

Larissa Potapova - Manifesto



Hello! I'm Larissa and I'm running for the Departmental Academic Representative for Biological Sciences! I've greatly enjoyed my time at Imperial so far, however, I'm also aware of some issues specific to the biological sciences course that impacted my own education and the education of my friends. If I am elected academic rep for this course, I will do my best to solve these issues for a better experience for students across years.

← This is me!

I aim to:

- **Organise drop-in sessions for all years.**
- **Improve the self-feedback system**, aiming to replace the way that the ePortfolio works with a better system to make self-reflection easier and more impactful.
- **Increase self-study resources in those modules that lack them** to help students feel more confident about lecture material and future exams.
- **Overall improve the student experience so everyone gains more from studying at Imperial.**

I plan to set up drop-in sessions for students to attend if they have questions regarding lectures or work set. Many departments already have a system like this, and I've seen how it is so helpful for students. I also see how I and my peers would have benefited from such a system this year and I want future students to have this opportunity. Drop-in sessions will boost understanding of lecture content and I'm sure it will make studying a less confusing and isolating task for everyone.

I personally felt that the ePortfolio system trialled this year was unsuccessful. Many students I talked to felt that it was difficult to use and we didn't get enough feedback in order for the reflections to be significant. However, I can see the importance of such a system. **This is why I want to put forward a new version of the ePortfolio that is easier to navigate and prioritises more self-reflection and setting future targets as well as being a place where one can note any external feedback.**

I noticed that across modules, the resources we were given varied quite significantly. For the modules that had additional problem sheets and quizzes, other students and I felt much more confident taking exams. Although creating resources requires much effort, I'm sure I will find a way to **increase resources available for students across all modules.** My priority will always be the experience of students to make university a more enjoyable and less confusing place.

If I become elected as academic rep, I promise I will work hard to improve the student experience for Biology at Imperial and always listen to YOUR suggestions! **So if I've mentioned anything you agree with, or if you have any suggestions on matters I've overlooked, then please vote for me!**