

Idris Goni

(He/Him)

What's your role?

Information Compliance & Accessibility Officer

When did you join the university?

August 2019

What's a fun fact about you?

I actually grew up in Greenwich, and even attended a music course at the University when I was a child. Weirdly I've ended up back here!

If you could have dinner with three LGBTQ+ icons, who would they be?

RuPaul, Freddie Mercury, Princess Diana

What's your favourite thing about being LGBTQ+?

Not having to abide or feel constricted by society's expectations of what being a "man" is. I think this freedom from toxic masculinity has led me to be more empathetic and outgoing than I might have been. I also think the sense of the community you share with other LGBTQ people is something that is invaluable.

What's your coming out story?

My parents split up when I was very young, and I was outed to my dad at age 19. He disowned me after that, and I haven't spoken to him in several years. I didn't come out to my mum; we had a drunken conversation when I was 16 and she was like "you're gay right?" and I simply said "yes". That was the end of it. She is very accepting.

Why is being out at work important to you?

I still remember trying to act straight and be "normal" when I was a young teenager, and it was absolutely exhausting.



Work is somewhere we spend so much of our time, so I can't imagine trying to edit myself like that again.

What would you say to staff at the university who may be facing difficulties because of being LGBTQ+ or having difficulties "coming out" at work?

There are so many of us, come to an LGBTQ+ Staff Community meeting. If you are having difficulties in your team or from your manager, escalate to HR, and copy in the chairs of the LGBTQ+ Staff Community.

What would you like to see other colleagues doing to help make the university a better place to be LGBTQ+?

Don't treat LGBTQ+ colleagues differently, don't exclude or isolate them. Call out discrimination and microaggressions, even when it is someone more senior.