



Goldsmiths Students Union Student Trustee Recruitment Pack

We're looking for enthusiastic, committed, and reliable students to join our Board of Trustees for a one-year term.

Becoming a Student Trustee is a unique opportunity to shape the direction, impact, and future of Goldsmiths Students' Union. As a trustee, you will play a vital role in ensuring the organisation is well-governed, financially sustainable, and delivering on its mission to support and represent students.

This role offers the chance to contribute your perspective at the highest level of decision-making, working alongside other trustees and staff to guide strategy, oversee risk, and uphold the Union's values. You do not need prior board experience, just a commitment to making a difference, a willingness to learn, and the passion to bring your voice to the table. This is also a valuable development opportunity, helping you build skills in leadership, governance, and strategic thinking.

If you're ready to step into governance and make a meaningful contribution, we encourage you to apply! Read on for more information.

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What is Goldsmiths Students Union?

We're the heart & voice of the Goldsmiths student body. Goldsmiths Students' Union is a charity representing over 10,000 students studying at Goldsmiths, University of London. We're here to provide support and advice to make university life easier, whilst representing students on the issues that matter.

Goldsmiths Students' Union is a democratic organisation, run for students by students. We represent the views of Goldsmiths students through our team of elected Officers, who are elected annually and are supported by a permanent staff team. In addition to being the voice of Goldsmiths students, we also run commercial services such as the SU Shop, the SU Cafe, the Nursery, which fund services for students such as clubs, societies and the Advice Service.

We are currently seeking motivated and talented students to join our Board of Trustees as Student Trustees, helping to shape the future of our organisation and the student experience at Goldsmiths.

What is the Trustee Board, and what is the role of the Student Trustee?

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Students' Union. Its primary responsibility is to ensure that the Union operates effectively, adheres to legal and constitutional requirements, and remains financially and strategically sound.

Our Board is made up of:

- 4 Sabbatical Trustees - elected students who have recently graduated or are taking time away from their studies.
- 4 Student Trustees - current students.
- 4 External Trustees - appointed members from outside the student body.

This structure ensures that decision-making is both student-focused and strategic, promoting the sustainability and long-term success of the organisation. As a Student Trustee, you are a member of the Board of Trustees and share collective responsibility for the leadership, governance, and long-term sustainability of Goldsmiths Students' Union.

The role of all Trustees is to:

- Act in accordance with the Union's governing document, policies, and procedures at all times.
- Ensure the organisation complies with UK charity law, Charity Commission guidance, and other relevant regulations.



- Act in the best interests of the Union and its members.
- Support and uphold the Union's charitable objects, acting as a guardian and champion of its purpose to advance the education of students for the public benefit.
- Contribute to the strategic direction of the Union, including setting priorities and monitoring performance.
- Oversee financial sustainability, ensuring resources are used responsibly and effectively.
- Identify and monitor risks, ensuring appropriate controls and mitigations are in place.
- Work collaboratively with other trustees, senior staff, and relevant stakeholders.
- Maintain an up-to-date understanding of the Union, its activities, and the wider higher education environment.
- Contribute actively to Board discussions, offering constructive challenge and support where appropriate, maintaining confidentiality where required.

As a Student Trustee, you will be expected to:

- Attend approximately five meetings per year, including Board meetings, relevant sub-committees, and any extraordinary meetings as called by the Board.
- Attend three Student Forum Meetings and the union's Annual General Meeting.
- Participate in training and induction sessions to understand your role.
- Prepare thoroughly for meetings by reading materials and Board papers in advance.
- Participate in Board discussions, items for approval, and any other Board meeting agenda items.
- Maintain regular communication with other Trustees via email, providing feedback and insights as needed.

The Trustee role is voluntary and unpaid.

Helpful Links

For Governing Documents of Goldsmiths Students Union, visit:

<https://www.goldsmithssu.org/about-us/governance/>

For information on how democracy works at Goldsmiths Students Union, visit:

<https://www.goldsmithssu.org/activism/democracy/forum/>



Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge		
An understanding of and commitment to the strategic direction and aims of Goldsmiths Students' Union	✓	
A good understanding of the issues affecting students at Goldsmiths	✓	
Willingness to learn about the role of a trustee, and the interactions between governance, campaigning and services	✓	
Awareness of the current issues affecting Higher Education		✓
Interest in areas such as finance, marketing and communications, equality and diversity, HR, social policy, or democratic governance		✓
Skills		
Offer constructive challenge to Union management and elected officers	✓	
Ability to think critically and analyse information to form balanced, evidence-based views	✓	
Ability to listen actively and contribute thoughtfully to discussions and decision-making	✓	
Utilise personal skills and experiences to help advance the Union's goals	✓	
Advocate for the Students' Union within and beyond the university community, such as through networking		✓
Ability to interpret information such as reports, data, or financial information (with support)		✓
Values		
Integrity: Upholding honesty and strong moral principles in all actions.	✓	
Respect: Being friendly and considerate to create a positive, inclusive environment.	✓	
Progressive Values: Embracing fairness, equality, diversity, ethics, and sustainability.	✓	
Commitment to Student Leadership: Understanding the importance of students shaping the Union's direction and activities.	✓	
Empowerment: Supporting others, enabling them to fulfil their roles and reach their potential.	✓	



Equality of Opportunity

We're committed to equality of opportunity for all. We welcome applications from individuals regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, gender, or disability status. We want to support diverse and inclusive work environments and are actively looking for people who share our values. We encourage applications from people with different circumstances and from all walks of life as well as those from traditionally underrepresented groups.

Term of Office

If hired, you will hold office for a period of usually two years starting in June yearly.

Expected Time Commitment

The Trustee Board has scheduled meetings five times a year, for two hours per meeting, usually from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on a Wednesday. Meetings are usually scheduled in the months of October, December, February, April and June. Changes may be made to the schedule to accommodate availability and clashes if any.

Extraordinary meetings can also be scheduled and called for by the Board when the need arises.

Meetings are typically online to accommodate flexible schedules, but are often held hybrid as well and Trustees are invited to attend in person on campus.

Trustees are expected to attend training/induction events, and to read meeting papers before the meeting.

Training and Induction

All trustees receive a comprehensive welcome pack covering their legal and governance responsibilities as charity trustees. Student Trustees will also be given tailored training. Additional information is provided throughout the year as needed. All trustees will be invited to the Students Union office before starting to meet the staff team, and discuss any concerns or questions they may have.

Trustees are expected to review the provided resources before starting their role. Trustees will also be expected to sign a Working Agreement and other forms before starting their role.



Expenses

The Trustee role is voluntary and unpaid. However, the Union will cover reasonable expenses such as transport to meetings where necessary, and other reasonable costs incurred whilst carrying out the duties of being a Goldsmiths Students Union Trustee.

Benefits of Being a Trustee

- Gain valuable governance and leadership experience.
- Influence key decisions that affect the student body and the Union's direction.
- Develop new skills in strategic thinking, teamwork, and organisational management.
- Be part of a dynamic team working to create positive change for students at Goldsmiths.

How to Apply?

Please complete the application form at: <https://forms.gle/ewnM2q7e2AoFaks96>

You will be required to upload a CV in the form. You will be asked to provide some details, and there is space for you to tell us about yourself and your interest in the role. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

If you have any questions about the role, please contact:
democracy@goldsmithssu.org and recruitment@goldsmithssu.org.

Apply today!