

# Jared Michaud's Manifesto

## TLSU International Officer

### My Background

I grew up in rural America, pursued my undergraduate degree in an American east coast city, then lived and worked in Jerusalem for a while. While I'm clearly used to change, moving to London to pursue my postgraduate studies at TL has been one of the toughest transitions I have faced. From practicalities like banking and visas to becoming acquainted with the UK higher education system (assessments, term schedules, etc.), there are numerous hurdles international students must manage on top of their studies. I am running to be the TLSU International Officer to **make this transition easier, to offer more support to international students, and to foster a community that celebrates our diverse global community.**

### My Goals

I firmly believe that the welfare of our international students lies not only in advocating for them with the administration but also in **building a positive, inclusive community** across the student body. If elected, I will propose the following initiatives to meet these goals.

### Multicultural Events

TL students hail from a wide array of cultures and traditions, and we should be celebrating that much more. I have hosted multicultural food nights at my undergraduate institution and would love to do the same here—TL students cooking their favorite dishes from home to share with others. Other events would include various holiday celebrations, a performance platform for traditional styles of music & dance, and an opportunity to learn about art forms from each other's cultures. These would both celebrate TL's diversity and foster a stronger sense of community.

### Increased Support & Guidance

I will work with the Student Services team to make sure Induction sessions for international students provide more guidance than just visa rules and regulations. I will create an international students forum & FAQ booklet to help students understand all of the nooks and crannies of TL. I will advocate for increased financial support to international students facing hardships, as the circumstances (and course fees!) are often much more challenging. I will host events during holidays to fight loneliness and homesickness.

### Big/Little Siblings Program

To help ease the transition coming to TL, I will start a mentorship program for new students (little siblings) to be matched with returning students (big siblings). This will allow everyone to feel that, in addition to me, they have another international student they can go to for help or questions. This will also help strengthen friendships and our community!

### Why I'm the Perfect Fit

I have lots of **experience** in similar roles, as I ran an organization for supporting rural students at my university and I was also the President of our large mixed choir. I am very **organized** and **driven**, so you can trust I will follow through, and I am also very **caring** and **compassionate**. I always have an open ear, love meeting new people, and always strive to make people feel welcomed and comfortable. Moreover, I am **committed to celebrating diversity**; I always love to learn about where people come from and what is important to them.

