I am coming to the end of my second year of a PhD in the Quantum Matter group in the Department of Physics; my project is fully experimental and focuses on unusual magnetic behaviour in solid-state lanthanide compounds. In my time at Cambridge so far, I have supervised first, third and fourth year undergraduates in various chemistry topics, been a demonstrator for Part IA physics and conducted undergraduate admissions interviews for Jesus College, along with volunteering with CHaOS (outreach) at local science fairs.

Having come from a chemistry background – where the gender balance is pretty much 50:50 at undergraduate level – into a much less gender-balanced physics department as a postgraduate, I have developed a particular interest in supporting women and other minority groups in physics, and STEM more widely. Being the postgraduate representative to the school of physical sciences will allow me to pass on requests, concerns and suggestions from other students, especially those who feel they cannot speak out openly, to the people who make the important decisions about postgraduate studies in the physical sciences.

Nicola Kelly