

Hi everyone! My name is Yeying Ke, and I am a Chinese student in the first year of undergraduate Economics. As an International student, I understand the difficulties that international students face. So I believe that it is important for the international student officer to give you support when you need it and to fight for you when you cannot fight for yourself.

During my time studying outside China, first in Australia and now in London, I have recognized the fact that the many barriers we face require us to take the initiative to bridge that gap. We spend hours learning the local language in order to communicate, we learn to adhere to the social rules of behavior through our mistakes, and often in our effort to fit in with the local culture, and we end up losing our own culture in the process. And sometimes, it seems that some of the barriers are so hard that they cannot possibly be overcome. Of course! This is both the joy and the pain of being an International student. But these difficulties can be overcome with support from the local and the International Student Communities.

Therefore, as your international student officer, I would explore different ways to build a growing understanding between the local and the international students, so that we can co-operate with one another as one community. I intend to help educate local students about our various backgrounds so that they can better appreciate our cultures. I intend to actively encourage local students to be involved in volunteer programs to provide us with regular support. And I intend to share our unique ideas and our unique issues with the local students and the university administration, with the aim to improve our environment and bring about necessary changes to the regulations. By doing these things, we can improve our communication and build deeper relationships with the many cultures that make up our university.

We all know that when studying abroad we face a lot of obstacles. Sometimes these obstacles are to do with language and communication, culture and relationships. These are difficulties we are willing to face. However, there are obstacles we should not be faced with: discrimination, rejection and unfair policies. These pressures must be fought.

So, allow me to hear your stories, to speak your ideas and to form new relationships in the midst of our diversity. Allow me to carry your voice and be your influence as an international student officer.