

Name: Maria Bahilo Martinez

Running for: First Year Current Student Representative

QMU Election – Candidate Statement

My name is Maria Bahilo and I am 18 years old. I am a first-year student at UofG, studying Genetics. I was born in Spain, but I've lived in China for the last seven years. Though majoring in a science degree, I am a very diverse person; I love to attend live music events, listen to my favourite rock bands, and see photography exhibitions. I also love to take part in the backstage portions of plays & musicals and like to keep active by playing volleyball.

QMU Election - Manifesto

I am a people's person. I have always been good at listening and finding things to relate to the people I meet. I am driven and would love to be more involved with the QMU and its board. Should I get elected, my goals would be to:

1. **Listen and express student voices.** I want to get in touch with students by conducting surveys and organizing meetings to give first-year students a chance to voice concerns and make propositions. Being both a first-year representative and first-year student I'd have the ability to understand this group and pass the information to the board.
2. **Support music and art events.** Music and the arts are very inclusive communities that instantly bring together those who share similar interests. Seeing as it is difficult to meet people this year, having these shared experiences through the arts would create a platform to find likeminded people. I would want to represent first-year students' interests by promoting events such as open-mics, book clubs, storytelling events or movie showings.
3. **Voice and promote mental health.** COVID-19 has catalysed the worsening of mental health illnesses. I want to add to the mental health program "Elephant in the Room" by creating a local, University of Glasgow version of the "Good News Network", sending students reminders of mental health tips and creating discussions and support groups for first-year students struggling with the toll of an online year.

Personally, I think that the future goals that the QMU has established, in particular wanting to create a sense of community and increasing its cultural events, are extremely exciting. I want to participate in this change. My interest in culture and my friendly nature would allow me to help the union move closer towards these goals.