

Molly Becker, Welfare and Education Officer



Hello MCR Members!

My name is Molly Becker, and I would love to be one of your Education and Welfare Officers this year. I am a second-year PhD student studying American Literature, and I have been a member of Downing since October 2017, when I began an MPhil. I am originally from New York City, and before coming to Cambridge, I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago.

Before the start of my MPhil program, I had no idea what to expect. As an international student, I had never seen Downing or even been to Cambridge before, and I was worried about starting a postgraduate degree in an unfamiliar environment under a different academic system. The first few weeks of my time in Cambridge were challenging academically, socially, and culturally, but the strong community I found in the Downing MCR, and the many friends I made there, helped me soon feel at home in this new country and at this new University. I would love the opportunity to help create a similarly positive, welcoming environment for current and future Downing postgraduates while also sharing my enthusiasm for Downing, Cambridge, and the academic opportunities offered here as a Welfare and Education Officer.

If elected as a Welfare and Education Officer, I will:

- Continue the termly Seminar Nights.
- Establish a seminar during Freshers' Week to orient students—particularly international students—to the NHS, so all MCR members know what services are available to them through this system.
- Regularly advertise College and University health services.
- Hold a regular session each week for MCR members to come and discuss any issues or concerns they have in a one-on-one setting.
- Work to ensure that all members of the MCR feel welcome and supported throughout their time at Downing.

I have loved my time at Cambridge so far, and being a member of the Downing MCR has been a large part of that. If elected as a Welfare and Education Officer, I will be an enthusiastic and committed member of the Committee, and I will do my best to try to make everyone's time at Downing as positive as possible.