will work with the DoEd and DSN to improve the provision and accessibility of essential online learning resources, including the use of Lecture recordings
- I will work towards establishing a sustainable travel fund to allow all students to choose the most sustainable forms of travel, which would otherwise be too costly
- I will work with the AU President to remove the barriers preventing access to the sports centre, including the expansion of the free fitness classes for students, and exploring different payment options for Saints Sport membership

## FINAL REMARKS

Thank you for taking the time to read through my manifesto. I hope that this has convinced you that I'm the right person for the job of Association President, and that you will vote for me on March 4th and 5th. If you have any questions about my policies, experience, or just want to reach out to get to know me a bit better, please get in touch with me any time via any of my social media campaign pages, or email.



<https://www.facebook.com/Lottie4PresidentStA>



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Finally, here's a link to a google doc plain text version of the manifesto, which is screen-reader friendly.



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pFNbeRqb8p8kj1X3VNsQj4vR3Pyb4ekQ1RRep0JvPc4/edit?usp=sharing>

