



STUDENTS' UNION

ELECTED STUDENT OFFICERS

**Elected Role 12month position
(Full-time paid) - £23,914**

Hours: 36.5 Hours per week

Based: Aberdeen

Nominations Close: Friday 27th February
2026, 5pm

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY OF THE ROLES OF THE ELECTIONS PROCESS, DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO ELECTIONS@ABDN.AC.UK

I. ABOUT US

Aberdeen University Students' Association is a student-run organisation that supports, empowers, and represents all students at the University of Aberdeen. You might have heard of it referred to as the "Students' Union" – that's us! When you join the University, you automatically become a member of the Students' Union and can access all the services and events we offer.

The Students' Union is led by five elected full-time officers. While they work as a team, each has a specific focus to represent and support students in different areas. They also work together to bring positive changes at the University and beyond, both locally and nationally.

We offer student representation at different levels: Class Reps for courses, School Conveners for schools, and Elected Student Officer and the Student Council for the University as a whole. We also run forums for students from specific groups, helping to organise events and promote their interests.

Our Students' Union Advice service gives free, unbiased advice to students. We have two advisors who can help with a range of academic concerns, from academic misconduct to appeals and more. If they can't answer your question, they'll point you in the right direction.

The Students' Union also supports a vibrant student community with over 55 sports clubs and more than 200 societies and student groups. Joining these is a great way to meet new people, try new things, and build new skills. We also support student charity fundraising (RAG) and offer many volunteering opportunities.



2. COULD YOU BE ONE OF OUR FUTURE ELECTED STUDENT OFFICERS?

WHAT IS AN ELECTED STUDENT OFFICER?

An Elected Student Officer is a full-time paid Student Representative within the Students' Union. Aberdeen Students' Union currently has five Elected Student Officer positions, including the Student President, the Vice-President for Activities, the Vice-President for Communities, the Vice-President for Education and the Vice-President for Welfare.

WHAT DOES AN ELECTED STUDENT OFFICER DO?

An Elected Student Officer is elected by the student body to represent student interests across the University. Depending on the role, Elected Student Officers each have a specific remit that they operate within, so the day-to-day varies depending on the role you choose to nominate yourself for. The elections are held in March, and the role begins on the 1st of July.

GENERAL DUTIES OF AN ELECTED STUDENT OFFICER?

- To represent the interests of the student body at all levels of study to the University, and to local and national bodies.
- To be available for consultation with the student body, both formally and informally, and represent their interests appropriately.
- To adhere to, and ensure the implementation of, policies passed by students.
- To campaign for the rights and interests of the student body to the University, and locally and nationally.
- To undertake additional responsibilities determined by Council or General Meeting on issues for which they have responsibility for.

To report to the student body and Council on their work.

THE BIGGER PICTURE...

You will also have the opportunity to get involved in a range of Students' Union initiatives that focus on the wider University context, including our Democracy Review, new strategic plan and Student Partnership Agreement (SPA).

Student Partnership Agreement

Our 3-year Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the University of Aberdeen and AUSA (Students' Union) sets out a shared commitment to working in partnership to enhance the overall student experience. Through collaborative planning, delivery and evaluation, the SPA provides a framework for addressing students' needs and priorities in a coordinated and meaningful way.





For the next three years, the partnership will focus on SPACES - study, social and sport - ensuring accessibility, availability and utility across these areas, enabling all students to fully engage in university life and benefit from a supportive, inclusive and enriching environment. Elected Officers will play an active role in driving forward the SPA, giving them a clear platform to see the tangible impact of their work and to contribute to collaborative initiatives that make a real difference in improving students' lives.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

If you are a current student of any level at the University and based in Aberdeen, you are eligible to run for any of our Elected Student Officer positions, and if you are currently on a student visa, your visa can be extended to accommodate Student Officer positions. You don't need to be a graduating student to nominate yourself, but if you are partially through your degree programme, you will need to pause your studies throughout your term, as this is a full-time position. You don't need any experience to nominate yourself for one of our Elected Student Officer positions, and you don't need to have been involved with the SU prior to your nomination either.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

As an Elected Student Officer, you will advocate for students on both the local and national level, you will gain a variety of skills and develop many relationships both within the University and outside the University. Here are just some of the benefits:

-  **IT'S A FULL-TIME PAID JOB FOR A YEAR**
-  **BE A LEADER & MAKE YOUR UNIVERSITY BETTER**
-  **BUILD YOUR SKILLS AND GROW YOUR NETWORK**
-  **FIGHT FOR STUDENTS AND GET PAID FOR IT**

HOW DO I BECOME AN ELECTED STUDENT OFFICER?

