So you are thinking about standing for SU President?

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 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. To ensure students are represented in the development of student experience at here at Worcester.

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 supporting the Welfare and Liberation Part Time Officers. 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.

All Full-Time Officers' Responsibilities
• Be a Trustee of Worcester Students' Union, playing an active role in the Board and its Sub-Committees and ensuring the Union complies with relevant legislation; • Work with trustees, staff and volunteers in a constructive manner and for the greater good of the Union; • Ensure that the Union does not undertake activities that put its financial stability, members or reputation at undue risk; • Be an active Student Councillor, attending all meetings and providing reports; • Be a key member of Executive Committee and support part-time officers and reps in their roles; • Work collaboratively with Union staff and the Chief Executive to ensure the Union meets its charitable aims and furthers its strategic goals; • Represent the Union and its members on University Committees, panels and working groups, preparing reports and presentations if needed;

- Attend regular meetings with the University Executive, Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor (Students);
- Chair relevant Union committees and meetings;
- Promote active involvement in the Union to all its members, including mature, part-time, postgraduate and international students;
- Initiate and promote campaigns that improve student life;
- Constructively challenge the Union and University to meet the needs of a diverse membership, ensuring their views are researched and represented;
- Promote creativity and innovation in thinking and delivery of services;
- Ensure the Union's governance and democratic processes are relevant and accessible to students;
- Play an active role and represent the Union in key events such as Welcome Week, Varsity, Open Days and Celebration Week;
- Support the delivery of the SU outreach programme and ensure the Union reaches out to a wide range of students;
- Always act and behave in accordance with the Union's values, vision, policies and procedures, setting an example to others;
- Promote the values of diversity and equality of opportunity, as well as of the environment, amongst the membership.
- Maintain a good knowledge of current issues affecting students in Higher Education;
- Act as a signatory on the Union's bank accounts.

Individual Role Description

President

- **Lead and support** the Full-Time Officer team, representing them where necessary to the University and other stakeholders;
- **Be the key contact** for external organisations and the media;
- Ensure that the Executive Committee are working well as a team;
- Ensure that all activities undertaken by the Union are for the **long-term benefit of the membership** and to help **enhance their educational experience**;
- **Chair the Union's Trustee Board and Executive Committee** and sit on the University's Board of Governors;
- Work closely with the Chief Executive on the Union's strategic development to ensure a **culture of continuous improvement** and services that are relevant and informed by research and consultation;
- Ensure the Chief Executive has appropriate support to perform their role to the highest standard;
- To **ensure strong communication** between the officer and staff team;

- Take a lead on **representing students with regard to welfare and support**, working closely with Union staff and Student Services to ensure student welfare is at the heart of the student experience;
- Take a lead on **representing the needs of international students**, in liaison with the International Office of the University and the part-time International Students' Officer;
- Represent the membership in relation to the development of key University policies around **recruitment and access**;
- To lead the Union's actions on **Sustainability,** working closely with the Sustainability Officer and ensuring we meet the conditions laid out in the United Nations SDG Accord.
- Liaise with a wide range of University departments, as well as external stakeholders, to **ensure opportunities and services are promoted that appeal to students**;
- **Represent the Union** in matters relating to data and information sharing;
- With the Vice President Education, support the University to **promote the NSS** or its future equivalent;
- With the Vice President Education, work with the University in relation to **national educational policies**;
- Represent the Union on committees and matters relating to **Safeguarding and Prevent**;
- Take a lead on ensuring a fantastic **welcome to new students at Worcester**, through introductory talks and Welcome Week, promoting what the Union can do for them;
- Be the **key link with the NUS**, ensuring the involvement of the Union in appropriate national campaigns and representation at regional and national events;
- **Attend NUS Conference as a delegate,** representing the views of the membership through prior consultation and by feeding back;
- Attend Union meetings and committees as required, e.g. Health and Safety;
- Other reasonable duties as may be required that are commensurate with the role.

Along with your individual manifesto aims and role descriptions, 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 Housing Fair
- 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 including a new interviewing guide
- Campaigning for improvements to the taxi services in Worcester

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
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
Self-motivated and enthusiastic	The ability to effect positive change for students comes from a willingness to start and see through initiatives
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 a number of 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.