

# FIRST YEAR ELECTIONS

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*candidate guide*

*2021*

# DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear First Year Students,

Welcome to the 2021 Adelaide University Law Students' Society (AULSS) First Year Elections Candidate Guide.

Every year, the AULSS welcomes two first year students to be First Year Representatives, who will be working within the AULSS Education Portfolio. The primary role of the First Year Representatives is to represent the views and concerns of the first year cohort. This allows first year students to be clearly represented by the AULSS. Moreover, much of the work in this position also involves assisting in the creation and distribution of educational resources and opportunities for first year students, through the Education Portfolio.

Being a First Year Representative is a great way of broadening a student's experience in the Law School Community, by allowing them to develop connections with other students in various levels through a variety of settings. This, in turn, bridges the gap between all first year students and older students!

All the candidates who have nominated themselves are keen to be a representative for you, and are individuals who have a hard work ethic and a positive attitude. Please carefully consider the statements of all the candidates and come along to our voting days to vote for the two candidates you think will best represent the first year cohort!  
**Voting will occur in Week 4, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm.**

Despite the outcome of this election, I hope that all the candidates find this to be a positive learning experience.

I wish all the first year candidates the very best of luck!

Nadeesha Indigahawela  
Director of Education, 2021



# PATRICIA PAPAS

It is more essential than ever to build a supportive and inclusive environment, which is why I would love the opportunity to be first-year representative. As a volleyball coach, I am extremely team orientated and I love helping others. I believe this is important for a representative because the role is about working with those you represent to build an environment where everyone feels heard.



Last year, as school Public speaking and Law leader, I was determined to give others the opportunity to participate in law-society activities. Unfortunately, most of the competitions were cancelled (thanks covid), motivating me to run an internal school competition. The experience taught me the importance of passion and hard work in being a representative and, if elected, I will strive to embody these values in the position.

Thank you for taking the time to read my application! I hope you have a great week!

# OLIVIA HIGGINS

Being elected as the First Year Student Representative for the AULSS in the year 2021 would be an honour for me, as even in the short time of being acquainted with the first year class, I feel so blessed to be surrounded by such a dedicated, hardworking and inspiring group of young people. I believe I possess many attributes that would assist me in being an influential and effective representative for the first year cohort. I am, and have always been passionate about leadership and working with others to achieve a common goal to benefit all. I pride myself on my ability to collaborate with others, and my bubbly, outgoing nature assist me greatly when it comes to meeting new people, networking with my peers, or simply just making new friends! I wish all other candidates the very best of luck, and look forward to meeting you all soon!



# JORDAN PAYNE

Hi, my name is Jordan Payne and I am greatly interested in the First-year Representative position. I admire how this position enables first years to create connections with other years and the law faculty as a whole. I am highly driven and always strive to bring a positive perspective to all situations. I am always seeking new ways to help people and I feel this position really enhances this objective. I would love to be involved in organising events for the society and first years, in particular, to ensure this year is as exciting and memorable as possible, given the luck most of us had last year. My goal, if elected as the first-year representative, would be to give a voice to any issues, concerns, or recommendations from the first-year cohort, while ensuring everyone is well cared for and has as much fun as possible.



Thank you for your time and consideration :)

# GRACE HARKINS

To be a representative brings a responsibility to ensure that those people have their opinions, values and beliefs heard. Skating has shown me the importance of a strong and positive work ethic that drives persistence in the face of challenges, that inevitably lead to growth. After skating with and captaining Synchronised Skating Teams, I am well aware of the importance of collaboration and interpersonal skills. Like how I supported my team members on and off ice, I aim to encourage other students, including the first-year cohort, to network and actively participate in the law community. Whether it is support through having your voice appreciated and listened to or simply an understanding conversation, I am always there for friends and soon to be friends! I enjoy communicating and interacting with people of all ages and backgrounds and I am not shy about starting a conversation. I want to collaborate with strong and open-minded people, like me, who are willing to seek knowledge, learn and help others become involved and thrive in university life.



# ZEYANG WANG

Hi, I'm Zeyang and I'm thrilled to put my hand up for your first-year rep. I'm an enthusiastic communicator and always ready to help when you're in need!



In the past two years in high school, I was elected Chair of the Student Council and School Captain consecutively. These positions have given me leadership and representative skills to acknowledge the individual strengths of others in a diverse team. I was also elected as a member of the Youth Advisory board for an MP in my local community. It has allowed me to meet a range of new people whilst advocating for the youth population. I look forward to improving your first-year experience through my involvement and encourage you to make the most out of your early law school experience.

