

Candidates for the Student-elected Member of the Monash University Council

Please note that these candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Ansh Agarwal

Hi, I'm Ansh Agarwal, a first-year student at Monash. I'm running for University Council because I care deeply about the quality of the education we're all paying for and building our futures on.

Even in my first year, I've already noticed the gap between what a great Monash education should feel like and what it sometimes actually feels like - oversized tutorials, inconsistent teaching quality across units, and a curriculum that doesn't always keep pace with what industry and research actually need. I want to bring the student voice directly into decisions about course design, teaching standards, and academic policy, so students aren't an afterthought in conversations that affect us most.

If elected, my priorities will be:

- Stronger feedback loops between students and course convenors, so unit issues get fixed within the semester they're raised, not the year after.
- Consistency in teaching quality, pushing for better training and support for tutors and lecturers.
- Real student input on curriculum reviews, especially as Monash expands online and industry-linked learning.

I'm approachable, I listen, and I'll always show up prepared and ready to advocate - not just attend meetings. As a first-year, I bring a fresh perspective and genuine energy to represent students across every stage of their Monash journey.

I'd be honoured to represent you. Thank you for your consideration.

Anhad Arora

Hi, I'm Anhad Arora. I'm studying Mechatronics Engineering and Computer Science, and I am running for the Monash University Council because I believe every student's voice has the power to drive real, tangible change.

I genuinely love spending time within our university community, and my core purpose is to act as an accessible ladder for your ideas and concerns. Big institutional decisions directly shape our everyday lives, and I want to ensure our lived experiences are deeply understood and valued at the highest level.

Through serving on the School Council and as one of the School Captains at Nossal High School, alongside my work with the Casey Youth Action Committee and the Australian Air Force Cadets, I have seen firsthand that effective governance starts with listening. I know how to sit at executive boardroom tables, collaborate constructively, and translate genuine student feedback into practical action.

I bring a practical mindset to the Council, focused on solving problems. Rather than making unrealistic promises, my commitment is to be consistently present, approachable, and dedicated to:

- Actively seeking out diverse student perspectives across our campuses.
- Advocating for open transparency around university resources and decisions.
- Ensuring student wellbeing and support are prioritised in our long term strategy.
- Putting students first in every action our university takes.

I would be honoured to represent you and ensure our collective voice creates a meaningful impact across Monash. Vote Anhad Arora.

"Dare mighty things."

Yukai Chen

I am a postgraduate student at Monash and I have been actively involved in different parts of university life. I have worked as an Open Day Ambassador at the Peninsula Campus, served as an Advisor with Monash Student Community (MSC), and been involved with the Monash Graduate Association (MGA). I am also a trained Mental Health First Aider and have taken on volunteer leadership roles at the University.

Through these experiences, I have had the opportunity to meet students from different faculties, backgrounds and stages of study. As an Advisor and volunteer leader, I have had many opportunities to listen to other students, help them find information and become more involved in university life. My Mental Health First Aid training has also given me a better understanding of how to support students who going through a difficult time.

If elected to University Council, I would bring these experiences into student representation. I would listen to students and take their concerns seriously, particularly on issues that affect their everyday university experience, communication with the University, wellbeing and opportunities to get involved.

I also think students should feel comfortable raising concerns, even when they are not sure whether something is important enough to bring forward. I would do my best to make sure that students feel heard and that their perspectives are properly represented in Council discussions.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to represent Monash students and contribute to the University during my time here.

Qiong Duan

I am a Master of Design student, and over the past year and a half, Monash has become much more to me than just a place where I study.

I have volunteered at different university events and programs, worked as a student community adviser, and am currently involved in a design project looking at the Monash Student Portal. Through these experiences, I have met students with very different backgrounds and needs, while also seeing how the University tries to support us from the other side.

Sometimes there is a gap between the two. An opportunity may exist, but students do not know about it. Information may be available, but difficult to find. A service may be designed to help, but students may experience it very differently in practice.

This is why I want to nominate for University Council.

As an international and postgraduate student, I also know what it feels like to arrive at a large university and slowly figure out how everything works. I would like to bring both my own experience and what I have learned from working with other students into Council.

My background in design has taught me to ask questions, listen before making assumptions, and look closely at how people actually experience systems. I hope I can use that perspective to help make the connection between students and the University a little stronger.

Prabhjeet Gill

I am running for University Council because I believe student representation should do more than give students a voice—it should turn that voice into meaningful change.

