



Royal Institute
of British Architects

Elections to Council 2019

Student Member

The information presented in this leaflet is as follows:

CANDIDATE NAME

- a. Nominated by
- b. School of Architecture

Election Statement

Note:

Candidates have produced their own entry in this leaflet by completing a template downloaded from the RIBA website, from the ERS website, or by completing the form online, through the ERSvotes Nominate platform.

There is a word limit of 300 words for candidate statements. After providing the information required in points a and b the remainder of the page is available for candidates to use for the presentation of their election address.

The contents have not been edited nor have mistakes been corrected.

In 2019, the listing of candidates starts from the letter A.

There are ten candidates for two seats as follows:

Victoria Adegoke
Maryam Al-Irhayim
Suleiman Al-Sadi
Sinead Hay
Scott McAulay
Bailey Rawson-Spink
Tazeen Raza
Zeid Truscott
Niall Patrick Walsh
Eve Wilkinson-Bell

Student Member Candidate

VICTORIA ADEGOKE

- a. **Nominated by:** Sevdalina Valentinova Stoyanova, Joseph Stancer, Remi Phillips-Hood, Daniel Joseph McBride, Andreas Leonidou, Aimee Ellen Williams-King, Sean Andrew Martin
- b. **School of Architecture:** Manchester School of Architecture



Election Statement:

Studying Architecture has been a stretching yet gratifying experience both personally and financially. Architecture school is quite unique in its focus on research led design. As part of a professional studies module, I wrote an essay outlining how I, if given the opportunity, would like to see improvements in the course structure, design and outcomes. This role allows me to work on students behalf and feedback into the cycle of research led design, sustaining and improving Architecture education.

The first issue is improving students overall well being and rethinking current learning environments. Secondly better integration with students and professionals and increasing interest in Architecture as a career for younger generations of students. Lastly creating a more sustainable rapport between students, early career professionals and the RIBA - increasing its value for its members.

The three main outcomes reflect the following:

1. A more holistic approach in teaching and learning. This requires encouraging universities to rethink how we review and feedback to students and to appropriately use feedback in their work. This aims to reduce issues and maintain a better result, regarding the current mental health crisis plaguing many.
2. Increased opportunities for students to gain invaluable professional experience from year 1 through year 6 and beyond. Approaching Architecture school as an integrated academic apprenticeship, with varying intensities throughout the course, will increase students working knowledge and in turn create better equipped graduates to transition into full time roles. This also includes fostering links with other professionals of the built environment, beginning at university stage.
3. Increasing RIBA support for students from all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, by creating channels that RIBA use to provide much needed information so members better understand the process of how to become an architect and utilise our skills in Architecture, the built environment and design.

Student Member Candidate

MARYAM AL-IRHAYIM

- a. **Nominated by:** UCLAN Architecture Union
- b. **School of Architecture:** Grenfell-Baines Institute of Architecture
University of Central Lancashire UCLAN



Election Statement:

There is a common notion that we must accept “the way things are” “Yet, architecture has always been about designing the future, changing our surrounding and improving people’s lives including our own.

Yet till this day Architecture students everywhere participate in the “how many hours did you sleep?” competition. Who slept the least before the final crit? that is if you slept at all. This accepted ritual like other comments we receive has become the norm. Students who do not study architecture are often surprised by how much you spent on materials. Yet we don’t question it.

The topics at the forefront of architecture students are mental health, rising cost, and skills acquired in university that are reciprocal in practice. These need to be discussed and rethought about to ensure we as future architects are prepared for the upcoming challenges that our generation face. Every generation face but us even more. Are we preparing for designing for climate change? Are we ready to work alongside each other and are we committed to leaving the world for once, better than we were given it?

I promise if elected I will ensure that you’re heard and listened to. Every voice is important, I believe this position is not for me to speak alone. But, rather an opportunity to pass the mic along and ensure that a student in any University is represented. So, if elected I hope to bring transparency to issues that we all face. If one person has a problem, I guarantee you are not alone. We have all probably faced similar issues and this is our chance to bring them forward with the hope of opening the conversation up.

