

# Positions for election

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national union of students

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## Purpose of this document

This document offers an insight into elected roles within the National Union of Students (NUS). It is designed to be used alongside election rules and through further discussion with current postholders or other relevant people. Links are given to allow potential candidates to consider the role.

## National President

The National President is the chief representative of students in the United Kingdom. They are the spokesperson on issues that affect studying and student life and chief campaigner to extend and defend the rights of students. They chair both the National Executive Council and the Trustee Board to ensure that the organisation is well run and responsive to the political needs of its membership.

The President will represent students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities. They will lead political action and calls for change in the law and promote the work of students' unions.

The position is based in London and is elected at National Conference.

Liam Burns is the current National President. His details and reports to NEC are available here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/president/liamburns/>

## The Zones

The policy work of NUS is divided into 5 zones; each of which deals with a different area of work:

- **Further Education** - which deals with issues that affect the study and development of students in Further Education
- **Higher Education** - which deals with issues that affect the study and development of students in Higher Education
- **Society and Citizenship** - where issues that affect students in wider society, the world and student engagement with those areas is worked on
- **Union Development** - which looks at supporting students' unions in their role of supporting students and providing them with services
- **Welfare** - which decides the work that supports the wellbeing of students in their institutions, their homes and their families

Each of the zones has a vice-president who spends the year working on the policy for that area with a committee of volunteers from students' unions. You will be working with staff who will deliver on specific projects within that zone or directly on the mandates from National Conference.

## Vice President (Further Education)

The NUS VPFE is the spokesperson on issues that affect the educational experience of students within further education. They will represent students to the education sector, government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for education policies which are fair and accessible, campaigning for better financial support, ensuring quality within teaching and learning, fighting to widen participation in education and promoting the voice of learners within Further Education Institutions.

The position is based in London and is elected at National Conference.

Toni Pearce is the current Vice President (Further Education). Her details and reports to NEC are available here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/zoneconvenors/tonipearce/>  
See [www.nusconnect.org.uk/fe](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/fe) for more details on the zone's work.

## **Vice-President (Higher Education)**

The Vice-President (Higher Education) is the spokesperson on issues that affect the educational experience of students within higher education. They will represent students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for better financial support, representing students within on National bodies and within national organisations, ensuring quality within teaching and learning, fighting to widen participation in education and promoting course representation within universities.

The position is based in London and is elected at National Conference.

Usman Ali is the current Vice President (Higher Education). Her details and reports to NEC are available here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/zoneconvenors/usmanali/>

See [www.nusconnect.org.uk/education](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/education) for more details on the zone's work.

## **Vice-President (Society and Citizenship)**

The Vice-President (Society and Citizenship) is the spokesperson of students on issues that affect them in wider society and the world around them. They will represent students to government ministers, national and local media, national partner campaigning organisations and international contacts.

Work they do could include encouraging students to get involved in community action, campaigning against human rights abuses as well as championing calls for better ethical and environmental standards and behaviours. The VP Society & Citizenship would seek to increase student participation in national and international politics whilst challenging racism and fascism in wider society.

The position is based in London and is elected at National Conference.

Danielle Grufferty is the current Vice President (Society and Citizenship). Her details and reports to NEC are available here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/zoneconvenors/danniegufferty/>

See [www.nusconnect.org.uk/society](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/society) for more details on the zone's work

## **Vice-President (Union Development)**

The Vice-President (Union Development) is the spokesperson of students and students unions on issues of engagement and the provision of activities and services. They will represent students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include promoting activism and leadership within students' unions, volunteering, sports and societies, students' union elections and democracy. They deal with issues related to the long term stability of students' unions as organisations able to deliver for students on campus.

The position is based in London and is elected at National Conference.

Ed Marsh is the current Vice President (Union Development). His details and reports to NEC are available here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/zoneconvenors/edmarsh/>

See [www.nusconnect.org.uk/uniondevelopment](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/uniondevelopment) for more details on the zone's work.

## **Vice-President (Welfare)**

The Vice-President (Welfare) is the spokesperson of students on Welfare issues in the United Kingdom. They will represent students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for housing rights, against racism on campus and increasing support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with external pressures on their education.

The position is based in London and is elected at National Conference.

Pete Mercer is the current Vice President (Welfare). His details and reports to NEC are available here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/zoneconvenors/petemercer/>

See [www.nusconnect.org.uk/welfare](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/welfare) for more details on the zone's work.

## The National Executive Council (NEC)

The National Executive Council is responsible for overseeing the political and strategic work of the organisation in between meetings of National Conference, scrutinising the work of the zones and making decisions that affect the National Union as a whole.