My strongest example of this is my advocacy for students and staff affected by Ambulance Victoria's position on religious beards and respiratory mask fitting. I identified a barrier that had significant implications for people who maintain religious beards, advocated for change, and worked through the issue until Ambulance Victoria changed its position. The outcome received widespread media coverage, but more importantly, it demonstrated to me what effective student advocacy can achieve: identifying an issue, listening to those affected, engaging with decision-makers and persistently pursuing a better outcome.

I have brought this same approach to my roles at Monash. As a Faculty Representative for the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, I represent students across year levels on Faculty Board, contributing to discussions around academic and course matters. I also serve as a student representative on the Academic Progression Committee and Course Management Committee.

As a Council member, I would bring a practical, independent and persistent approach to representing students. I will listen to students, challenge decisions when necessary, and advocate for outcomes rather than simply raising concerns.

I am asking for your vote because I have already demonstrated that when students speak up, meaningful change is possible—and I want to take that advocacy to University Council.

I have already delivered real change; now I want to bring that same advocacy to Council.

Ojas Gupta

Monash is more than classrooms, assignments and grades. It is a community—and students deserve to feel that their voice genuinely matters within it.

I am nominating for University Council because I want to make student representation more meaningful, visible and effective. Students experience Monash every day, yet the people making long-term decisions can be far removed from those everyday experiences. I want to help close that gap.

If elected, my priority will be to listen first and represent second. I will actively seek perspectives from students across different campuses, courses, backgrounds and stages of university life, and bring those perspectives into Council discussions with clarity and honesty.

I am particularly passionate about strengthening campus life and community. University should not feel like somewhere students simply attend—it should feel like somewhere they belong. That means paying attention to the experiences that shape students outside the classroom, including connection, participation, accessibility and the sense of community on campus.

I will not promise to solve every problem. I will promise to ask difficult questions, communicate openly and make sure student concerns are not simply collected, but genuinely represented.

I am not running to speak for students. I am running to make sure students are heard.

Rudra Jaydeep Kachoria

My name is Rudra Jaydeep Kachoria, and I am running for the Monash University Council because I am deeply committed to our vibrant and diverse student community. Monash is globally renowned for its innovation and academic excellence, and my goal is to help build on this strong foundation by ensuring the student perspective remains a central, constructive part of the university's future planning. Through my time here, I have seen the incredible potential of our student body. If elected, I will work collaboratively with university leadership to support practical, positive outcomes for everyone. My focus will be on advocating for continued investment in high-quality

student well-being and support services, championing an inclusive campus culture where all students-local, international, and online-feel a strong sense of belonging, and ensuring that future campus developments are sustainable and responsive to our community's evolving needs. I believe that by working together, we can ensure Monash remains a place where every individual can thrive and reach their full potential.

Sema Mirzae

Hi everyone!

My name is Sema, I am a first year Science student and running to be your student council rep!

Having been involved in advocacy all throughout high school through leadership and volunteer positions I find uplifting my peers to be a passion of mine! As someone who has also just begun university I am very quickly learning that navigating uni life is not an easy task, with many of us holding various responsibilities alongside our intensive course loads.

In recognising how crucial it is to have support systems in place and mitigating student stress I aim to help the voices of students across all spectrums be heard and will fight to ensure our thoughts and opinions are catered to!

I also aim to ensure a student representative is present in key decision making environments whilst also highlighting discrepancies and disparities amongst the cohorts. I hope to act as a bridge between decision makers and university students, while also working tirelessly to constantly improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of students through practical decision making and solutions.

I will serve the best interests of students while also constantly improving my skills as a student rep, and look forward to contributing in any way that better the lives of students all across Monash!

Thank you! :)

Zach Peeters

Living, working and socialising at Monash University, student experience is everything to me.

Hey, I'm Zach! I'm a third year studying Ecology and Conservation (BSci), going into Global Challenges Honours next year. I'm running to fight for my home away from home!

As the world changes unpredictably and Monash grows rapidly, the student experience is facing more threats than ever. I will be the voice that fights for you. I will prioritise your time at Monash, your investment in learning, and your opportunities.

I envision Monash University as a centrepiece of exploration, where students can discover the wider world and experiment in their interests of careers, research and social justice. Amongst AI replacing learning, messy administration and increasing regulations on student advocacy, I am concerned that this is being lost amongst competing interests.

I have engaged in all aspects of the university, from research and consulting projects to club executive positions across LingSoc, the Phil (student orchestras) and MASS³ (advanced science society), where I continue to foster student culture. As someone who has enriched myself so greatly amongst these possibilities, I cannot let these slip away.

