



ASTON STUDENTS' UNION TRUSTEE BOARD RECRUITMENT

Aston Students' Union (ASU) is looking for motivated and talented students to become trustees, helping to manage the finance and strategy of the organisation, providing a solid structure of expertise and experience to ensure the Students' Union achieves its charitable aims.

About Aston University Students' Union (ASU)

The Students' Union is an incorporated association and registered charity (1152067). The aim of Aston Students' Union is to be the **go to place** for students, helping all students get the most from their time as a student at Aston University. We want to **inspire and be inspired** by the students we work with and support.

ASU has gone through a transformative process. Fuelled by growing student numbers and increasingly high expectations, it has become one of the most well respected service providers on campus and WhatUni recently declared it as **one of best students' union in the country**. In addition the new SU building is poised to win the Guardian HE Buildings that Inspire Award this autumn to make the student experience at Aston the best it can be.

Of course we are asking you to become a student trustee as we all begin to grapple with and understand what a 'new norm' might look like in this Coronavirus affected world, the board will have a key role to play in **helping steering the organising to adapt and evolve accordingly**.

Why we need you – Experience and Skills

Every University is required to have a Students' Union by virtue of the 1994 Education Act. The objectives for each Students' Union are; **to represent the needs of students to the University, to provide, where relevant, welfare services, to ensure there are opportunities to play sport and engage in recreational activities and to run free and fair elections for our own governance**. Each Union is also regulated by the Charities Commission and, as an affiliate of the National Union of Students (NUS), is part of a network of 7 million students.

You'll be part of a team of up to **12 other trustees made up of a mixture of officer, external alumni and students**. There are normally four to five trustee meetings each year. ASU believes the eclectic mix of trustees ensures decisions will be student-focussed with a firm consideration on the sustainability of the organisation. The Trustee Board is chaired by the Students' Union President.

You can find out more about our board here: https://www.astonsu.com/your_su/governance/
Meetings take place both virtually and physically.

Trustee Responsibilities

Trustee boards don't do, they ensure things get done.

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. Trustees have and must accept ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and **ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the charitable outcomes** for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up.

Funding and Staffing

90% of income is derived from a Block Grant awarded by the University of £962,000. Commercial services and other fundraising account for the final 10%. **Total turnover is around £2m.** ASU employs around 60 staff, half permanent and half student staff, within the four key areas of Marketing and Commercial Development, Finance and Central Support, Membership Services, and Student Officers.

How are appointments made?

Student trustees are appointed by the appointments committee, following **submission of a CV, with covering letter and then interview.** The board would ideally receive applications from students with two years to go at Aston, either as a student or on placement or both. This, however, is not essential.

What can you expect from the Students' Union?

A typical year would include:

MONTH	ACTIVITY
AUGUST - OCTOBER	4th Quarter Finance and KPIs Report
	Email oversight of Fresher's Activity
	Annual Accounts and Trustee Report
NOVEMBER – JANUARY	First quarter reporting
	Review market research
	Establish plans of coming year
FEBRUARY -APRIL	Overview of the election process (via email)
	Meeting to consider 2nd Quarter Finance and KPIs report
	Budget boundaries set for coming year
MAY – JULY	Budget for following year
	3rd Quarter Finance and KPIs Report
	Strategic Planning Review Day
	Attend Union Awards event
	New Trustees Induction

You will receive any papers and documents for the meetings in good time, which of course we expect you to have read in advance! We expect all new trustees to complete a new induction programme.

NEXT STEPS

If you are interested please contact **Max Mcloughlin, CEO**, to arrange an informal conversation or simply send through **your CV and covering letter to m.mcloughlin@aston.ac.uk** or have a look at the website for a better idea as to the services and opportunities the Students' Union aims to deliver for its members **www.astonsu.com**