

ISoc Elections: Manifestos 2014

NOMINATIONS:

Presidential candidates:

Brother Yasir Noori

Although the Islamic community in Lancaster is not large compared to other Islamic communities in other UK cities, Muslim students and staff in Lancaster University are the most related to their Islamic Society compared to others in other UK universities.

After I noted this point when I moved to Lancaster, I realised that there should be straightforward ways that could effectively enhance the connections between Muslims in the university. These ways will require commitments and potential thoughts from those who lead the society. As a president, and using the aid of those capable in the committee, I am planning to exploit the cultural differences in the community and the common religion to develop activities and events. I found that the multicultural property of the society in specific and Islam in general gives it an excellent and useful advantage to be more open to non Muslim students and other societies. These advantages can be harnessed to increase dawa'a efforts and develop new techniques to approach the challenge of it. I have been undertaking dawa'a training and courses from leading scholars and experts in this area and I am aiming to pass what I learned to the responsible individuals in the society to make an effort together for this purpose.

The Islamic Society like other societies become flourishing and has a positive effect to its members with the presence of funding. The committee is the main force that manages this responsibility and I believe I have the right experience with the right to take the responsibility with the aid and support of the other members.

To conclude, my target is to improve every current aspect of the society such as lectures, Seminars, Quran lessons, Ramadan activities, the societies masjid, leisure activities such as sports and trips, etc. As a determined postgraduate who have broken a lot of previously faced barriers, I could achieve all or most of my targets if I was giving the chance to do so.

Brother Adil Tirmizi

As-Salaam-u-Alaikum Brothers & Sisters.

I have taken part in most of what the Lancaster University Islamic Society has had to offer and this has shown me what works well, what needs improving and, ultimately, what members want from their Exec.

Every society in every university is established for one primary reason: to provide its members with an enjoyable experience at University, within the boundaries that it functions in. And this principle is no exception with the Lancaster ISoc. As President, I want to provide an exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling experience to the Muslims at Lancaster University within

the well-defined boundaries of Islam. My main goal is to be a society that is constantly engaging with its members, whether that be through organising social get togethers, inviting distinguished speakers, or informing us of external events which we would do good to participate in such as any outreach projects or charity work.

Many of us took part in the ISoc Football and thoroughly enjoyed it – I want to continue this and make it a regular weekly activity that the brothers can take part in all year round. For the sisters too, I also want to establish a similar weekly activity that takes place all year round and would be looking to the sisters for suggestions. I would also like to make the prayer room for both brothers and sisters a more inviting place to be by having seating and study areas which I know has been voiced by many Muslims that regularly visit the prayer room. I have many more ideas which I would be more than happy to share with you in person, however, I would also love to listen to your suggestions and Inshallah, together, we can make the Lancaster University Islamic Society an incredible society to be a part of.

Sister Rima Mutasim Abdelgadir

My name is Rima Mutasim Abdelgadir and I'm a Law and Criminology first year student running for the role of president.

I was born in Barcelona, Spain, but my parents are from Sudan. Being raised in a non-muslim country, especially in a city like Barcelona where Islamophobia is rife, has not been easy for me. I was blown away by how easy life could be for a Muslim in the UK compared to my hometown; halal food can be found easily, mosques are available for all, and you can always find a brother/sister willing to help you, Alhamdulillah. I've been treated very well and I feel that I have to return this favour to the incoming students. I want to demonstrate to Muslims that being a practicing Muslim in the UK is not impossible as long as you are in the appropriate environment.

So if elected, my vision for the Isoc would be to create an Islamic culture and environment that reinforces muslims' personalities into a distinct identity which would, Insha'Allah, allow them to tackle issues with life and especially with the negative images that the media portrays about Islam. I'm very concerned about Islamophobia, therefore to fight against it will be one of my objectives by making this ISoc very active through interfaith discussions as well as a large range of different activities and by showing non-muslims the beauty of our religion

Jazak Allah Kheir.

Male Vice President Candidate:

Brother Iznan Tarip

Salaam. My name's Iznan Tarip and I'm a Bruneian student with some experience in dealing with an Islamic society. I organised a number of events over the past 3 years infused with Islamic teachings as a part of a national Bruneian organisation which I am also a part of and which will help in the ISOC. I have a master from Lancaster University in Management and Human resource development which will no doubt help and currently studying a PhD.

InsyaAllah for ISOC, I wanted to concentrate on three things: Ukhuwah, Tarbiyah and Dawah.

(Ukhuwah) To unite and establish an Islamic community, not a divided one where we only pray together but then goes on doing our own things with other societies. Malaysians doing their own things, Arabs doing theirs etc.

(Tarbiyah) To help the community gets closer to Allah SWT through various traditional and innovative means

(Dawah) To make the community realise the importance of dawah, and assist people doing dawah individually and collectively

Of course these core activities are just foci, but the methods/ways of doing it would depend on inputs from the committee and what they want to do.

InsyaAllah will try my best, if elected, to make the community more active than previously.

