



Shani Louison-thomas

Hello, I'm Shani and I'm a mature student studying MA Education Leadership online while working full-time.

Like many of you, I'm balancing study with the rest of life — work, family, caring responsibilities, or health. Maybe you're commuting to campus after a long day, or returning to education after years away. You could even be changing career or studying alongside running a business. Whatever your circumstances, you still deserve a full and worthy experience as a student.

I've worked in higher education for seven years, supporting students who return after time away from learning or those stepping into a new career path. I've seen how maturity brings unique strengths — resilience, perspective, determination — but also challenges like time pressures, financial responsibilities, and sometimes feeling out of place. Listening to and supporting these students has shown me how vital it is that mature voices are heard and represented. That's what I would bring to this role.

Being a mature student should never mean being left out. I will campaign for more tailored support, greater flexibility, and opportunities for mature students to connect with each other and the wider student community.

Whether you're studying on campus or online, balancing parenting, caring, or work, you deserve to belong, to have a voice, and to be considered. If you choose me as your Mature Student Officer, I will lead with that in mind — because we are on this journey together.