Change has a higher probability of succeeding if we all try. I promise to try and try and try.

Student Member Candidate

SULEIMAN AL-SADI

- a. **Nominated by:** Angharad Davies, Tom Oldham, Henry Pollard, Hanifah Sogbanmu, Jolanta Grant, Roksana Shumanova, Yan Przybyszewski
- b. **School of Architecture:** University of the West of England



Election Statement:

I have served as a student liaison on both local and regional RIBA Branches for the last 2 years and as president for the architecture society at my university for the last 3 years. Through this time I have worked tirelessly to champion the student voice on many different levels both at the university and the RIBA. This has enhanced the link between the students at my university and the RIBA but most importantly with practitioners in the region.

If elected my goals as a national student representative are as follows;

- Continued free student membership of the RIBA.
- Champion the creation of student liaison roles across all branches and regions to ensure the student's voice is being represented throughout the RIBA.
- Working closely with the schools of architecture and the RIBA to better integrate mental health support into the curriculum and promote a better understanding of support needs across the profession.
- Continue to work with the RIBA to enhance the relationship between students and practitioners, by continuing to champion the mentoring scheme and encourage practitioners to actively advertise and recruit for summer internships.

Finally, over the last 3 years, I have been actively championing for a more inclusive and diverse profession and I am excited to continue to do this work on a national level building on the work of the current student councillors.

Student Member Candidate

SINEAD HAY

- a. **Nominated by:** Portsmouth Architecture School Society (PASS)
- b. **School of Architecture:** Portsmouth School of Architecture



Election Statement:

Studying to become an architect is a long and challenging process. During that time many students face issues with funding their studies and mental health. It is often considered a career choice for the middle classes and with a limited grant programme. Many students lack the support to complete their journeys, and in some cases feel ill equipped to move into the professional world. Currently the RIBA offer students free memberships and grants to a selected few. However, they are keen to encourage more people to take on the journey of becoming an architect through design workshops, competitions and lectures, although these aren't always easily accessible.

I represent a new wave of architectural students. My career began following the traditional route by studying for my BA at the University of Portsmouth. However, after graduating in July 2018 I was given the opportunity to embark on a new and different route. I became a degree level apprentice at Portsmouth City Council. Being in this position has allowed me to experience both routes available to students and that access to this fantastic career doesn't need to be seen as restricted to the wealthy.

I would like to use my experiences of being an architectural student to work with the RIBA to ensure that all architectural students are given the same level of support and opportunities to equip themselves for professional life. I would like to work with the RIBA's central and regional branches, and architecture schools to give students the opportunities to gain more knowledge from experienced architects through events such as lectures, symposiums and seminars. I would also ensure students are given a platform to share and discuss issues and problems they face during their time studying architecture so we can work together with professionals to improve our experience.

Student Member Candidate

SCOTT McAULAY

- a. **Nominated by:** Architecture at 131
- b. **School of Architecture:** Strathclyde School of Architecture; the University of Strathclyde's architecture association



Election Statement:

I am putting myself forward for election to champion both human and planetary well-being in the age of climate breakdown, and due to my belief that architecture possesses a vast potential to affect and to ultimately bolster both. I am an advocate for compassion in design, being an ambassador for the Architects Benevolent Society; an active member of the Scottish Ecological Design Association; and sitting on the Glasgow Institute of Architects Sustainability Committee.

The well-being of students and practitioners cannot be overlooked nor can that of the end-users of our creations and the planet we all rely upon yet it often is. I am openly an activist, but specifically, I am a conscientious protector due to the urgent address climate change requires of us all; business-as-usual has resulted in a crisis and the built environment shall have a key part to play in addressing it.

I am a strong believer in the positive potential of architects within the built environment to affect restorative change: in our buildings, communities, towns and cities. Though for this change to be realised our education must evolve radically: it must raise our awareness of the impacts of the materials we specify and of our wider impacts on the environment.

