

JESS FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICER



Hi! My name is Jess O'Donnell and I would love to be your next international officer. I was born in Cork, Ireland but have spent most of my life abroad, living for four years in America and ten years in Saudi Arabia. After spending several years overseas, I have had the privilege of experiencing and understanding other cultures. It has also given me a comprehensive understanding of the less glamorous aspects of moving, such as homesickness or not understanding how to use the Dublin bus. (Raise your hand if you've been personally victimised by a Dublin city bus driver)

As your international officer, my primary goal would be to celebrate international cultures and Irish culture in tandem. I am passionate about discovering and understanding new cultures and would like to give this opportunity to all Halls residents.

Why me?

- Throughout my years in secondary school, I participated in **Model United Nations**, in which I travelled to other countries to compete in international summits. This gave me the ability to understand international relations and collaborate with others in a meaningful manner.
- I was **co-founder** of my secondary school's **People of Colour Alliance**, a student-led group established to promote inclusion and combat institutionalised discrimination within Irish secondary schools. I played an organisational and advocative role within the committee.
- I was a **prefect** in my boarding school, in which one of my main roles was welcoming new students into the school and helping younger boarders adjust to life away from home.
- I have played **team sports** such as dance and hockey my whole life, and thus understand the importance of hard work and determination in order to achieve a collective goal.
- Due to my experiences growing up in Ireland and abroad, I have a **comprehensive view of the international experience** but am also equipped with sufficient knowledge of Ireland in order to help others that may be new to the country.

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Goals for 2024/25!

- ✿ Create a separate **instagram account dedicated to international affairs of the JCR**. This would make information regarding the international committee, trips and overall advice easier to access and find.
- ✿ Help students to adjust to their new home by creating an **online form in which anyone can submit questions regarding settling into halls** or suggest International events. Depending on the context of the question at hand, questions would either be answered on the JCR International instagram story or by meeting with the individual.
- ✿ Run **weekly office hours** in which Halls residents can confide in me in any international issue, from leap cards to feelings of homesickness.
- ✿ Assist Halls residents in experiencing Irish culture whilst also appreciating and exploring international ones as well. I would achieve this by organising **day trips to Irish landmarks** such as the Cliffs of Moher, Powerscourt or Emerald Park. I would collaborate with the Treasurer and ENTs officer to create a budget and advertise the trips.
- ✿ Create a **catalogue of nearby ethnic grocery stores** and their locations. This would be accessible through the JCR International instagram page.
- ✿ **Establish an International committee** early on in the year to get as much resident engagement and insight as possible in order to fulfil my role as International officer to the best of my ability.
- ✿ Collaborate with the respective ENTs officer and Treasurer to organise **Irish culture nights** in which GAA and rugby matches would be streamed within Halls.

Thanks to the JCR, I have really enjoyed my time in Halls and would be honoured to help bring the same positive experience to future residents. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to experience new cultures through both travelling and residency within them, and hope to bring similar opportunities of enrichment to future Halls residents.

