

Written Statement for Student Senate – Nahima Sultana

Hello! I'm **Nahima Sultana**, a PhD candidate in Education at Federation University, and I am applying for the role of **Student Representative from the Institute of Education, Arts and Community**. My passion lies in building an inclusive and empowering learning environment where every student's voice is valued.

I will bring to this position a strong background in student leadership and community engagement. From 2018 to 2020, I served as the **International Student Officer at La Trobe University**, where I proudly received the **Emerging Leadership Award**, the **Academic Excellence Award**, and the **Best Volunteer Award (2019)**. These experiences strengthened my skills in advocacy, communication, and event coordination while allowing me to champion the needs of diverse student communities.

Currently, I balance my PhD research with volunteer work through my organisation *Alor Pothe*, which supports education for underprivileged children in rural Bangladesh. I also work in disability support in Australia, which deepens my commitment to empathy, inclusion, and positive social impact.

If elected as your representative, I will:

- Advocate for **better employability and career support** for international and postgraduate students.
- Push for **enhanced mental health and wellbeing initiatives**.
- Encourage **student-led projects and cultural engagement activities** that celebrate our diversity.
- Ensure **transparent and consistent communication** between the Student Senate and our Institute.

I believe in leadership that listens, represents, and acts. Together, we can create a more connected and supportive Federation University community.

Warm regards,

Nahima Sultana

PhD Candidate, Education