

AVS/IVSA UK & Ireland Elections 2020

Name: Calum McIntyre

Position: Junior Vice President

Vet School: Edinburgh

Year: 3rd

About me:

Hi there, my name's Calum. I'm a third-year at Edinburgh and am currently Edinburgh's Senior AVS rep. As part of AVS, representing vet students in my two years so far has been a huge privilege and after witnessing the endeavours made by committee has impassioned me to try to make a further difference to help fellow students.

I'm an avid sports fan, playing rugby for the vet school team and occasionally play hockey too, but more often than not can be found with a loopy four-legged Weimaraner in sideways rain trailing beaches on the west coast of Scotland

Experience:

Being part of AVS as Edinburgh senior rep has been amazing and I feel with the exposure this role has offered, for example being part of working groups with the BVA such as the the 'Education, Funding and Widening Access Working Group and Widening Participation Working Group developing skills that would bode well in the position of JVP. Within this position, I have been responsible for hosting several talks for students in Edinburgh (including AVS' CV of Failures), formed sub-committees to ensure student representation on our student union and assisted societies in improving their visibility and presence on campus. Furthermore experience in roles during vet schools, such as RDVC RFC Captain and Social Secretary, RDVC HC Tour Secretary and President of the Dick Vet Athletics Committee (co-organising 'Dick Day').

What I would try to achieve in my role:

I strongly believe that as a community of students, and as a profession, diversity should be one of our biggest strengths - and in fact factors into so many of the problems we currently face. Financial constraints for students are a huge concern, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. I am eager to make the degree as accessible and attainable as possible, by extending schemes that assist in supporting students, such as PPE banks and EMS and travel grants and increasing awareness of those on offer. Furthermore, the value of role models should not be underestimated in the slightest for those deeming the degree as inaccessible. As such, I would love to encourage students to act as role models by providing foundations for outreach schemes to encourage applying students. Mental health and well-being is huge for students, and major in discussions around diversity, and I would seek to ensure welfare services reach campuses and students receive appropriate assistance from their universities while continuing to support the AVS welfare-related events and the amazing work carried out by our welfare rep and university reps

Why you should vote for me:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with AVS working as part of the committee as the Edinburgh rep. This time has proven extremely fulfilling, offering great insight into the needs of vet students and AVS' significance to them. Moreover, I am passionate about helping students, in what can be a difficult course and a difficult stage in life, and further have a real passion for widening participation and diversity. This has only enticed me to apply for JVP to further add to the amazing initiatives AVS already offers and hopefully improve the experience of students while at vet school. As the next generation, and with so many changes underway within the profession, I feel it is important we are represented in the wider discussion and have a say in decisions being made that affect us and our futures and hope as JVP I could best represent your views and opinions.