

Passionate about the Academic Experience? Why not run as VP Education?

Salary: £19,314

The Vice President Education role really says it all in the name; it is everything Learning, Teaching, Exams, Coursework, Studying and Academic Representation. They develop and implement education policy, ensure quality teaching, learning support and resources and ensure that the university develops graduates ready for the world of work.

There are certain meetings that the VP Education attends to better understand these issues many of these are with different departments and boards within the University. To ensure students are represented in the development of student academic experience at Worcester.

More importantly you will lead the Academic Representation programme, working closely with School Reps and Course Reps to ensure that the student voice is heard from course to University Executive level. You will work with Reps to find out what issues students face in their academic life, ensure this is fed back to the University and that action is taken to resolve any issues that students face.

You will play a key role, working with your fellow officers, student reps and staff to ensure you hold the University to account and work with them to make the improvements that students want to see. Lobbying, negotiating, campaigning are all tactics that VPs use to do this.

Within the remit it is really up to the individual what they want to achieve and how they want to go about it.

What Activities will you be doing?

Your role is focused on ensuring students have the best educational experience while at the University of Worcester. We suggest you read the full role description, but key tasks include:

- Ensure that the Student Voice goes from strength to strength with active and engaged Course Reps and School Reps
- Co-ordinate and chair the Course Rep Forums, in collaboration with the Deputy Provost
- Work with Union staff and School Reps to deliver an annual Course Rep Conference and Change Week or equivalent/s
- Chairing some key SU meetings including Student Council and Education Council
- Representing the Union on various University Meetings including sitting as a member of its Board of Governors.
- Liaise with the Union's Advice Service on academic related issues or trends that may be affecting the membership and require action

- Represent members' interests in relation to academic issues, working closely with the relevant members of the University's Executive and academic leads
- Maintain good relations with the University's Pro Vice Chancellors (Academic) and Provost, Heads of Schools and College Directors.
- Represent the Union at a variety of University committees and meetings that focus on educational issues
- Work with the President to represent WSU externally to organisations like NUS and the Office for Students on issues relating to education policy

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 Vice President Education has undertaken, from the last couple of years:

- Working with the University on new policies and processes e.g. the Student Charter, The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF), Timetabling etc.
- Leading on the creation of a new Code of Practice for Academic Representation
- Working with the University to agree a student safety net during the pandemic.
- Leading on the Union's campaign for a Peoples Vote on the final Brexit deal.
- Helping to organise the Union Awards: Student Choice
- Supporting the promotion of the National Student Survey (NSS) and Course Experience Survey (CES) and working with the University on any action plans coming out of the results of the NSS or CES

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.

Competency or quality	Why?
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.