Dear Fellow Students,

My name is Albert Sanghoon Park (PhD Candidate in Development Studies), and I’d like to ask for your support as a graduate representative to the Council of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.[1]

This request is motivated by two particular aims. First, I wish to make sure that student interests—both domestic and international—are being taken into account in the operation and direction of our School. A number of immediate challenges are faced by our graduate students, including uncertain prospects post-Brexit, institutional competition from US-style academia, and structural challenges in job opportunities versus graduate degree holders. Ultimately, my concerns rest with ensuring that we receive the best possible training for sustaining our future academic and professional careers and the fulfilment of our duties to society.

My second aim is a prerequisite to the first, and lies in first understanding our present institutions. The past four years (one year MPhil, three years PhD) as a graduate student here at Cambridge—in addition to five years in the private sector—have enabled a certain level of understanding in terms of challenges and concerns from a student perspective. Now, I hope to work towards making sure such concerns are communicated in the most effective means possible in the (however limited) means afforded to student representatives on our School Council.

Beyond this basic statement of intent, there of course lies the opportunity for discourse in not only the communication of student interests to the School Council, but also the understanding of the role and agenda of the School Council to the graduate student body. Thus, a final and perhaps most critical responsibility if elected as representative will be to make time available for fellow graduate students who would like to relay particular concerns to our School Council or are otherwise interested in understanding the broader agenda and operation of the School.

Thank you for sparing your valuable time and attention, and for more information on this role and election, please visit the following links:


With Best Regards,

Albert Sanghoon Park