

UK Squad 2013 -- Team of Brilliant Debaters --

Hosted by The English-Speaking Union of Japan

Janine Ryan ESU Staff

Janine moved to London last year after graduating with a degree in Business & Law from University College Dublin. While at UCD Janine was an active member of the UCD L&H and represented them on numerous occasions at the World, European and US National Debating Championships. She was also the runner-up in the Irish Times National Debating Competition 2010-2011. She convened the Irish Junior Schools Debating Competition (a competition for over 150 teams and the largest of its kind in Ireland) as well being involved as a senior committee member in the management some of the society's biggest events-such as hosting guest speakers and running their schools and university competitions. Janine joined the ESU and is responsible for running our schools and university competitions.

Ellen Robertson University of Oxford

Ellen Robertson is a previous winner of the Wales Schools Debating Championships and represented Wales in the International John Smith Memorial Mace Final in 2008. She has represented the Oxford Union in the annual Varsity Debate against the Cambridge Union, as a coach at the Dutch Anglo-Saxon Parliamentary Debating Institute and as a judge at the 2009 European University Debating Championships in Amsterdam. Ellen studied Law at the University of Oxford, and has just completed the Bar Professional Training Course. She taught as an Assistant Language Teacher in Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan for one year as a participant on the JET Programme.

Marlena Valles

LLB University of Edinburgh

Marlena Valles is a final year law undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh with a keen interest in human rights law. She was named Best Speaker at the Scottish National Mace in 2013 and has won four British championships, in addition to speaking in the finals of numerous inter-varsity competitions. She is the current Director of Advanced Training for the Edinburgh University Debates Union..

Gareth Williams

BA University of Warwick

Gareth Williams holds a degree in History and Politics from the University of Warwick. Whilst there, he was President of the Debating Society and represented Warwick at international competitions in Ireland, the Netherlands, Botswana and Turkey. He is currently undertaking a part-time masters at King's College London in the War Studies Department. He has coached debating for the past three years for a variety of age groups and organisations. He has reached the final of over a dozen competitions in the UK (winning two) and has been on the adjudication team for numerous competitions including the Birmingham IV, SOAS Open and Bristol Open.

Adam Noonam

BA Trinity College Dublin

Adam is about to enter his final year of Philosophy and Political Science (specializing in Politics) at Trinity College Dublin. Main interests from each subject include International Relations as well as later period works of Plato. Heavily involved in both debating societies in TCD. Convened the largest Inter Varsity competition ever held in Ireland. Interests include film, rugby, literature and computers.