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Hey guys! I'm Helena and I'm a 3rd year Commerce/Economics student running for Arc Board in 2020. Why? I want to deliver the best university experience possible for students, by embracing and driving change! As an active member within Arc volunteering programs and having been an executive across several societies, I believe that I will represent the diverse interests of our students well. My wide scope of involvement across multiple segments of university life will help me to engage with ALL students, to create the best university experience for us all! Instead of simply talking about change, I actually want to get involved - and Arc Board is a real way to make a tangible difference. My priority is to be there for everyone, and to commit to making student voices heard. Students deserve to be properly represented, and their opinions fought for.





What is your vision for Arc?

My overarching goal for Arc is to be an inclusive organisation that practices what it preaches, in providing rich opportunities for all, and ensuring that all students can access new experiences in a safe environment – to find a family and somewhere they belong.

My vision is primarily centred on two goals;

1. Excellent clubs and volunteering programs
2. A culture of respect and change

Arc strives to provide a rich and valuable range of opportunities to all students – it is what it is known for and this is a core responsibility of the organisation. UNSW student experiences are heavily underpinned by clubs and societies, and the multitude of volunteering programs available. I want to work to better this engagement opportunity for students, and to help students receive the support they need to pursue their passions. The challenges that are facing our clubs and volunteering programs are increasing by the day, with a transition to the trimester system and now being moved online due to COVID-19. I want to work firsthand with club and program executives in accessing their necessary resources to continue engaging with students in a meaningful manner.

Students also deserve an avenue through which they can explore themselves and form lifelong friendships, and this has to be an avenue that is capable of growing with them. Arc allows us to achieve this because together, we can build into our university ethos a culture of genuine respect and value for all students. I want to prioritise the need to implement such a culture into every aspect of what we do, instead of simply holding it as a high-level mission. It is so crucial that Arc be able to listen to its students, to ask them what they truly want, and to find tangible ways to enact change. All students deserve to be heard.



Why is it important to be a student leader, and what do you hope to achieve being on the Arc Board?

Student leadership is crucial for student representation – and that’s the core of it.

Instead of just having our opinions discussed and decisions made for us, I believe that having students at the forefront of innovation is such a powerful tool for change. We always talk about aspiring to greater heights and being involved in enacting strategy, but how much of that manifests in reality? I believe that students are more than capable of taking on responsibility and helping shape what their university will look like in the future. So, let’s embark on this journey together and craft an Arc that motivates all UNSW students!

Personally, I want to focus on realising tangible impact that goes beyond mere words, and I hope to achieve greater student inclusion and cross-faculty collaboration. I truly believe that every student can benefit from interdisciplinary opportunities which expose you to the unknown. Diversity is only possible when we have students of all backgrounds being involved in all levels of engagement, and tolerance can only be fostered if we nurture this respect for all. I would never wish for someone to be excluded or feel afraid in speaking up for their passions, and so as a member of the Board, I would be actively seeking to open doors for all. And it goes beyond ensuring that opportunities are simply available, it also means building a strong culture of friendship that is seen as accessible, by all students.



Why is Arc important to you?

Arc has been a core pillar in my university experience, it has pushed me to become involved with people and causes that I would never have dreamt of before coming to UNSW. Arc has given me the tools to harness my passions, when I was only a naïve first year wondering how I could start my story!

To our student societies and clubs, you have deeply impacted and left your mark on me – you led me down the rabbit-hole, to be fully immersed in a dynamic world bursting with opportunity and memories. From the friendships I've formed, to the many different faculties I've now worked with, to all the free bbqs and dog cuddles!

To the volunteering programs, your intense commitment requirements and seemingly “cult-like” personalities pushed me hard to say the least, but it was so worth it. I've made life-long friends who have seen me through adversity and made memories that I will always hold fondly – you have taught me the value of finding my place in this campus, and how we can accomplish wonders together.

Arc is not just one individual struggling alone, and Arc Board is certainly more than one person's dream of getting involved. This entire organisation is the culmination of years of people collaborating and sharing their passion, believing in each other and in wanting to make UNSW a truly vibrant place for all! That has 110% been my experience so far – and I will gladly share all of it with you, if you let me.