
So you are thinking about standing for SU President?

Please also read the role description alongside this guide

The Students' Union President's role is all encompassing. They bring together all elements of The Students' Union and direct the executive team to deliver the overall objectives of The Students' Union. You'll be the Chair of the Union's Trustee Board, line manage the Chief Exec and genuinely lead the Union's work.

As a member of the University's Board of Governors, The President is involved in the most important decisions the University makes.

The significance of being the figurehead of an organisation representing 11,000 students also opens doors to work with many other important figures.

With this level of influence comes the responsibility to engage the student population and find out the issues that matter to them most. You are responsible to ensuring students are involved in the Union's democratic and representative structures so you will drive forward the tools that help us do this, like the Ideas Forum.

You will also be responsible for ensuring that the welfare of students is at the forefront of the University's agenda, running campaigns, raising awareness and are the lead Officer supporting our 7 Student Networks. You will be there to champion the diversity, rights and welfare of students and being able to inspire, understand and reach out to others are at the core of the role.

Lobbying, campaigning, surveying, researching, relationship building, negotiating and networking are just some of the tactics Presidents use to achieve their goals.

There are many methods the President can use to create the changes students think are important, knowing when and where to utilise them is an invaluable skill.

The flexibility the President enjoys ultimately gives them a huge say in the direction of The Students' Union, but with the high profile come high expectations.

What Activities will you be doing?

Your role is focused on the leading the SU and focusing on welfare issues. We suggest you read the full role description but key tasks include:

- Chairing SU meetings including the Trustee Board, Executive Committee and Welfare and Inclusion Council
 - Working closely with the Chief Executive of the Union
 - Ensuring the Union meets the needs of its diverse membership
 - Working with staff to plan events like Welcome Week
 - Attending SU meetings like Student Council
 - Being the lead officer supporting the Networks
 - Being the lead officer on Sustainability in the Union
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- Working with Union staff and officers to tackle the issues that matter to students
- Promoting student engagement with the Union and in taking the lead on our promoting our democratic and representative structures e.g. Student Council and the Ideas Forum.
- Representing the Union on various University Meetings including sitting as a member of its Board of Governors
- Representing the Union, locally and nationally and being the key link with NUS

Along with your individual manifesto aims and tasks laid out in the role description, there will be operational activities within the Student's Union and University that you will automatically be involved in as one of the SU's Full Time Officers.

Below are a few examples of these activities that the President has undertaken, from the last couple of years:

- Supporting initiatives around student well-being e.g. World Mental Health Day
- Supporting the organisation of the Union's Annual General meeting (called the All Student Meeting this year)
- Helping to organise the SU Awards
- Helping with the Union's Green Impact Submission to NUS
- Working with careers on developing employability initiatives for students

General competencies and skills necessary for Full-Time Officer posts

Competency or quality	Why?
Good communication skills	As an elected representative of the study body, your key role is talking and listening to students and representing their views and interests to the University.
Good presentation skills	You will be expected to present reports to a range of University committees and meetings, to deliver induction talks to new students and to run training courses and information sessions to groups of students throughout your year in office.
Good time-management and organisational skills	Your typical day will involve attending meetings and working on a number of projects whilst keeping on top of communications to and from students and SU and University staff.
Good understanding of current political, social and economic factors relating to Higher Education and issues of concern to students	As a spokesperson for students, you will be called on to explain what students think about a range of local, national and international matters which may have an impact on the student experience.

Competency or quality	Why?
Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with a wide range of individuals	You will be liaising regularly with senior University staff, governors and SU trustees, other SUs and universities, external companies and commercial partners as well as students.
Enthusiastic approach to learning and personal development	You will have a wide range of opportunities to attend local and national training courses and conferences, including NUS officer training, which will enhance your skills and confidence.
Commitment to equality and diversity and to the values of the SU	You will take responsibility of ensuring that the SU and its services are accessible and openly inclusive for all students, whatever their background, age and interests.
Ability to take a constructive and co-operative approach to solving problems and making decisions	You will be part a larger team of officers and staff and so will need to be able to negotiate, compromise and remain calm in situations which may sometimes be challenging and where there may be conflicts of interest.
Reliable and honest	You will have a very busy diary but also have important responsibilities as a Trustee of the SU.
Willing to work unsocial hours / weekends	This is at times really not a 9-5 job! Over the course of your year in office, you should expect to work during several weekends and to attend evening meetings and events.
Flexible and adaptable	Things never stand still in the SU for long and it is a fast-paced environment.

Full-Time Officers are fully supported by SU staff, but it is important that you are able to meet a number of the above, even if not all, for you to be comfortable in the role. It is a demanding (and brilliant) role that requires individuals to work hard and get stuck in! If you have any questions about what's required, please arrange to talk to a member of SU staff.