



## Candidates for the role of Humanist Students President-Elect

Please see below for the details of **Candidate 6: Dale Claridge** 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.

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## Candidate 6: Dale Claridge

### Biography:

My name is Dale and I am a 3rd year student at the University of Nottingham. I have been involved with Atheist and Humanist societies since I first came to university, including WASH (Warwick Atheist Secularist and Humanist Society) and Nottingham Humanists. I was President of Nottingham Humanists last year and have been on the committee for the last three years. I was elected secretary for the AHS last year and have worked in a transitional role for Humanist Students following the restructuring. I very much look forward to helping you shape Humanist Students

### Supporting statement:

I want you to choose me as President of Humanist Students because I've loved my society at Nottingham so much. Not only has the society provided me with the best friends that I've made at university, but I've seen what good management practice can do for a society and what a well-run society has to offer. Nottingham Humanists has brought me into a world of ideas, discussion and community which I've found absolutely lacking in other parts of my university experience.

During my chemistry degree, I've engaged with a variety of questions that can only be approached with reason and evidence. Humanist societies across the country have made me do the same thing with questions that help us understand the world in which we live, and our role in that world. Humanist Students is the body that will make sure that a group like Nottingham Humanists is available to students at all universities.

I believe I am the best candidate to make this happen because of the experience I've had with student humanist groups. When I joined Nottingham Humanists, it was a disorganised group of people who would meet infrequently. There were many students who, although they agreed with the ideas that the society stood for, couldn't get involved because the society did nothing about it.

In my first year on the committee, we answered the question that every student asks at the Fresher's Fair: "What do you do?". We decided to hold weekly events: panel discussions, rationality workshops, speakers and socials. However, this did not become a success overnight. Organising speakers and creating thought provoking events, regularly, requires a lot of work and I am currently in my third year of doing it for a thriving society.

I have the experience and knowledge to not only provide you with material, but also strengthen the



social community directly through Humanist Students, and get involved with helping individual societies develop.

I will build the community of Humanist Students: I will use our administration and funding to directly oversee events that students from all universities can enjoy. These will happen in different regions so that they are easy for students around the country to access. This will be useful to students who are at universities without societies.

I will support individual societies: I will ensure that Humanist Students directly support societies which want to hold events that they consider beyond their current means with organisation and financial considerations. I will also facilitate cooperation between societies.

I will ensure fuller participation and review controversial policies: Humanist Students is in a new phase of centralisation. This is good because it means that the hard work is done by the professionals at Humanists UK. However, Humanist Students cannot function without the confidence of its members and member societies. Therefore, I will consult Humanist Students on our current policies and review the controversial naming policy, which has already cost affiliation and confidence, with a view to finding an improved, consistent compromise for otherwise enthusiastic societies.

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