

# Jared Nadin for Vice President Academic Officer

## Manifesto

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### Who am I?

Hello fellow UL students! My name is Jared Nadin, I am a 4th year mature student on the BA World Music program, and I am excited to be running for Vice President Academic Officer. As someone who has experienced the highs and lows of university life — from dropping out, to coming back stronger during the pandemic; facing repeats, to achieving 4.0s — I believe I am the right choice to represent your academic interests. I am passionate about supporting students and, having worked with orientation guides, 7-Weeks guides and undertaking my Co-Op placement here in UL, I have gained a wide knowledge of campus life and services.

### Why I Am Running

I am seeking your vote because I want to ensure that we have a strong and united student voice to guide us through UL's uncertain future. I will be an effective voice for you at the Student Council and University Board levels. I am committed to advocating for you and ensuring that every opportunity is taken to have your concerns heard and addressed. My vision is of a UL where students actively engage with support services, feel their voices are valid and heard. I envision a campus where every student feels included, supported, and empowered to succeed both academically and personally.

## My Campaign Goals

### Support:

I will aim to ensure that all students are aware of the abundance of support services available to them. Having worked as an orientation guide for the last 3 years, I know how overwhelming it can feel to be flooded with information about support services on your first days at UL, and it is difficult and confusing to retain much of the information. My campaign aims to demystify student support by creating a dedicated Brightspace module, available to all students, which can act as a digital hub – a one stop shop for student support. The site

will explain the different services available, as well as provide information on when and how to access them. This module will be especially useful to upper year students who are, too often, unaware of changes or additions to the student support services. With your vote, I will continue the work of my predecessor and strive to increase and maintain engagement at Student Council meetings. I will campaign for changes to the nominating process to make it easier for students from especially small cohorts to join Student Council, allowing them to have their voices heard not just within their own faculties, but within the larger university landscape. Technological support is also vital to academic success. I will strive to deliver upgraded computers to student labs across campus to end the mire of 20-minute login attempts and computers that can barely handle word processing.

### **Equity & Accountability:**

Equitable representation of each faculty is something I am deeply passionate about. At the Undergraduate Careers Fair this spring, my fellow Irish World Academy students and I had zero prospective employers present. If elected, I will advocate for ending the practice of favouring certain courses over others, and I will push for fairer representation of all faculties in events run by the careers office. Current Co-Op work placement arrangements are also often unfair, especially considering the cost of living and housing crises. Being forced to accept your first offer can cause great financial stress on students, especially when offered a low paying or unpaid placement. I will campaign for better compensation for Co-Op students, and for a commitment from the Co-Op office that they will petition our employment partners to pay our students liveable wages. Many students have spoken to me of their frustrations at the lack of accountability among their lecturers, tutors, and supervisors for Co-Op and final year projects. I will work to establish a mechanism for individual student feedback on modules, teachers, and supervisors to ensure your voices are heard and acted upon.

### **Universal Access:**

If elected, I will campaign for better access to housing and advocate for a commitment from the university to create more beds. Our student body is at its largest ever and the University must do more to help tackle the lack of accommodation. I aim to promote greater access to blended and virtual learning spaces for commuter students, student parents, and others. The pandemic showed us the potential for online learning, and the housing crisis showed us the difficulty some students have just getting to campus. It is vital for student retention, that the university better embraces virtual and blended learning options. Finally, I will endeavour

for North campus to be recognized and integrated as an important part of our university community. Many North campus students feel alienated from Main campus due to a lack of student facilities and events. As your academic officer I will advocate for an inclusive campus, an increased range of Student Life activities on North Campus and explore the possibility of establishing a Student Life North space. Social inclusion and access to adequate time and space to relax are vital to your academic success.

## **Conclusion**

I am passionate about making UL a place where every student feels valued and heard. I understand the challenges you face, and I am committed to addressing them head-on. Whether your concerns relate to housing, scheduling classes against commutes, or feeling lost and voiceless, I will work tirelessly to ensure that your needs are met. Together, we can create a more inclusive, supportive, and engaged UL. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Remember, a vote for Jared is a vote for a brighter, more equitable future for all students.

**Vote Jared Nadin for Vice President Academic Officer!**