I shall be running on a manifesto of:

1. Continuous campaigning for improving both Equality and Equity in architecture - the way we have always done things does not guarantee inclusion nor value, so I shall strive to challenge it.
2. Striving to regeneratively overhaul our architectural education system, through Pedagogy and Practice - from the beginning of architecture school through to CPD, and to raise the inclusion of students in all we do.
3. Championing and normalising Sustainability in the age of Climate Emergency, integrating it into everything that we do.

Student Member Candidate

BAILEY RAWSON-SPINK

- a. **Nominated by:** The University Of Huddersfield Architecture Society (UHAS)
- b. **School of Architecture:** The University Of Huddersfield, School of Architecture



Election Statement:

As a recent graduate of Architecture (Part One), I understand the issues and struggles many students have with their courses and I believe that there can be positive change made that would benefit a vast number of students across the British Isles. As a Student Representative, I have been a voice for students throughout my undergraduate degree.

In 2017, I became the founding President of The University of Huddersfield Architecture Society (UHAS), hosting multiple events for the student population, including guest lectures given by individuals such as Robert Evans and Richard Murphy. UHAS has since become a vital student society within the School of Art, Design & Architecture

Election Statement: Students Voice.

Press for students voices to be heard in regards to international recognition of qualifications both in Europe and internationally.

Promote equality and diversification in the education of architects, by continuing to push best practice to students. Continuing the conversations on the gender pay gap & diversification of student intakes in schools of architecture, with the aim of achieving positive change.

Push for 'Future Architects Network' to be readily available to students of architecture. The Future Architects Network, is a platform for current students and graduates to network, and share events that maybe of interest to others.

As a Student Member, I will work with the Council, President & staff of RIBA to get the recognition students voices deserve.

The following individuals are happy to support my nomination:

Jonathan Hendry Architects, Nic Clear, Kim Smith (Reid Architects) Derrie O'Sullivan, Carl Meddings, Nicholas Temple.

Student Member Candidate

TAZEEN RAZA

- a. **Nominated by:** Manchester Student Society of Architecture
- b. **School of Architecture:** Manchester School of Architecture



Election Statement:

Students are not angry anymore. We keep our heads down, we draw and we model until the tutor approves week after week until one day the seven years have flown by. We are not connecting with architecture on a personal or political level rather the discipline passively. At the Manchester School of Architecture Debate Union (MSADU), topics not explicitly discussed in studio environments are explored by students, staff and invited guests alike. A personal favourite discussion titled 'It's A Man's World' strove to redefine femininity in architecture and question it's role in the 21st century leaving the full house feeling empowered to challenge gender bias prevalent in the discipline and by extension, influencing how studio briefs can be tackled on a personal level.

Additionally, the Professional Studies lecture series in BA3 involves professionals sharing their career progression thus offering great exposure to different working lifestyles clearly highlighting passion for the craft. At the same time, this variety may be interpreted as lack of stability and by extension a lack of inclusivity at the work place. As more and more people decide to take their professional lives in their own hands, for example through remote working, there is scope in the field to create more flexible and inclusive working environments for example child-friendly offices for parents.

As a student member of the RIBA council, I will work towards establishing debate unions like MSADU in architecture schools across the country which will provide a safe space for students to challenge conventions giving room for innovation. I will also campaign for a more inclusive working environment allowing people in all stages of the profession to be able to benefit from flexibility.

Student Member Candidate

ZEID TRUSCOTT

- a. **Nominated by:** University of Bath Architecture and Civil Engineering Society
- b. **School of Architecture:** University of Bath



Election Statement:

Over the past two years I have been heavily involved in the National Union of Students, sitting on both the LGBT+ and Black students committees. I have worked to represent student views at a local & national level and would like to do the same for Architecture students specifically.

I believe that Architecture is inherently political, and that the RIBA should be working to ensure Architects work in the interest of society as a whole. At the University of Bath, I have worked to do this by inviting disability rights activists to speak about their experiences as well as pushing for a more inclusive curriculum overall.

