

Linda Phiri:

My name is Linda Phiri, a current student pursuing an Mphil in Development studies. I would like for you to read the following in the hopes of gaining your support to be the graduate representative for the **Council of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences**.

I have worked in the field of international education (Admissions, Study Abroad and College Counselling) for two years, where I learned to enrich the educational experience by bridging institutional goals with student aspirations.

The major motivation in my running for this position lies in wanting to explore ways in which we can better pursue a critical, yet practical approach to our academic experience at Cambridge, therefore better equipping us for opportunities beyond it.

My approach can be divided into three R's

**Representation:** To strengthen how we as a school are represented within the grander Cambridge academic community. My hope is to develop ways in which we can strengthen our voice within the council and to build/maintain our relevance. I would also like to gain a clear perspective on how our voices and concerns are translated into tangible transformation of university policy and action.

**Relationships:** As we are all aware, none of our learning or research exists in a vacuum, as global challenges more often than not require an integrated approach in the plight to tackle them. Therefore, I would like to find ways in which graduates within our school can further intellectually interact with those in the natural sciences, arts, mathematics and etc. In what realistic ways can we better integrate those who operate in different departments within our research, projects and conversations.

**Reflection:** I hope for us as graduates to explore to what extent our education is balancing both critical and reflective processes of learning. In the process of knowledge production, to what extent can we make room for a re-imagining of the educational process, not only as receivers of education but of transformers of the process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Linda