In simple terms, you nominate yourself, take part in the elections process, meaning that you create campaign materials, attend a number of optional workshops, secure votes from the student body and win through a majority single transferable vote (STV). If you nominate yourself, we'll be in touch with some handy tips and guidance to help you along the way.

3. BECOMING A TRUSTEE

WHAT IS A TRUSTEE?

The Students' Union is a registered charity, and all charities must be governed by a group of people called Trustees. Trustees are responsible for making sure the charity is well-run, financially sustainable, and working towards its charitable aims.

If you are elected as a Student Officer, you will automatically become a Trustee of the Students' Union charity and will sit on its Trustee Board.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TRUSTEE?

As a Trustee, you have legal responsibilities including the governance and strategic direction of the Students' Union charity. This means you help to:

- Make sure the Students' Union is well-managed and legally compliant
- Ensure the charity uses its resources responsibly and in line with its charitable purposes
- Oversee the charity's finances and long-term sustainability
- Support and guide the overall strategy and priorities of the Students' Union
-

Trustees share collective responsibility for decisions made by the Trustee Board. During meetings, the Chair (the Student President) will aim to help the Board reach a consensus wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be made by a majority vote and then supported collectively by the Board. In addition, Elected Student Officers will be supported by a talented and knowledgeable staff team who will help you succeed in the role. We will support you in understanding the Students' Union's key governing documents, financial responsibilities, and charitable purposes so you feel confident and well-equipped in your role as a Trustee.

ELIGIBILITY TO BE A TRUSTEE

To be a Trustee, you must be able to confirm that you are not:

- Someone with an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or an offence under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- Someone who is an undischarged bankrupt or has a Protected Trust Deed.
- Someone who has been removed under either Scottish or English Law or the courts from being a charity trustee.
- Someone who is disqualified from being a company director.

If you have any doubts about your eligibility, please get in touch by emailing elections@abdn.ac.uk.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING A CHARITABLE TRUSTEE

OSCR (The Scottish Charity Regulator) has a lot of guidance around the trustees and charitable organisations that lets you deep dive into governance in the charity sector. You can find the Students' Union under "Aberdeen University Students' Association" and view the Annual Statements and Charitable Purpose.

Useful Links From OSCR for additional information:

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/managing-a-charity/managing-charity-trustees/guidance-and-good-practice-for-charity-trustees/>

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/managing-a-charity/managing-charity-trustees/being-a-charity-in-scotland/>

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/managing-a-charity/managing-charity-trustees/trustee-information-guidance-pack/>



4. ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

STUDENT PRESIDENT

PURPOSE

As Student President, you are the Chair of the Trustee Board and the main representative for students at the University. Often, when there's a general query, students will come to you first. You are also responsible for the Union's democratic structures and constitution.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Your first priority will always be the relationship between students and the Students' Union. At the University, your key relationships are with the Principal, Senior Vice-Principal, Vice-Principal Global Engagement and the University Secretary. You are also responsible for relationships with the National Union of Students and Campus Trade Unions.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE LISTED IN OUR BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION BUT CAN CHANGE EVERY YEAR DEPENDING ON THE INTERESTS & EXPERIENCE OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS

1. To be the main student representative for University of Aberdeen students.
2. To lead on input to University strategic initiatives and be the student leader on corporate governance meetings including represent students at University Court and University Senate
3. To be the Chair of the Trustee Board
4. To be the ex-officio student representative on the Rocking Horse Nursery*
5. Co-ordinate the development and delivery of Student Officer team objectives.
6. To liaise with the senior management of AUSA to ensure effective planning of AUSA services and activities.
7. To oversee the implementation and upholding of AUSA's Policy in accordance with the Constitution and promote and oversee the democratic structures of AUSA in accordance with the relevant Byelaws.
8. To support the Foresterhill Committee* and the Qatar Campus Committee.
9. Oversee AUSA activities within the National Union of Students, serving as an Ex-Officio delegate to the Annual Conference(s) of the NUS.
10. To co-ordinate measures to encourage a student community which respects the diversity of its membership, in accordance with the Constitution
11. To support student volunteering, employability and skills development*
12. To liaise with relevant personnel in regards to marketing of the Student Association, reputation and risk management and ensure effective communication between AUSA and its membership.

