

Student Trustee

To apply for this role, you must be a University of Greenwich student for the Academic year 2020/2021.

Greenwich Students' Union (GSU) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, providing services to students at the University of Greenwich. There are approximately 20,000 students at the University of Greenwich. 80% of students are commuting each day to campus and teaching is spread across 3 campuses.

Our services to students operate between Greenwich, Avery Hill and the Medway campuses. We are soon to conclude our Big Plan and have developed GSU services to achieve our two goals:

1. Empower our members to change the world
2. Ensure our members have a great time at Greenwich.

The impact of COVID-19 has created challenges for all organisations and at GSU we have responded strongly to protect jobs and services. As we emerge from lockdown we have developed a 1 year Recovery Plan to steer 2020/21.

As a trustee you will help drive GSU to achieve this plan and outline with the board a new strategy for 2021 and beyond. We are seeking a new Trustee to bring their passion, energy, and strategic vision to join our board.

Our trustee board is Chaired by Dr Elizabeth Jones and we have a total of 13 members made up of 7 external trustees from industry, 4 elected student trustees (Sabbatical Officers) and 4 appointed student trustees. We have a series of committees that operate alongside the main board meetings and we are keen for you to join our Staffing and Governance Committee. The Trustee Board meets five times a year – November, January, March, May and July.

In 2018/19 GSU had an annual turnover of c.£3m. This was made up of annual subvention grant from the University of Greenwich, grants, Social Enterprise revenue through traded services and gift-in-kind (donated services).

In September 2018 we moved into the Dreadnought student hub at the heart of the Old Royal Naval College campus opening a new coffee shop – Change – and 500 capacity venue – Lower Deck. These venues are additional to our convenience store – The Village Shop - at the Avery Hill campus, merchandise and medial sales income. This move has provided GSU with the opportunity to greatly expand our student engagement and services alongside driving commercial revenue. The success of GSU to generate money through our commercial revenue is a strategic priority as any profit made, we can invest back into providing services to students.

Greenwich Students' Union Trustee Board includes spaces for four Student Trustees, recruited from the SU's membership to provide a student perspective for the Board and to provide continuity.

The role of a Trustee can be summarised by:

Working with other members of the Trustee Board to be responsible for overseeing the management and administration of the Union.

As a Board, have the ultimate responsibility for:

- The governance of the Union;
- The budget of the Union;
- Strategy of the Union, following a vote by members on the strategy and direction of the Union.
- Student Trustees are expected to serve for at least one year, although it is hoped that they will serve for two years. The Trustee Board currently meets six times a year.
- Student trustees can also be members of Committees (these are sub-meetings of the trustee board). These trustees may be asked for some additional time commitment, which usually involves dealing with information by email.
- We will provide training to new trustees to help ensure you know more about the role and how to make the most out of meetings.

About you

There is no experience required but you must be a University of Greenwich student for the Academic year 2020/2021

You just need to be a member of the Students' Union (i.e. a current student) with at least a year left to study at the University. You will be given an induction if you are given a Student Trustee role, and support from the Students' Union team.

Trustees will ideally have some of the following attributes:

- Strategic vision.
- Good, independent judgement.
- The ability to think creatively and problem-solve.
- A diplomatic approach and a willingness to speak your mind.
- The ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- Effective communications skills.
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.
- A commitment to the organisation.
- An understanding of the role and the duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.

To apply please email CV to gsurecruitment@gre.ac.uk and answer the three questions in a word document:

1. Tell us a little about yourself
2. What do you know about the Students' Union

3. How do you think you can help the Students' Union Trustee Board

Deadline: Thursday 29th October 2020

You can also contact our Chief Exec John Schless for a conversation by e-mailing j.schless@gre.ac.uk or our President Bilal Ijaz b.ijaz@gre.ac.uk

Next steps:

The Chair of Trustees and President will review applications and if successful will invite you for a Microsoft Teams introduction meeting in early November. The Chief Executive will provide a full induction.

The next GSU Trustee meeting is Tuesday 26th November 2020 from 6pm – 8pm which we hope the successful candidates can attend.

Further information:

The GSU Articles and policies can be found here:

<https://www.greenwichsu.co.uk/aboutus/articles/>

The GSU Trustee Handbook can be found here:

https://www.greenwichsu.co.uk/assets//site_resources/trusteehandbook_2020.pdf

More details about GSU Trustees can be found here:

<https://www.greenwichsu.co.uk/aboutus/trustees/>

Please note that, in accordance with the SU's governing documents, legislation and NUS guidance, you are not eligible to be both a Student Trustee and an employee of the SU, and/or an elected Faculty Officer, and/or an Elected Activities Executive.