



Candidates for the role of Humanist Students President-Elect

Please see below for the details of **Candidate 1: David Stanley** 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 1: David Stanley

Biography: My name is David Stanley, I'll be starting an Engineering PhD at the University of Southampton this September. Since 2013 I've variously served as President, Secretary and now Committee Member of my university Humanist society, organising and holding weekly events. I've been an officer of Humanist Students at a national level and was elected as Treasurer prior to the organisation being restructured, following which I participated in a number of Humanist Students board meetings as part of a transition period. This past year I've also served as Head of Investigations for my university's student news publication, The Wessex Scene.

Supporting statement: In 2018, humanists should both celebrate significant victories and prepare for fresh challenges. We face stiff, lingering resistance from established religious groups on issues such as secularism and women's rights, as well as 'well-meaning' opposition from the wider culture on issues including children's rights and freedom of expression. But we've also gained wider recognition and a firmer place in society – more and more people are becoming aware of us and the important things we have to say.

We lead campaigns for a fairer, more just society that treats people with empathy: a society which respects and upholds people's many and varied rights, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, faith, or sexual orientation. We champion the fruits of a secular society, where people work together in common spirit towards increasing human flourishing and alleviating suffering, without needing to refer to sacred texts or divine commandments in describing their motivations or making their arguments. Instead, we turn to evidence, reason, and science.

As Humanist Students, we can build upon the work of the larger charity, bringing our message to new ears on campus and leading the way on issues that are especially important or relevant to students and academics. With deep knowledge, diverse skills, and connections for the future, we're also well placed to help in other areas of the humanist movement. From speaking in schools to engaging with local institutions and political bodies, investment in Humanist Students, and their skills and advocacy of humanism, can bring significant returns to the movement.

To help us on our way, Humanist Students should:



1. Facilitate events and mechanisms (such as creating an online forum) by which Humanist Students can find, meet, work with, and learn from one another. Students want to meet others who share their principles and beliefs, discussing humanist approaches to life and ethics. They also want to learn from others' experience of activism on campus, putting best practice to good use.
2. Continue to provide training and learning opportunities around humanism and relevant skills with significant effort and concessions made to get students to participate in them (such as covering travel expenses for students to attend Humanists UK's School Speakers Programme). Students are keen to embody the Humanist ideal of improving oneself and becoming the best 'them' that they can be, and they want to know more and speak more confidently about their Humanism.
3. Encourage and facilitate students in campaigning on issues highlighted by Humanists UK, providing appropriate materials and strategic direction (such as making available free campaign packs on #nowforNI). Students are eager and willing to bring about the change they want to see in the world and we should be helping them achieve their humanist goals.

I am well suited to working with Humanist Students, the Student and Youth Coordinator, and the other Presidents throughout this 3-year role, to bring the above aims to fruition. I hope that you will vote for me as the best person to provide strategic direction for Humanist Students.

Thank you for your consideration
