

VU COUNCIL ELECTION STATEMENT

JIALING (SIA) SHI

I'm currently a PhD candidate in Artificial Intelligence at Victoria University, with a background in product management, law, and human resources. Over the past two years, I've been involved at VU as a Student Ambassador, IT Program Assistant and International Event Assistant, working closely with students through events, programs, and community initiatives.

I believe university shouldn't just be about studying - it should be a bridge that helps students build real skills, explore their career paths, and establish their own way to succeed, to be "Uniquely You."

Through my experience, I've seen some clear gaps. Many students struggle to find placements or internships, which makes it hard to gain practical experience or understand their career direction. At the same time, many students are not aware of the resources, facilities, and opportunities already available on campus, so their university experience often becomes limited to classes and assignments. There are also strong partnerships and local community opportunities around VU, but most students don't have enough visibility or access to them.

If elected, I will focus on three priorities.

First, helping students gain real-world experience during their studies through more practical, project-based opportunities and stronger connections with industry.

Second, making existing resources easier to find and actually use, so students can get best value from their time at VU.

Third, strengthening community and innovation culture by improving visibility of partnerships and creating more opportunities for students to connect and engage beyond the classroom.

I take action. I've organised events, built communities, and connected students with real opportunities. I focus on making things happen, not just talking about them.

Over the next two years, I want to see more students gaining real experience, finding opportunities, and feeling more connected - both within the university and beyond.