Manuela Schwarz for Black Officer
Creating Spaces for Black People at SOAS

Black Officer
It is important to note that ‘Black’ here refers to people with African, Asian, Middle Eastern and Latin American backgrounds, referring to the term in a political sense.

When I first came to SOAS I assumed there would be Black and minority ethnic (BME) spaces that I would be able to identify with. As of now, I do not think SOAS offers enough such spaces, which is why I am running for Black Officer. I want to create spaces for Black people, making sure our voices are recognised at SOAS and I hope to see such spaces become platforms for mobilisation and change.

About Me
I’m a second year BA Law and Development student from Berlin. I am currently the Women Society President where I’m involved in the organisation of a variety of events and campaigns. I am easy-going and approachable, and if elected always open to input from students about how to shape the Black Officer position because I want to root this position in our everyday experiences as Black students at SOAS.

Relevant Experience
- Black Feminist: relevant experience and knowledge needed for this position
- SOAS Women Society President
  - Anti-Harassment Campaign
  - ‘Ain’t I A Woman? What’s race got to do with it?’ This was a successful event series in February 2014 where we explored sexism and racism as intersecting systems of oppressions. If elected I look forward to organising more such events and extending them to other issues of interest to the Black community at SOAS.

My Plans
- Research: organise focus groups and survey to include your input in the way I shape the Black Officer position
- BME network: create a network with the relevant societies where we meet regularly so we can work together and support each other in our different campaigns
- Black History Month: organise a series of events involving societies and complementing their events
- SOAS Equality and Diversity Board: ensure that Black students’ voices are heard and taken seriously, representing the concerns of Black students through continuous feedback sessions
- Seminar series
- Reading group: create a forum where we can discuss issues and educate ourselves
- NUS Black Students Campaign: liaise with NUS and extend their campaign to SOAS, focusing on Black representation and equal education

Vote Manuela Schwarz for Black Officer! Polls open 10-13 March!