

Adi Goutam *for Graduate and Mature student Representative*

For many graduates and mature students, starting medicine is a dream come true. Many have quit their jobs, renewed their 16-25 railcards and have mentally prepared themselves for the freshers week in order to pursue this. But what happens when that dream becomes a nightmare? You start to ask yourself who is there to help you? Why have I quit my job? And what the hell is a VK? You begin to frantically ring your mum, old friends and peers. But no one helps. You're stuck in a new place, used to a lifestyle of Waitrose shopping yet now finding yourself behind screaming school kids in Lidl with your shopping basket. Who can help me?

Hi, my names Adi and I'm going to help you. As Moses parted seas I shall part the confusion and anxiety from your life by helping graduates to acclimatise to being back at university. I am available and accessible to all at all times (usually because I'm contemplating my life decisions which keep me up late at night).

Chemistry week will just be the beginning. Integration between the year group and promotion of LUSUMA activities/ events will be a priority as I endeavour to bring more activities to the table. Organisation of further graduate/mature student events such as rounders in the park, laser tag/paintball day and cultural events to name but a few. I will bring fresh ideas to the table aiming to further enhance the graduate experience and build upon the strong foundations already laid down by previous graduate reps.

Being a practicing pharmacist I believe I have the counselling skills and competence to undertake this Herculean task, focusing on helping all that need it. I also have extensive peer mentoring experience throughout my undergraduate degree and professional career. I understand the issues students will face and I will try my utmost, to the best of my ability, to come up with a solution to issues which may be presented. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I care, I'm here and I want to help. The advice I provide comes from the heart and I appeal to your good nature, allow me to help those returning back to study the wonderful vocation, that is Medicine.