Wassalam,

Iznan

Female Vice President Candidate:

Kamila Chalabi

My name is Kamila Chalabi and I come from Liverpool. I am currently studying management and organisation with Chinese, specialising in human resources. I am an active member in the Islamic Society and I am very grateful for what it has given me so far, especially as a first year. I would love to return the favour which is why I am applying for the role of sister's vice president and in turn (hopefully) make a valued contribution. I would assume my role of vice president by assisting the president and filling in for them when they are not available. I would also assist the other female members of the committee in fulfilling their roles in order to constitute a prosperous ISOC. Coming from a mixed ethnicity (Algerian and English), it has helped me relate to people from many different cultures which I believe to be necessary for the role to understand people of different backgrounds. I also believe that I have the passion and the commitment it takes to be on the committee and with your support we can strengthen the society further.

General Secretary Candidate:

Mohammed Fahad Al-Shammari

Al-salam-u-alikum Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am a second year student doing Management and Organisation. I am nominating myself to be your General Secretary for the academic year of 2014/2015. Why should you vote for me? Because I believe I have the required experience for this role. Back in 2011, I was selected to be one of the International Study Centre (ISC) representatives. My responsibility was to attend all meetings held by the ISC staff, raise any students' matters in a meeting in order to get their voices heard by the staff, to be involved in organising events and to let students attend and effectively participate in socials. Obviously, the duties I had were mostly concerned with generic issues. This experience will help me to be a flexible, practical, and attentive General Secretary, Insha'Allah.

In short, if I had the privilege to be selected as your General Secretary, I could humbly say and note that I shall give in my best performance in terms of securing the highest of my potential to working accordingly and collectively with the rest of the Isoc team.

Jazzaku-mu-Allah-u-Khaira for taking time to read my relatively short manifesto.

Yours Faithfully,

Mohammed Fahad Alshammari.

Female Social and Welfare Officer Candidate:

Diyanah

Assalamualaikum, my name is Diyanah and I'm a first year student studying Psychology. I would like to run for the position of Social and Female Welfare Officer as I am confident that, with my past experience in holding roles in various societies, and with my recent position held in the Malaysian society, I would be able to represent the female voice and make sure that everyone's voice would be heard. Being a Social and Female Welfare Officer would help me in spreading Islam to more people, be it if they were Muslims or non-Muslims. I have been actively involved in Islamic Society events and have volunteered for the Islamic Awareness Week, helping at the stall and at the events themselves. I want to be more involved with the Islamic Society at Lancaster and I strongly believe that the role of Social and Female Welfare Officer is best suited for me. Being on the Society's Committee would allow me to establish good ties with LUSU. I would be able to hold various events and garner LUSU's trust in establishing a good relationship in holding more events. I would be honoured if you would entrust me in this role, In Sha Allah. JazakumAllah Khair.

Dawah Secretary Candidate:

[Sanaan Sheikh \(Position: Dawah Secretary\)](#)

Based upon my character and my vision for the ISoc, I feel I am best suited in the Dawah Secretary role. My vision is to expand the outreach of the ISoc by creating a sociable environment and this will promote a feel of brother/sisterhood that is currently lacking. Specifically, I want to target the 'fringe' Muslims within and beyond the Uni, of whom I know many unfortunately and encourage each of them to become an active member of the ISoc.

This will be achieved through organising religious and less religious events, on a regular basis inshallah. Both formats are needed as we must target practicing and non-practicing brothers/sisters. For example, the brothers have regular tajweed class's lead by a brother who is very fluent in quranic Arabic. Inshallah, something similar can be arranged for the sisters. I plan to promote Hadith classes, led by a knowledgeable person to increase knowledge and to stimulate discussion about Islam, in order to boost Imaan. In terms of the less academic events, I hope to organise football on Friday night's after praying Maghrib salah; the aim being to encourage those less practicing brothers to spend time with practicing brothers and not to be elsewhere on a Friday night. I also have a few ideas for sociable events for the Sisters.

I feel this role is undermined because we forget the importance and virtues of unity and friendship with good company at University and in Al-Islam, as a whole. This is vital in this fitna-fuelled devils den. In an authentic Hadith, the Prophet PBUH said, "Man is influenced by the faith of his friends. Therefore, be careful of whom you associate with", thus emphasising the objective of brother/sisterhood as well as our responsibility as Muslims to call others to Islam, like these 'fringe' brothers/sisters. To do this, we must develop a welcoming vibe in the prayer room and at events.

Media Officer Candidate:

[Amira](#)

Assalamualaikum w.b.t, my name is Amira and I am a first year Biomedical Science student. I'm interested in running for the media officer post so that I would be more involved in helping the ummah spread da'wah. I have been actively involved volunteering at the booths and at the events itself for Charity Week as well as for the Islamic Awareness Week. I think I would be a good candidate for our Islamic Society because of my social networking experience on websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Blogger. Also, I associate myself with a variety of people, be it muslims and non-muslims over the years and it has enabled me to understand how people view Islam and what they want to know or misunderstand about Islam. My mother is a revert and she constantly tells me the hardships she face as a muslim, even in a Muslim country, you may be surprised. With my past experience of being a blogger, I am confident that I would be able to be able to advertise the Islamic Society well and write articles, and newsletters for the Islamic Society if ever needed.

Lancaster University Islamic Society

I would like to be a part of the Islamic Society Committee so that I would gain insight on how an Islamic group is run. This, In Sha Allah, could help me in helping others in answering any questions that muslims and non-muslims have about our religion and beliefs. It would be a great honour for you to consider me for this role. JazakumAllah Khair.

Positions Vacant:

Events co-ordinator

Treasurer

Social sec (male)