

Jun — Candidate for Postgraduate Engagement Representative

I am Jun, an international PhD student in Food Science at Lincoln University and a bilingual student studying away from home. Adjusting to postgraduate study and life in New Zealand has shown me the value of clear communication, welcoming communities and accessible support. I have also supported new students as they learned laboratory routines and adjusted to university life. These conversations showed me that timely advice, a friendly check-in or simply knowing who to ask can make a real difference.

Postgraduate life does not always fit the usual university timetable. Research students may spend long hours in laboratories, offices or off campus, while coursework students may be balancing assignments, work and family responsibilities. Even when support or events are available, it is not always easy to hear about them, find time to attend or feel that they are intended for postgraduate students.

I am standing for Postgraduate Engagement Representative because I want postgraduate students to have a stronger voice and more ways to connect.

If elected, I will focus on three practical priorities:

Reach students beyond the usual events. I will use short online check-ins and informal conversations to hear from students who cannot attend meetings or events.

Build peer connection. I will support small, relaxed opportunities for students to meet across disciplines, share practical research experiences and help new students settle into Lincoln.

Make sure feedback leads somewhere. I will raise recurring issues with LUSA and relevant University staff, work with the Postgrad Society where appropriate, and report back clearly on what has been raised and what happens next.

I will be approachable, organised and ready to listen across research degrees, taught programmes and cultural backgrounds. My goal is to help build a postgraduate community where students feel supported, connected and represented.