

Meg for UCSA TREASURER 2018-19

Dearest lads and lassies of UCU,

Thanks for taking the time to read this statement! I could not be more excited that the time has come to officially announce my candidacy for the position of Treasurer of the UCSA Board year 2018-2019. My name is Megan Chalcraft and I am a 4th semester British/Swiss miss studying Linguistics, Psychology and Biology. I hope that through this statement I can convince you that I have the experience, competence and drive to fulfill this position in the upcoming year.



Why am I running for Treasurer?

First and foremost I have a huge respect for the the members of the UCSA, the committee boards and teams, and the UCSA board who together organise such a diverse and vibrant array of events and activities. The opportunity to try new sports/food/arts and join guest lectures, field trips, workshops and more, is what I believe to be UCU's main strength. I want to facilitate and ensure the continuity of these aspects of student life as well as contributing actively as a member of a dynamic and forward-thinking board, working to serve the student body. I believe that I would make a fantastic UCSA board member as I am proactive, reliable and motivated as hell!

Why would I make a good Treasurer?

From my past experience as board member of HumanitarianCo, DramaCo and the Chief group, I think I would be best suited to make the biggest positive impact on campus life in the position of Treasurer because I am organized, meticulous and diligent when it comes to administrative tasks. I'm a real keen bean and commit 110% to the assortment of extra-curricular activities that I am involved in, while also making sure that I balance this with my academics and work commitments. Campus life is of great value to each UCSA member and I have the down-to-earth, pragmatic attitude to keep finances in balance, as well as the communication skills to ensure transparency.

Contrary to popular belief, the Treasurer does not spend all of their time staring at Excel! I believe that enthusiasm at being first and foremost a UCSA board member is essential. My extensive experience and skills being an all round, flexible and active board member mean that I pride myself on ensuring that my fellow board members worked harmoniously. I also excel at taking on supporting roles in a board by diversifying myself in the time I have that is not dedicated to Treasurer specific duties.

Reassess the Budget

In the past 2 years, a long term financial plan has been put in place to deal with the large surplus on the UCSA savings account. The plan was set up by Bart Schermers (UCSA Treasurer 2016-17) and aimed to reduce the savings by overspending €40'000 in the year of 2017-18, €20'000 in the year 2018-19 and then to break even again in the year 2019-2020. If you were to elect me as your Treasurer I would keep aligning this plan with the wishes of the current student body. This money is ours, hence I think it is of utmost importance that it is spent with the constant agreement of the UCSA members. This means that, as Treasurer, I will make it my mission to take all opinions and feedback into account, not only about what the surplus should be spent on, but also what we should do to prevent such a situation in the future. To address this, I would implement smaller scale investigations into which long term investments the student body would prefer to spend parts of the savings on. A revamping of the Gym or Mediation room? More picnic benches on campus? Developing the BBQ area behind dining hall? It's up to you.

Transparency & Accessibility

Finances are to be taken very seriously, but I am not the person for using difficult financial jargon and it is my aim to be as transparent as possible in order to ensure that everyone can understand and access information about what happens with our present and future UCSA contributions. I find that there is definite room for improvement on the readability of the budget as everyone, no matter their background should be able to comprehend it.

Long Term Vision

Past treasurers have done a tremendous job at creating the current financial plan dealing with the large surpluses of the past years. However, the challenge for the next treasurer lies in the long term: the previous situation of underspending was not sustainable, but the current necessary situation of overspending is not sustainable either. During this transition I will continue working towards a budget that both stimulates a vibrant campus and fits our members' needs. This might mean prioritising investments in bigger events such as Family Weekend, the Fashion Show and festivals, while ensuring the continuity of a wide variety of choice that caters to the interests of all our members.

Thank you once again for taking the time to read this and I hope that I have managed to encourage you into voting [Meg for Treasurer!](#)

Bisous,

Megan