

International officer speech

Earlier this year I was honoured to be offered a position to study here at Fitzwilliam. My experience would not be the same if not for the students I met during International Fresher's week.

Despite my home being in Sheffield, I've often felt "international" on account of where I've lived and my family background. I'm the son of a Scotsman and an Israeli, and spent my first 5 years in Glasgow followed by 3 in Belgium. As a result, my accent is so mixed up that I often need to awkwardly explain precisely why I live in the north of England but sound like I'm from the north of California.

It's important for Internationals to be integrated with other students as well as being free to make their own community. I intend to facilitate that by taking what I learned from our incredible current officer Marie during international fresher's week and improving on it with more ents designed to integrate students into a wider community (without compromising bonds made with other international freshers).

For example, despite many local natural science freshers being on campus for their pre-course, there was no integration with internationals. I would like to remove all forms of segregation so we can stop being "internationals" and just be "students".

Of course there's more to this position than international fresher's ents. I intend to support any internationals who come to me asking for help or support - and if I'm stuck, then of course I can go to the friends I made during my international freshers.

I would be delighted to serve this college as international welfare officer.