Architectural Education

At Bath I ran a student led review to the departments BSc and ensured that the department worked on students' concerns, however we need to be reviewing how Architecture is taught nationally. The RIBA has an important role in ensuring architectural education is accessible and of high quality. To achieve this, I believe RIBA should:

- Be working to lobby the government to scrap university tuition fees and bring back maintenance grants.
- Be working with universities with RIBA accredited courses to ensure that real term course costs are known to students
- Work to provide greater understanding to students and architecture schools of the needs and requirements of disabled and LGBT+ people.

Protection of the profession and students

The RIBA has an important role in protecting the profession, however too often workers and placement students are exploited to ensure the financial competitiveness or sustainability of a firm. I believe we should:

- Change the RIBA Chartered Practice eligibility criteria to ensure that practices are capping weekly work hours and paying staff for overtime
- Push members and students to join a union to ensure their rights as workers are protected

Student Member Candidate

NIALL PATRICK WALSH

- a. **Nominated by:** Queen's Architecture Society
- b. **School of Architecture:** Queen's University Belfast



Election Statement:

I believe in designing for impact. From my time studying and representing students at Queen's University Belfast, and as the News Editor of ArchDaily, the world's largest architecture website, I understand the power of architecture as a tool for change. As our world becomes more unstable, unequal, and unsustainable, future architects such as myself will be on the front line of a changing profession requiring strong voices, strong action, and strong leadership.

This is why I am running for a student seat on the RIBA Council, and why I need your vote. I believe in the ability of the RIBA to be a lobby for the future of the profession, where the fresh, energetic ideas of students can create debate, and craft policy. To do this, the RIBA needs to reach out to students, to extract the valuable ideas generated in university studios around the UK and translate them into ways forward for schools of architecture, and the whole profession.

I will put the student voice at the centre of the discussion. We face issues at every turn, from the crisis of mental health in architecture schools, to the uncertainty of entering a post-Brexit profession. But we also face opportunities at every turn. We live in the most interdependent era in history, where new technologies and ideas are transforming the very definition of architecture. If the RIBA can support and encourage students to engage with this new world, through tools and training both physical and digital, then the value of architects can be stronger than ever.

As the pace of change in the modern world intensifies, so too must the RIBA. I believe in a profession that is responsive, circular, and ethical. I believe we can deliver it. I want the RIBA to help you design for impact.

Student Member Candidate

EVE WILKINSON-BELL

- a. **Nominated by:** Emma Clarkson, Martha Hiles, Philippa Mack, Lauren Greensill, Jamie Reed, Kudakwashe Mushangi, Holly Baines
- b. **School of Architecture:** Liverpool School of Architecture



Election Statement:

I am a Part 1 graduate of Liverpool School of Architecture, currently working as Project Coordinator in a high end residential construction firm in London to build on and widen my knowledge from architecture school.

I am a strong believer in the power of architecture as a force for good; architecture and architects have the potential to make the world a better place. If elected, this belief would form the basis of all my actions whilst a Council member.

As a profession, we have to address the most serious environmental crisis in recorded history. We must lead the way in building a more sustainable world, to avoid irreversible damage to our planet for future generations. RIBA should be prioritising advising its members on how to do this, as well as advocating this to other bodies in related industries and policy makers to ensure our efforts are encouraged and not challenged.

Collaboration with other industries and sectors is something RIBA could improve on. As an architecture graduate working in the construction industry, I find that architects are often too insular in their work. We must open up more dialogue with other professionals in the building and design industry - this will give RIBA, and thus architecture, a strong voice within society, and create partnerships and alliances that every architect can benefit from.

RIBA must also support mental wellbeing throughout the industry and address issues in the architectural education system and professional culture that make architects vulnerable to problems with their mental health. I will promote the critical need for diverse and equal representation across the profession, and would assist the Council in addressing these imbalances.

Finally, in order to protect the future of the profession, RIBA must prioritise and connect with, engage, support and inspire the student and young professional community.