There are **15 National Executive Council representative positions** (sometimes known as the **Block of Fifteen**) who will be expected to attend the 6 meetings of the NEC between National Conference 2010 and National Conference 2011. 5 positions are reserved for Further Education candidates. This role is unpaid apart from expenses. The position is elected at National Conference.

Information on the NEC, including past minutes and papers, can be found on [www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec)

## The Trustee Board

The NUS Trustee Board's legal role is to ensure that the resources we hold on trust are applied effectively for the purposes of and furtherance of NUS' aims and objects. Its crucial objective is to secure a well run, efficient and strong organisation that elected student officers can lead in order to run and win campaigns and programmes of work that deliver on NUS' mission.

**Student trustees** sit on the Trustee Board and have collective responsibility with the officer and lay trustees to ensure the Board fulfils its role. Duties include monitoring risk, expenditure and income, the setting and monitoring of the organisation's performance and ensuring compliance with law. This role is unpaid apart from expenses. The position is elected at National Conference.

Information on the Trustee Board can be found here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/democraticprocess/nuscommittees/trusteeboard/>

## Democratic Procedures Committee

This body ensures the smooth running of Conference and the policy process. Its duties include setting delegate entitlement equations, promoting accessibility within NUS' democratic structures, deciding on the order of debate at National Conference and training delegates on the procedures and standing orders of NUS. This role is unpaid apart from expenses. The position is elected at National Conference.

Information about the Democratic Procedures Committee can be found here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/democraticprocedurescommittee/>

## The Liberation Campaigns

NUS has 4 campaigns to represent students who define as an underrepresented section of society. These are known as the Liberation Campaigns, Each of these has a full time officer and a part time committee. To run for a Liberation position you must define into that campaign

### Black Students' Officer

The NUS Black Students' Officer is the spokesperson of Black Students within the United Kingdom. They will represent Black students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could includes campaigning for anonymous marking, against racism in society and increasing support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with external pressures on their education. The position is based in London and is elected at Black Students' Summer Conference.

The current Black Students' Officer is Kanja Sesay. His details and reports to the NEC can be found here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/liberationofficers/kanjasesay/>

The close of nominations for the Black Students' Officer is 5pm 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/black/>

## Disabled Students' Officer

The NUS Disabled Students' Officer is the spokesperson of Disabled students within the United Kingdom. They will represent Disabled students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for improved accessibility to university services, promoting awareness of mental health in society and increasing the ability of local disabled students to campaign in their institutions.

The position is based in London and is elected at Disabled Students' Conference.

The current Disabled Students' Officer is Rupy Kaur. Her details and report to the NEC can be found here.

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/liberationofficers/rupykaur/>

The close of nominations for the Disabled Students' Officer is 5pm, 27<sup>th</sup> January

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/disability/>

## LGBT Officers

The NUS LGBT Students' Campaign has two officers, one open place and one women's place, available to women only. The Officers are the spokespeople of LGBT Students within the United Kingdom. They will represent LGBT students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for transgendered facilities in institutions, against estrangement of LGBT students in society and working with national bodies on improving the perception of LGBT people in college and university syllabuses.

The positions are based in London and are elected at LGBT Conference. They are each paid half of a full time position. The women's place position is only available to LBT women students.

The current LGBT Officers are Alan Bailey (Open Place), and Vicki Baars (Womens place). Their details and reports can be found here.

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/liberationofficers/alanbailey/>

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/liberationofficers/vickibaars/>

The close of nominations for the LGBT Officers is 5pm, 27<sup>th</sup> January

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/lgbt/>

## National Women's Officer

The NUS National Women's Officer is the spokeswoman of Women students within the United Kingdom. They will represent Women students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for flexibility in the timetable to assist pressures from outside of university, challenging unequal rates of pay for women workers and encouraging feminist discourse within the curriculum.

The position is based in London and is elected at Women's Students' Conference

The current National Women's Officer is Estelle Hart. Her details and reports can be found here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/liberationofficers/estellehart/>

The close of nominations for National Women's Officer is 5pm, 27<sup>th</sup> January

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/womens/>

## Liberation Committees

Each Liberation Campaign has a Committee of volunteers to help support the work of the full time officers and bring diversity to the leadership. The roles are elected at the Liberation Conferences and nominations open and close at those events. The roles are unpaid apart from expenses.

## The Nations and NUS-USI

NUS is a UK wide organisation, but within the UK there are some areas of devolved government; Northern Ireland and Wales. NUS Scotland and NUS Wales are special Nations of NUS that have their own executive committee, full time officers and democratic processes.

NUS-USI is a partnership organisation with the Union of Students' in Ireland set up to represent Northern Irish students.

### **NUS Scotland President**

The NUS Scotland President is the chief spokesperson on issues that affect Scottish Students. The NUS Scotland President will represent Scottish students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Their portfolio of work is decided by the policies of NUS Scotland conference.