Being your rep will greatly afford me the leverage to support you in any ways possible and I'm always down for a friendly chat!

I sincerely appreciate your consideration!

# ANNALISA ZACEST

Hey first years! My name is Annalisa and I would love to be your First Year Representative in 2021. I want to make our experiences at law school really positive, and help to take the pressure off study a bit by organising fun and inclusive activities. This is an exciting opportunity for me to encourage us all to get to know each other a bit better through organising activities. I'm always happy to have a chat, so please say hi when you see me! I want to know what is important to you



and I'm always ready to listen to your concerns and suggestions. As someone who enjoys basketball and mountaineering, I have firsthand experience in being an effective team player. I plan to bring plenty of positive energy to the role, my strong work ethic and good organisational skills. Thank you for considering me!

# OLIVIA WALKER

Spotted doing the worm 20 minutes into first year drinks - I am passionate about ensuring us 1st years function as a cohesive and supportive unit that have a lot of fun. I come from a family with 5 ginger siblings which means that I have the confidence to speak in public and to advocate for others, which I believe makes me a perfect fit for the AULSS first year rep role. Enthusiastic participation in an overly wide range of events, sports and cocurricular activities is a typical trait of mine and you may have seen me around overeagerly signing up for hip hop or table tennis club. However, this means that I have developed elite organisational and list making skills. I don't take myself too seriously, and am almost always smiling, which makes me an approachable person and good fit for the 1st year rep.



# APEKSHA AEBI- GOONAN (PEKS)

I am a passionate, caring and devoted lady. I have overcome many battles in my life not to mention have to learn how to talk, walk, move and remember my life after an almost fatal accident. I am adopted by white parents from India and have a strong, determined will to make this world equal step-by-step because everyone deserves what I am lucky to receive. I am now living life with a disability and a permanent brain injury but I am determined to not let that define me. I want to help other people who suffer from severe mental illness like myself. I want to show them that life can get easier not better but we can all help each other to battle the downs together and celebrate the wins and highs. So this is just a bit of why I really want to be a candidate and be nominated.



# DANIEL MANERA

My name is Daniel Manera, and I would love to have the opportunity to represent my cohort of first-year law students. I have greatly enjoyed the first weeks of meeting the students that I will spend the next many years of my life with. This is the foundation of my desire to be elected as a first-year representative. I believe to be a representative of your peers is of great importance - requiring dedication, hard-work, and everything in between. These qualities are those I



believe I embody. A representative is someone more than just a person willing to liaise with peers, instead it is a person who is willing to act within the best interests of the community to create a better environment; I will act within the interests of all first-year law students to create a better culture, and a more welcoming and positive environment. Thank you all for your time and consideration.

# JAMES DIMAS

After meeting all you empowering individuals at a multitude of AULSS events, it has reaffirmed to me the importance of electing an approachable individual who will innovate and inspire, and I am that person! I am the founder of a successful up-and-coming grassroots NGO, [FightForTuvalu.com](https://www.fightfortuvalu.com), empowered by the Tuvaluan people. I value all individuals irrespective of race, gender, religion or socioeconomic status. I pride myself on giving a voice to the voiceless. This is



evident through FightForTuvalu and my previous positions: College Captain, 5xSRC Rep. I believe that your mental health is paramount during the progression of your schooling. I'm a proud South Australian and now proud law student who'd love to represent and be your advocate through your journey as a first-year student, instigating change. Regardless of this role, if you need help, have an initiative or just want to share a drink, come, say hello!

Yours, JAMES DIMAS.

# CHLOE RUNGIE

I am a first-year law and International Relations student who works part time in the hospitality industry. I've spent the last two years on campus while I was completing school at the University Senior College, yet somehow, I still cannot find my seminar rooms. Starting university can be challenging, I mean no one mentioned it would take 10 minutes to walk from one side of campus to the other, but it has already proven to be just as rewarding. I believe that



each of us first-years should support each other to do our best, network, feel like we belong, and create life-long friendships along the way. If you were to vote for me, I would ensure that I am always available for my peers whether they have ideas or suggestions on new activities or events they would enjoy, or those who just want to have a chat.

# JESSICA MARCH

Hey everyone! My name is Jessica March, and I would love the opportunity to represent our cohort as a first year representative. I am passionate about creating a culture of inclusivity and camaraderie in which all law students feel supported (which is especially important within such a challenging field of study). Thus, I would relish the opportunity to foster connections both with my fellow first years as well as with older students. I have loved meeting so many of you already!



