

PATRICK STEPHENS | PART-TIME OFFICER

My name is Patrick Stephens, and I am standing to be one of your next Part Time Officers because I believe every student at Winchester deserves a university experience that is inclusive, empowering, and genuinely supportive. University should be more than lectures and deadlines — it should be a place where students grow socially, personally, and practically. My campaign is built around three key priorities: strengthening societies, creating inclusive social alternatives, and promoting essential life skills.



First, I will focus on society development. Societies are one of the most powerful ways students build friendships, improve mental wellbeing, and find like-minded communities — especially when settling into university life away from home. However, too many students with great ideas face unnecessary barriers when trying to start a new society. I will campaign to reduce the current threshold from 15 members (a committee plus 10 members) to 8 members (a committee plus 3 members). This change would make it significantly easier to launch new and unique societies, giving students more opportunities to socialise in Winchester rather than feeling they need to travel elsewhere. I will also work to reduce unnecessary administrative red tape in both starting and joining societies. Societies should feel supported, not restricted.

Second, I want to introduce stronger alternatives to traditional nightlife events. While BOP is a valued part of student culture and should absolutely continue, it does not represent everyone's idea of socialising. Many students — including those who do not drink or who simply prefer a different atmosphere — can feel excluded. University social life should not be one-size-fits-all. I will advocate for regular alternative events such as game nights, relaxed social evenings, and interactive activities in spaces like The Vault or other suitable venues. These events would create inclusive environments where students can socialise, build friendships, and feel part of campus life without pressure to drink. Everyone deserves a space where they feel comfortable.

Third, I am passionate about improving life skills support. University is often the first time students live independently, yet many arrive without basic practical knowledge. I will push to introduce initiatives such as "Freshers Foods" — workshops designed to teach simple cooking skills, budgeting basics, and other essential life skills. Promoting healthy living and independence not only supports wellbeing but helps students feel more confident and capable throughout their studies and beyond.

At the heart of my campaign is inclusion, accessibility, and practical action. I believe the Students' Union should actively shape student life by listening carefully and acting decisively. My goal is not to replace what works, but to build on it — expanding opportunities so that every student can find their place at Winchester.

I care deeply about creating a campus culture where students feel connected, supported, and equipped for life beyond university. If elected, I will work to ensure that societies thrive, social spaces are inclusive, and students graduate not only with degrees, but with confidence and real-world skills.

Make Winchester Yours.