

Anni Najorka

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WORK EXPERIENCE

University College Maastricht Student Association (UCMSA):

Independent Body Member

FEBRUARY 2025 - NOVEMBER 2025

- Interpreted and enforced policy by clarifying procedural questions, monitoring voting during General Assemblies, preventing miscommunication and auditing financial reports
- Worked as a communication bridge between the Universalis boards and committees
- Responsible for conflict resolution, maintaining confidentiality and transparency

Westminster Academy: Student Advisor and Tutor

SEPTEMBER 2023 - JUNE 2024

- Supported the transition of younger students into secondary education through academic tutoring and informal mentoring sessions where students were free to speak about any issues
- Strengthened communication, active-listening, empathy, and problem-solving skills while also learning how to build professional boundaries

Imperial College London: Research Technician in Isotope Geochemistry

JULY 2023

- Assisted researchers and PhD students by developing an Excel cataloguing system to organise their earth samples, as well as helping to prepare vessels for breast cancer samples and ensuring the quality of acids complied with protocols

PROJECTS

New Wave Project: Music Event

OCTOBER 2022 - FEBRUARY 2023

- Co-led the conceptualisation and execution of a small-scale music event for the Westminster community, designed to celebrate youth culture and international diversity
- Navigated challenges in team coordination, event planning, and external communication with performers – demonstrating strong project management, problem-solving and adaptability under strict time constraints

Mark Evison Foundation Project: Scotland Expedition

NOVEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023

- Led and organised a 50km hiking expedition in rural Scotland
- Selected and supported by the Mark Evison Foundation, whose mission is to foster independence and character through ambitious, self-designed challenge
- Took ownership of budgeting, route planning, logistics, and risk management
- Developed personal resilience, decision-making and leadership skills in an unfamiliar environment

LANGUAGES

- English (fluent)
- German (native)
- Dutch (comprehensive)
- French (comprehensive)

SKILLS

- Leadership & Transparent Communication
- Mediation & Conflict Resolution
- Active Listening & Empathy
- Policy Understanding & Interpretation
- Problem-solving & Organisation
- Software (Excel, Word, Canva, Notion)

AWARDS

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Royal Life Saving Society UK: Rookie LifeGuard Gold Award 1-3
- London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art: Acting Grade 6
- Royal Academy of Dance: Ballet Grade 4

EDUCATION

- University College Maastricht, Maastricht: *Liberal Arts and Sciences Bachelor*
SEPTEMBER 2024 - PRESENT
Social Sciences
- Westminster Academy, London: *International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)*
SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2024
HL History, HL English Language & Literature, HL Chemistry, SL Biology, SL Mathematics Applications & Interpretations, SL French

Dear UCM Community, Universalis Boards and Independent Body,

I, Anni Najorka, am writing to express my sincere interest in running for President of the University College Maastricht Student Association (UCMSA) Universalis.

I am a second-year social science student who has been actively involved in UCM since starting my studies here. I have enjoyed playing football and volleyball with the UCM teams, representing UCM at the UCSRN tournament, working as an Independent Body (IB) member for UCMSA, helping at the Intro Days, taking part in student mentoring, having a great time at committee events, and, more recently, helping out by hosting students from our partner university, University College Freiburg. UCM has given me many opportunities to have fun and grow as a person; I am determined to take on the role of President to give back to the UCM Community and contribute from an executive position.

By becoming President, I am committed to ensuring that UCM students have access to meaningful and fun opportunities, and that their ideas and concerns are heard, included, and represented in decisions. To achieve this, I believe the experiences and skills I have gained prior to and during UCM have prepared me to fulfil the responsibilities of this position and achieve my main goal. My work as an IB member has enabled me to gain a strong understanding of UCMSA policy and procedures. Additionally, this experience has enabled me to use and strengthen relevant skills, such as active listening, transparent communication, mediation, and problem-solving, in sensitive and time-pressured situations. This role has taught me to approach problems from a balanced perspective, ensure decisions remain fair and are communicated transparently, and maintain professionalism even under pressure. My experiences as a research technician and involvement in projects (such as the New Wave Project or the Mark Evison Project) have strengthened my organisational and leadership skills. Together, I believe these experiences make me capable of managing the organisation, representing students in management meetings, and handling external contacts and inter-faculty cooperation and give me the foundation to carry out my motivation into practice: to lead Universalis in a way that ensures that UCM students' ideas and concerns are represented and that UCM students have access to the best opportunities possible.

I also have additional supporting ideas. One of these is changing the summer election process to make it more transparent and efficient. This was one of my main priorities when I was part of the IB. I would like to ensure chances for the UCM Community to participate in the reform and that the ideas discussed with the Universalis boards (such as changing the voting system to follow the same process as the FSE Student Council system, and reforming 'preferred candidates' to an 'advice to the applicant' system) are put into motion. Another idea is to keep the UCM building open later throughout the week; this will not only give committees more time flexibility when they host their events, but also allows students who like staying at UCM to chill or study to stay there longer. Furthermore, I would like to introduce a simple form where people can write any ideas or concerns remotely; in addition, I believe that a 'Coffee with the Board' event every period would be another nice opportunity for people to come in and

talk face-to-face. I also think that short announcements at the beginning of every GA outlining the decisions made would help maintain transparency and ensure students are aware of changes that may affect them. Furthermore, I believe I'm well-suited to continue leading the new Universalis positions pilot, as I was involved in drafting the new version while on the IB.

In essence, it would be an honour to support and represent the UCM community as President of UCMSA Universalis. I am dedicated to working collaboratively with the UCM community, Universalis Boards, and the IB to ensure that UCMSA Universalis continues to provide UCM students with the best opportunities.

Thank you for considering my application.

Kind Regards,

Anni Najorka