



RCN Student Member of Council Election 2018

Candidate Profile for Grant Byrne

Nomination statement

I'm a 'veteran' student nurse – having begun my nursing studies in 2010, I resumed my second year at Queen Margaret University in 2017. My unique journey in nursing has gifted me with an individual perspective on student affairs. You can read a little more about this in the Nursing Standard: <https://journals.rcni.com/nursing-standard/dont-be-afraid-to-try-again-ns.32.9.35.s40>

In previous years, I've represented Scotland on the RCN Students' Committee, and this experience means I'm familiar with this role and the inner workings of RCN Council. It's vital we elect someone able to advocate for student nurses and I've spoken out on student issues on numerous occasions in the past. I brought the bursary to the floor of RCN Congress a year before the #BursaryorBust Campaign kicked off, and I've added my voice to debates on mentor bullying, student finance and more. I've represented the RCN at AGMs for both the NUS and ENSA. Currently I'm an SIO, and a proud member of Lothian Branch. I've also recently joined RCN Scotland's planning group for this year's student conference.

Away from union activities, I'm a member of the Nursing Standard's readers' panel and a frequent contributor. I'm an avid Twitter user, you can find me @GGByrne. These are challenging times for student nurses and more than ever we need to use our voice. We need to ensure student views are heard and I hope you'll let me represent you. I promise to fight to ensure your physical, mental and financial health are at the forefront of the RCN's agenda.

Career Information

Dates (years)	Name of workplace and job title	Main achievements
2017 - present	Queen Margaret University	3 rd year nursing student (my course is 4 years). This year I won "students' student", and was asked to complete a blog for my university website to help attract potential applicants and

		answer their questions. I am also currently in the process of setting up a nursing society alongside my peers
2015	University of Glasgow	Student Nurse – left with a HND Health Studies

Other relevant experience

Nursing Standard Reader's Panel Member 2017-present

I haven't included my part time work as it's not in healthcare, but feel it's important to mention to highlight my personal experience of the pressures many face studying nursing.

RCN involvement

Dates (years)	Details	Main achievements
2017 - present	SIO	During my most recent tenure as an SIO I've been involved with the RCN as much as possible, attending Congress 2017 and 2018, as well as RCN Scotland's 'Shine Bright' event - I've recently joined RCN Scotland's planning group for this year's student conference also. I've been along to the Joint Reps meeting for Scotland and I'm attending again this year. I also joined my branch at Edinburgh Pride as well as members from Ayrshire and Arran, Lanarkshire and Greater Glasgow branches at Glasgow Pride, celebrating the diversity of nursing and showcasing our support for the LGBTQ+ community. At all of these events I speak up to try and bring a student voice to proceedings.
2017 -present	Pay Champion	I've been loud about my support for the #ScraptheCap and subsequent #ClosetheGap campaigns on social media. I've frequently raised the topic with peers at university too, as well as with mentors.
2017	Professional Nursing Committee	In 2017 I came second in the election for the student place on the Professional Nursing

		Committee, missing out to the fantastic Lucy Mason.
2014 - 2015	RCN Student Committee Member representing Scotland	During my time on the committee I attended a number of events to represent student nurses, including the annual AGMs for the European Nursing Students Association (ENSA) and the National Union of Students (NUS). Additionally, I assisted on the students' programme at RCN Congress in Liverpool and Bournemouth alongside my committee peers. I've long been passionate about social media and worked to build @RCNStudents twitter following during my tenure from a few thousand to over 17,000. I added the distinctive RCNStudents branding and I'm glad to say that continues to this day.