

Student Trustee Opportunity Profile:

What is the opportunity?

As Beds SU is a fully registered charity, we are required to have a Trustee Board to ensure the organisation: is being run in accordance with its charitable objectives; is financially stable; is operating within relevant law, legislation and guidance; and is achieving as much as it can for our members (UoB students) with the resources available through a clear and measured strategy. In addition to this critical operation, the Trustee Board is also a forum to question and scrutinise the work of the elected sabbatical Officers and senior staff within the organisation.

The Trustee Board is made up of the following members:

- A chairperson (the President of the Students' Union)
- The four elected Vice Presidents of the Students' Union (Vice President Education, Vice President Equality, Vice President Opportunities and Vice President Sports)
- ***Two student trustees appointed through an application process***
- Four external trustees i.e. not connected with the Students' Union and appointed through an application process
- One University appointed trustee appointed by the Vice Chancellor's Executive Group (VCEG)

What will I get out of being a Student Trustee?

1. **Development of your employability skills and experience** - use your knowledge and gain new skills and experience in management, strategic planning, decision-making, budget/financial management, and fundraising.
2. **Widen your horizons** – you will meet new people, discover new challenges and better understand how to run a charity, commercial outlets and student engagement activity.
3. **A chance to give something back to the student community** – you will be able to share your knowledge and experience with others at the University of Bedfordshire, helping improve the way we run some of our work and engagement activity.

What would be expected of me?

There are four meetings of the Trustee Board each year, each lasting two hours. You will be expected to attend each of these meetings, having prepared by reading papers provided (these are usually distributed a week before). At the meeting you will have the opportunity to:

1. Consider the papers and make recommendations and comments on the contents of such papers;
2. Vote on key decisions and ratify policies that are tabled for discussion;
3. Ask questions about the operation and management of the Union to ensure the correct direction and performance;
4. Scrutinise and question (alongside other members of the Board) the work of the elected sabbatical Officers and senior staff members;

5. Alongside other members of the Board, ensure that the Union is acting in line with its charitable objectives, is financially stable, and operating within relevant law, legislation and guidance;
6. Request papers to be brought to future meetings to satisfy your role as a guardian of the organisation;
7. Think strategically, be creative and bring a range of different perspectives to the Board;

What would prevent me from taking the opportunity?

Unfortunately, you will not be able to become a trustee of Beds SU if:

- You have a major conflict of interest that cannot be managed by the Union to ensure the integrity of the Union is upheld;
- You will not be a registered University of Bedfordshire student in the 2018/2019 academic year;
- You have an unspent conviction for an offence involving either dishonesty or deception;
- You are currently declared bankrupt (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order);
- You have an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors that is active;
- You are disqualified from being a company director for whatever reason this may be;
- You subject to an order made under section 429(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 regardless of the order;
- You have previously been removed as a trustee by us, the Charity Commission, the Scottish charity regulator or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement;
- You have been removed from management or control of any body under section 34(5)(e) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (or earlier legislation);
- You are disqualified from being a trustee by an order of the Charity Commission under section 181A of the Charities Act 2011.

What costs will I incur?

Any expenses incurred through undertaking Trustee Board business will be reimbursed by the Union. You should however be aware that you will need to travel to the Luton, Bedford and Milton Keynes campuses for meetings. Refreshments will be provided at most meetings of the Board.

What do I do if I have questions?

If you have any questions, simply send us an email through beds.su@beds.ac.uk and we will answer it as soon as possible.