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR ACTIVITIES

PURPOSE

As the Vice-President for Activities, you are responsible and the main representative of all Sports Clubs & Societies. You will lead events such as Welcome Week, Granite City Challenge and Intramural Sports. In this role, you help improve the lives of the SU Society & Sports Clubs members or committees.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Similar to the Student President, your first priority will always be the relationship between students and the Students' Union and how they interact with our Sports Clubs & Societies. But you will also work with various members of the University Senior Management Team and Staff at Aberdeen Student Village. You will also work closely with organisations outside the SU, such as British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) and Scottish Student Sport (SSS,) representing Aberdeen Students' Union.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

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1. To be the main representative on AUSA Activities, such as Student Groups, Societies, and Sports Clubs within the University, locally and nationally.
2. To chair and support the Sports Union Committee* and the Societies Union Committee*, and to organise and support meetings of representatives of all recognised and affiliated AUSA Activities. (*where required)
3. To support and liaise with Student Groups on representational matters.
4. To support the activities development of AUSA Activities.
5. To ensure collaboration within the Student Officer Team to support and implement relevant campaigns for AUSA Activities, in particular relating to welfare issues, and diversity and inclusion
6. To encourage involvement in all areas of AUSA Activities along with fitness and Wellbeing programmes.
7. To represent Sports Clubs within the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) and Scottish Student Sport (SSS).
8. To support the promotion and development of Intramural programmes and represent the students involved in Intramural sport.
9. To organise and support meetings of representatives of all recognised Sports Clubs.
10. To promote University sport throughout the community.

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNITIES

PURPOSE

As Vice-President for Communities, you will lead a number of our student initiatives, such as Climate Change and Cost of Living. You also help contribute to the relationships between the University, City and Students. You will engage with students across the University and create opportunities for them to connect with one another.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

As listed in other roles, your number one priority will be the relationship the students have with the Students' Union, but as Vice-President for Communities that relationship extends to Aberdeen City Council, Old Aberdeen Council, Local and National Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

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1. To be the main representatives on matters relating to the local and student community to the University, locally and nationally.
2. To organise and support sustainability, environmental and liberation activities within the University, locally and nationally.
3. To organise and support campaigns and activities on sustainability, transport, and environment and ethics.
4. To chair and support the Communities Committee* and Environment and Ethics Committee* (*These Committee don't always run, but when they do this will be apart of your Remit)
5. To support the Liberation and Section Forums



VICE-PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

PURPOSE

As Vice-President for Education, you contribute and drive conversations relating to the learning experience of the Student Body. You will prioritise working with students and the university as well as representing student views on the educational experience. You will help lead the Student Representatives of the University Senate.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

One of your key relationships, like other roles, is the relationship between the Students and the SU, but also the relationship between the students and the University. You will work closely with the Vice-Principal of Education as well as members of major committees across the University, such as the Student Support & Experience Committee and the Quality Assurance Committee. You will also develop a relationship with Heads of Schools, Deans of Schools and the Directors of Education.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE LISTED IN OUR BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION BUT CHANGE EVERY YEAR DEPNDING ON THE INTERESTS OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS

1. To be the main representative on academic issues within the University, locally and nationally.
2. To lead the work on issues of national higher education policy in consultation with the other officers and students through regular open forums.
3. Co-ordinate and implement relevant campaigns on academic issues.
4. To coordinate Class Representatives and School Conveners/Reps.
5. Support students on academic issues that have wider policy implications, in consultation with the AUSA Advice and the Representative Services Department.
6. To Chair and support the Education Committees.
7. To support the Postgraduate Forum*.
8. To represent students at University Senate
9. To support the Academic and Discipline specific societies where appropriate*



VICE-PRESIDENT FOR WELFARE

PURPOSE

As the Vice-President for Welfare you will work closely with teams throughout the SU as well as teams across the University. You will represent students voices and opinion when it comes to Student Mental Health, Wellbeing, Welfare and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Similar to other roles, you have a responsibility to uphold the relationship between the Students, the Students' Union, and the University in all matters pertaining to student Welfare and well-being. You will be involved in workstreams across the University and work with policymakers both locally and nationally.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE LISTED IN OUR BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION BUT CHANGE EVERY YEAR DEPNDING ON THE INTERESTS OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS

1. To be the main representative in welfare and housing matters within the University, locally and nationally.
2. To campaign on welfare issues including, but not limited to, wellbeing, mental health, sexual health, student safety, and housing issues to ensure that students are equipped to be at their best academically.
3. To chair and support the Welfare Committee* (*This Committee doesn't always run, but when it does will be apart of your Remit)
4. To support the welfare of Liberation and Section Forums.
5. To ensure students have the skills and knowledge to campaign on welfare issues.