The position is based in Edinburgh and is elected at Scottish Conference.

The current NUS Scotland President is Robin Parker. His details and reports can be found here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/robinparker/>

The close of nominations for NUS Scotland President is 5pm 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/scotland/>

### **NUS Scotland Depute President**

The NUS Scotland Depute President supports the work of the NUS Scotland President.

The NUS Scotland Depute President will represent Scottish students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Their portfolio of work is decided by the policies of NUS Scotland conference.

The position is based in Edinburgh and is elected at Scottish Conference.

The current NUS Scotland Depute President is Graeme Kirkpatrick. His details can be found here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/graemekirkpatrick/>

The close of nominations for NUS Scotland Depute President is 5pm 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/scotland/>

### **NUS Scotland Women's Officer**

The NUS Scotland President is the chief spokeswoman on issues that affect Scottish Women Students.

The NUS Scotland will represent Scottish women students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Their portfolio of work is decided by the policies of NUS Scotland Women's conference.

The position is based in Edinburgh and is elected at Scottish Women's Conference.

The current NUS Scotland Women's Officer is Kelley Temple. Her details can be found here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/kelleytemple/>

The close of nominations for NUS Scotland Women's Officer is 5pm 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/scotland/liberationcampaigns/womenscotland/>

### **NUS Wales President**

The NUS Wales President is the chief spokesperson on issues that affect Welsh Students.

The NUS Wales President will represent Welsh students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Their portfolio of work is decided by the policies of NUS Wales conference.

The position is based in Cardiff and is elected at NUS Wales Conference.

The current NUS Wales President is Luke Young. His details and reports can be found here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/lukeyoung/>

The close of nominations for NUS Wales President is 5pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/wales/>

## **NUS Wales Deputy President**

The NUS Wales Deputy President takes the lead on the Further Education and Welfare campaigns in NUS Wales.

The NUS Wales Deputy President will represent Welsh students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Their portfolio of work is decided by the policies of NUS Wales conference.

The position is based in Cardiff and is elected at NUS Wales Conference.

The current NUS Wales Deputy President is Raechel Matthey. Her details are available here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/raechelmatthey/>

The close of nominations for NUS Wales Deputy President is 5pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/wales/>

## **NUS Wales Women's Officer**

The NUS Wales President is the chief spokeswoman on issues that affect Scottish Women Students.

The NUS Wales will represent Scottish women students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Their portfolio of work is decided by the policies of NUS Wales Women's conference.

The position is based in Cardiff and is elected at NUS Wales Women's Conference.

The current NUS Wales Women's Officer is Stephanie Lloyd. Her contact details are available here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/stephanielloyd/>

The close of nominations for NUS Wales Women's Officer is 5pm Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/wales/waleswomen/>

## **NUS-USI President**

The NUS-USI President is the chief spokesperson on issues that affect Northern Irish Students. They are a member of the NUS UK National Executive Committee and the USI National Executive.

The NUS-USI President will represent Northern Irish students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

The position is based in Belfast and is elected at NUS-USI Conference.

The current NUS-USI President is Adrienne Peltz. Her contact details and reports can be found here

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/nationofficers/adriannepeltz/>

The close of nominations for NUS-USI President is Thursday 29 March at 2pm.

See <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/nations/nus-usi/>

## **Nations Executives**

Each of the Nations and USI has an executive of students elected at their conferences to help guide the development and implementation of policy for that group. The roles are elected at the Nations Conferences and are unpaid apart from expenses.



## Student Sections

Some groups of students need special support because of their mode of study or the way that their Institution treats them in terms of services or finance. These sections are International Students, Mature and Part Time Students and Postgraduate Students.

The sections sit underneath the work of the Zones – International and Postgraduate students are part of the HE zone and Mature & Part Time students are part of the Welfare Zone.

[www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/international/](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/international/)

[www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/matureandpart-time](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/matureandpart-time)

[www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/postgrad/](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/postgrad/)

## International Students' Officer

The International Students' Officer is the spokesperson of International students and International Student affairs within the United Kingdom. They will represent students to government ministers, national and local media and the national and international communities.

Work they do could include campaigning for housing rights, against racism on campus and increasing support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with external pressures on their education.

The position is based in London and is elected at International Students Section Conference.

The current International Students' Officer is Christina Yan Zhang. Her contact details and reports can be found here <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/people/nus/officers/sectionofficers/christinayanzhang/>

The close of nominations for International Students' Officer is 5pm, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## Sections Representatives

The Mature and Part-time and Postgraduate sections have representatives elected by their Conferences to ensure that the views of those sections are properly heard within NUS' policies and support the Vice Presidents with responsibility for those zones in promoting those students within national and local bodies.

The positions are unpaid apart from expenses.

The close of nominations for sections representatives will be at their conferences in May.