

About me:

My name is Ayesha Landon-Browne, and I am a first year Earth Sciences PhD student at Jesus College. Prior to starting at Cambridge, I lived in Canada where I completed my BSc (Chemistry and Earth Sciences) and my MSc (Earth Sciences) focusing on early Earth mantle evolution using Archean rocks. Outside of academia I enjoy playing trivia with friends, going on a good hike, running, knitting, and hopefully post-COVID-19 exploring Cambridge.

During my undergraduate degree I represented students on a departmental, faculty and university level. I attended many meetings where I advocated for the needs of students. The decisions made at these meetings, such as the introduction of a 2nd reading week, creation of new degree programs and changes to degree requirements, affected both my fellow students and incoming students and their subsequent progression through their degree programs. I also coordinated the representation of undergraduate students on departmental and faculty boards. This experience enabled me to listen to students and advocate for issues that are relevant to them. As an MSc student I participated in various outreach programs within my local community and in remote, fly-in, locations in northern Canada where I worked directly with First Nations communities. This experience enabled me to become an effective communicator and to gain a wider perspective on the unique challenges faced by students of different backgrounds from me.

In January I moved back to England to start my PhD and have quickly become involved with my department. As a BAME identifying student I have been able to provide fresh insights on a variety of different issues that BAME students are faced with both within my department and my wider field of study. I have become a member of my departments EDI committee and have been able to contribute to a number of new initiatives including (1) developing a mentoring program for BAME Earth Science students (2) co-leading in an diversity/ethics reading group, and (3) coordinating committee for our newest department seminar series 'Geoscience in Context'

As your representative

If elected as your graduate representative I will actively participate in scheduled meetings and represent my fellow students to the best of my ability. I will endeavour to research relevant discussion topics prior to every meeting, to ensure I am an effective and tireless advocate for your concerns. I will use my position to provide direct feedback to the council on the sentiments of students – be it on a general level or tailored to a more specific student demographic or identity. The voice of you, the students, will be the foundation of my work on the council. We are the ones who are affected by the School's decisions with respect to teaching, diversity, and other critical issues. During my time as representative, if a student approaches me with specific concerns or questions I will take the time to discuss such issues with each student, move that discussion to the Council of the School and continue to provide feedback to concerned students.

I believe that I am best suited for this role as my prior experience will allow me to be a contributing member of the council and to successfully advocate for student issues. My previous experience is detailed below, and this has enabled me to have the passion needed to make me the best possible representative for you and your interests.

Previous Experience: red – outreach/volunteer experience blue – professional experience

2020 – Present: **EDI Committee Student Representative – Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge**

2020 – Present: **Seminar Organizer – Geoscience in Context, Department of Earth Sciences**

2019 – 2020: **Junior Geologist – Big River Mineral Exploration/Tripoint Geological Services**

2016 – 2019: **Teaching/Research Assistant – University of Ottawa, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences**

2016 – 2019: **Outreach volunteer – Let's Talk Science/Science Travels**

2016 – 2017: **Vice-President – Graduate Earth Science Student Association, University of Ottawa**

2014 – 2016: **Research Assistant – Groundwater Geoscience Program, Geological Survey of Canada**

2014 – 2016: **Lab Assistant – Isotope Geochemistry and Geochronological Research Centre, Carleton University**

2014 – 2016: **Vice-President – Undergraduate Geology Student Society, Carleton University**

2015 – 2016: **President – Carleton Academic Student Government, Carleton University**

2015 – 2016: **Undergraduate Student Representative – Carleton Academic Senate, Carleton University**

2013 – 2015: **Chemistry Representative – Faculty of Science, Carleton University**

2013: **Summer Orientation Leader – Student Experience Office, Carleton University**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at arri3@cam.ac.uk