As a highly organised, diligent, and confident person, I am quite the Type A character (which I'm sure many law students can relate to), and I believe these skills are integral to success in this position. Furthermore, my experience in previous leadership positions and in debating would enable me to effectively advocate for the ideas and concerns of our cohort.

I sincerely appreciate your time in considering my application.

# AVA-BIAN COLWELL

Hi! My name is Ava, and I'm studying Law and International Relations. First of all... We made it! We are just beginning our exciting journey through law school - let's make the most of it!



These first few weeks have been a period of change, fast pace, and getting lost (very often). However, the rigorous nature of law school only highlights the necessity of a vibrant, inclusive, and active community within our cohort (we're all stuck together for at least four years anyway)!

As the First Year Representative, I will use my passion for leadership and social justice to speak up for our cohort within the AULSS, and represent us within the wider University community. I aim to create an environment prioritising collaboration, wellbeing, and balance. I believe that organising both study and social activities, and sharing peer feedback will foster a healthy work ethic and a sense of belonging to a wider community.

Thanks for your consideration :)

# HARRY PASSEHL

Service, experience, and grit - truly understanding the role's immense responsibility and having the guts to advocate and fight no matter the challenge. As the AULSS first-year representative, these will be the fundamental principles I'll wield to devote myself to making law school more enjoyable for you! I'm experienced in advocacy and representation, developed during an aid mission to Indonesian villages, raising over \$20,000 for an orphanage/school in Myanmar, working alongside the CCYP on reforming the sex education curriculum, collaborating with NYU to study contemporary youth problems and much more!



As your representative, I'll work with the other first-year representative and Education Portfolio to host study-groups, run more first-year events, host double-degree collaborative sessions with other societies (i.e. economics, IR, business etc.), and much more! But never forget, you are my priority - I aim to chat with all of you about how I can better represent and serve you!

# BRITT FRANZMANN

If there's anything I've learnt from my glorious days of being a door to door saleswoman, it's that within any institution, culture and attitude is everything. By implementing exciting, new events for my fellow First years, I would be placing a key focus on improving the culture and bringing our cohort closer together to create a community (or family if it pleases the court).

We also all know that law students work hard, and like to play harder, so me being elected as a first year rep

would mean a focus on incentivisation to help promote and motivate students to take part in practical events/workshops to raise the cohort's collective standards for their studies. Furthermore, my approachability and innate desire to become friends with everyone, and help out everyone, particularly in terms of wellbeing, would make me an ideal candidate. For most (actually ALL) students, entering law school can be a scary time. Realistically, we are all in the same boat and have absolutely no idea what we are doing. It's because of this that I would love to destigmatize the struggle that is studying to be a lawyer as well as help everyone have the most legendary time, and make our first year as memorable as possible!



# CHRIS MARY

Hi, I'm Chris and I would be absolutely honoured to be elected as a First-Year Representative for 2021. I have always had a keen interest in leadership roles and have thrived in collaborative environments. I believe that my prior experiences as a Student Captain, an International Ambassador and an executive member of the South Adelaide Malayalee Community, as well as the skills that they have allowed me to develop, will be crucial to succeeding in this role. I hope to utilise

and further develop my skills through the numerous amazing experiences that I will surely have as a member of the AULSS. However, if there is anything that I've learnt from my first two weeks as a law student, it's the importance of balance and while I'm organised and meticulous, I also know how to have a good time and relax. Thank you so much for this opportunity.



# THOMAS GANZIS

Hello fellow first years!

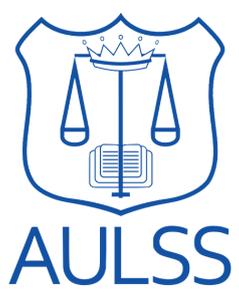
If you haven't already met me at one of the drinks nights, or on campus, my name is Thomas Ganzis.

During high school, I, like you, have heard many leadership speeches, and even given some. So, while I could give you a list of my 'credentials' such as being a prefect and captain of sport and mooting, I won't.

Instead, I will tell you what I can actually do for you, the first-year students of Adelaide Law School.



Primarily concerned with your individual experience at university, I'm conscious of the stresses of study, social commitments and sport. So, I endeavour to become an approachable figure you can come to with your dilemmas and expect them to be resolved. My experience has allowed me to successfully represent people, and get views across in a way that benefits everyone. Finally, I will endeavour to create amazing opportunities and events to help make your university experience unforgettable.



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2021