I will fight for the university life you deserve.

In fact, I have already created new and unique student opportunities: I personally spearheaded the Monash Advanced Science Symposium from a small gathering to a full undergraduate conference, capitalising on Monash's funding to improve the Monash experience.

Vote for me to prioritise our collective student experience in the face of a rapidly changing university!

Johnathan Roach

I am Johnathan Roach, currently studying Paramedicine and I am applying for the student member position on the Monash University Council. I have extensive experience in leadership and representation, both locally and nationally; having been involved in Australian Army Cadets for 3.5 years, I chaired the National Cadet Training Team during 2025 where I liaised across the country to express desires and concerns from the 15,000 Army Cadets to the national leadership team. In this stage, I was able to utilise my work with the Continuous Improvement Manager for Kinross Farms to permanently improve the administration and execution of nationally sized initiatives. In Year 12, I was a school captain of my school, heading up major events such as formal and valedictory dinner. Through this position, I maintained contact with both state and federal Members for Parliament, engaging in community advocacy, specifically around public transportation and infrastructure improvements. For this work, I received the Principals Award, handpicked by the college principal for effective work and dedication. I would like to participate in this position as I believe my strong background in representation and leadership can be beneficial to not only the council and university itself, but also to the students of Monash University. I believe that with my experience in both large and small scale environments, I can bring new perspectives while respecting Monash Universities long established rules, regulations and traditions.

I hope I get the opportunity to work with the council in the future!

Flynn Saunder

Let's be honest, most people who end up in these roles are Law/PPE students padding out a resume before they go off and do something else with their life. Student voice on Council usually lands on the ears of someone who took the role to build a career, not because they actually cared what happens to the rest of us.

I'm not doing this for the CV line. I'm doing it because I'm sick of watching decisions get made about student life by people who've never had to actually run any of it, deal with the fallout when something goes wrong, or sit with a student who's genuinely struggling and figure out what to do about it. That's not a criticism from the outside, it's just what I've noticed from being close enough to see how it works.

I study engineering, so I'm not going to pretend I've got the polished political instincts some other candidates will have. What I've got instead is a habit of actually fixing problems instead of talking around them, and zero interest in saying things just because they sound good in a statement like this.

If you vote for me, I'm not promising I'll get everything right. I'm promising I'll actually be there, actually listen, and actually push back when something's wrong, rather than just nodding along and moving on to the next line on my resume.

Leroy Van Schellebeck

Hello Monash,

My name is Leroy, I'm the 2026 Monash Student Association President, and I am running to be your next student member on University Council.

For the past two years, I've worked for students at Monash. As an MSA Office Bearer, I ran food drops and advocated for students living on campus. This year I've helped deliver Free Breakfast every weekday, Free Drinks after exams, and the MSA Subsidy Program at Wholefoods and Sir John's Bar. I've fought to restore Law tutorials, for \$50 Cost of Living Vouchers, for free parking during Semester 1 exams, and for Free Parking on Mondays in response to rising fuel prices, a win now extended to the end of the year.

Every one of these campaigns taught me the same lesson: none of it happens without student voice. The advocacy and wins of the last two years relied on having an elected student member on University Council, someone in the room when decisions are made, holding the University to account.

I've seen firsthand the difference that seat makes, and I want to use it to fight for:

- A 40% cap on final exams
- An end to graduation fees
- Permanent Free Parking on Mondays
- Permanent Free Parking during SWOTVAC and exams
- Fairer exam timetabling, with proper spacing between your exams
- Class timetables released more than a month before semester starts

We have achieved a lot but there is so much more to do.

Bhavya Vora

University is a balancing act. For many of us, it is a constant juggle between academic expectations, financial commitments, and finding a genuine sense of belonging on campus.

I am running for the Monash Student Council because I want to ensure our policies actively support the reality of student life, rather than just the ideal. Students need a Council that focuses on practical, immediate action.

If elected, my first priority will be targeted advocacy for students juggling work and study. I will push for more flexible academic support systems and tangible cost-of-living initiatives, ensuring that no student is disadvantaged by their external commitments.

Secondly, I will advocate fiercely to strengthen our campus culture. Student-led clubs and societies are the heartbeat of our university. I will work to ensure they receive the expanded resources, funding, and visibility they need to thrive and build a stronger, more connected community.

Finally, I commit to absolute transparency. I will not make empty promises to solve every problem overnight. Instead, I will ask the difficult questions in Council, communicate openly with the student body, and guarantee that your concerns are met with genuine representation and real solutions.