

Students' Union Representative (Governance) 2026/27 – Role Description

The purpose of this role is to serve as the Chair of the Students' Union Trustee Board and as the Student Governor on the University Board, this is a different focus to the other three Students' Union Representatives.

You will play a central role in making sure students' interests shape the strategic decisions of both the Students' Union and the University. You will chair the Union's Board of Trustee meetings - ensuring strong governance, accountability, and a clear focus on student need.

As a Student Governor, you bring the student voice directly into senior University discussions, influencing decisions that impact education and student experience at the highest level.

What's expected from you in the role?

Both governance aspects of this role will require you to maintain professionalism, confidentiality, and good governance practice at all times. It will also include a lot of pre-meeting reading of complex papers and reports, high-level confidential information and long meetings (usually in early evenings).

As Chair of the Students' Union Trustee Board:

- Lead the Board to make sure decisions are student-centred, strategic, and in the best interests of the Union.
- Chair Board meetings effectively by setting the tone, keeping discussions focused, and ensuring all trustees can contribute.
- Work closely with the Students' Union Chief Executive and the Vice Chair of the Board to set Board agendas.
- Maintain good judgement and neutrality.
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers, understanding issues, and seeking student insight where relevant.

As Student Governor on the University Board:

- Attend University Board meetings and engage confidently in discussions with senior leaders.
- Represent the collective views, needs, and experiences of students in high-level University decision-making.
- Challenge constructively, ask thoughtful questions, and promote transparency in university governance.
- Work with other Governors to influence improvements to the student experience and ensure students are considered in long-term planning.

- Maintain independence by representing the whole student body - not just specific groups or personal views.
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers, understanding issues, and seeking student insight where relevant.
- Work with the Union's Senior Leadership Team to deliver the Students' Union report at each Governors' meeting.

What's expected from the Students' Union?

- To provide an informative induction and training programme which includes crucial training on; being an effective representation, being a trustee and community organising.
- Ongoing support and mentoring from our Senior Leadership Team.
- Provide access to professional development opportunities tailored to the role, including national networking and events through the National Union of Students (NUS), WonkHE and more.
- Provide flexibility for working around your studies, to ensure you have a healthy work/life/study balance.

To be an effective Student Governor, the University Governance Team will also support you and ensure you attend Student Governor training.

Key Information

Hours: Part-Time 14 hours per-week, based at Preston Campus.

Training & Induction: Those elected to the roles are expected to complete a mandatory training and induction programme, while the official start date for representatives is 1st July, we will require representatives to attend training before this date.

A strong induction is essential to your success as an SU Rep, so please keep the key training dates below free to ensure you're fully prepared for the role.

- 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th May (This date will be confirmed shortly)
- 22nd June

From 1st July, the role will commence and you will be required to attend training in-person at the Preston campus on the following dates:

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd July
- 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th July
- 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th July
- 15th & 16th September

From August, the roles will be 14 hours per week as standard for the remainder of the academic year.

You will be paid for attending any training and induction sessions. Any travel, accommodation or meals needed for external training or conferences will be paid for by the Union.

If you need support in staying/travelling to Preston Campus for the days you're needed in-person over the summer – for example, your accommodation contract ends in May, we can support you with overnight accommodation in order for you to attend. We will discuss this with you at the Welcome & Initial Induction in May.

Contract Length: 1st July 2026 – 30th June 2027, with paid training days in May and June.

Salary: Scale B1 (£22,932 Full Time Equivalent). £9,172.80 (pro-rata) per annum [Plus contributory pension]. This salary is subject to any pay award.