



Candidates for the role of Humanist Students President-Elect

Please see below for the details of **Candidate 5: Scott Jacobsen** standing for the role of Humanist Students President-Elect. Please use the [Voting Form](#) in order to cast your vote. You are only able to vote in this election if you are a student member of Humanists UK. Each member has one vote only.

Candidate 5: Scott Jacobsen

Biography:

I am an undergraduate student in my final year at the largest online in Canada, Athabasca University, and am attending Open University, where, with the flexibility of online education and limited funds as a student, I would intend to be the Humanist Students President-Elect remotely or at-a-distance I founded and run an academic interview-based journal: In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal. I am the Vice President of the International Humanist and Ethical Youth Organisation (IHEYO), which is the 18- to 35-year-old branch of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU). I am a frequent writer in venues on a variety of topics, especially women's rights and non-religious topics. One is a UK outlet called Conatus News. Another is Humanist Voices of IHEYO. There are numerous others. My areas of emphasis are journalism and publishing.

Supporting statement:

I devote my life to advocacy for science and human rights. I have work to pay the bills. But my life orients around these things, week- and weekend-round. I do not see many functional ways forward as a global community, except in the direction of the implementation of universally agreed upon ideals - such as those found in the United Nations Charter and similar documents at national levels.

Asserted transcendent moral laws pull the public less as life becomes better, especially notable in the younger demographics of countries in developed nations. Even more so, I see this in the university educated, who set the tone for high-level discourse in the public for decades.

Insofar as I have specific, delineated values, the principles of humanism asserted as abstract ideals, but easily seen as empirical realities in daily life, are values I adhere to, aim for, and hope to achieve.

I want to take part in advancing these values more. This education juncture of young people's lives as humanists remains involved, exciting, and will, no doubt, leave a lasting impact on their lives.

Whether heading into the trades or corporate finance, or the information technology sector or working on the ground through social work, these are important points in early life, or crucial transitions in training for personal development or professional advancement.

Humanist students, whether explicit or simply living it out without much need to make a public statement about it, will build friendships, professional connections, strengthen irreligious coalitions,



bolster non-religious causes, and advance reason, compassion, and science generally.

These don't have to be particularly august expressions of principles. In fact, the small daily interactions in life can be the real markers of someone living by these values. Simply because there are more of these acts than the big ones, as well as being a more consistent source of humanism in practice, small investments multiplied over users with long-term investment yields large gains for the humanist movement.

I believe the university environment is the same as the public in this regard, and the humanist sector of it no different in the benefits accrued from consistent, long-term investment in practice of humanist values.

In terms of the targeted objectives for this long-term humanist orientation, I would want to know what the membership wants most with the resources of Humanist Students and how they feel, and likely know - given the wisdom of crowds, those should be invested by the elected leadership: whether elect, present, or emeritus.
