

## JENNIFER CROWDY (STUDENT OFFICER)



***As a student, volunteer, and employee I've seen how the University can be a great 'place to become'. But we still face many challenges. Your voice. My priority.***

As a mature, doctoral student with a disability and being on the autism spectrum, I understand the importance of students having effective accessibility and support to thrive at university. The Winchester Student Union is doing an incredible job focusing on these aspects by supporting those who are struggling with the rising cost-of-living, ensuring that the voices of postgraduate students are heard, and recently spreading awareness of mental well-being and diverse communities.

I believe we can continue to do more to listen and respond to the student voice which is why I am putting myself forward to become Student Officer. This past year I have been fortunate enough to represent the needs and interests of students as both Chair of the Commuting Students Network and working on the TEL Champion Scheme that supports students in many areas of technology. This has made me become very aware of the lack of digital initiatives **for all** students, and a disparity between students that are technically savvy and those with a lack of confidence or access. With the cost-of-living crisis, digital poverty and inequality are now becoming an unfortunate reality for some. This includes restricted availability to attend events that are in-person, or events at set hours where students that are mature, commuting, or working feel more isolated and less integrated with our wonderful community. If elected, my main priorities would be:

- To establish better accessibility and opportunities of online events and technological initiatives for students
- To become a 'Technology Liaison' for students so that you have someone who can be relied on for direct support for technology related access and opportunities.
- To explore the potential in creating a range of multimedia resources for key university services that all students can access, due to working in a role that regularly meets this demand.

Now on to wellbeing. The rising costs of university and daily life have also impacted our emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing. However, the demand on student services is considerable and students (myself included) find it very difficult to get appointments or know what resources are available to help. The Student Union have amazing Wellbeing Cafes and Recharge Day events, but this does not mean we cannot do more. Therefore, I am also aiming to:

- Collaborate with the SU and students towards the development of a cost-of-living and wellbeing resource pack.
- Raise awareness and help create or collaborate on initiatives run on campus that promote physical, mental, emotional, and personal wellbeing – such as Arts & Crafts Afternoons, Coffee Mornings, and team-building sessions.
- Communicate and collaborate with societies and representational networks on their wellbeing to see how they can be best supported.

No matter who or where you are, we can flourish together.

Just remember that Crowdy cares!