

Aston Students' Union Trustee Board

Recruitment

Aston Students' Union (ASU) is looking for motivated and talented Chair for our Trustee Board. The role will be key in supporting the Trustee Board and its oversight of the organisational strategy, finances and governance structures, along with the support and accountability of the CEO, 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). Aston SU strives to be an SU for everyone. Following the pandemic and we want to give students the experience they deserve.

ASU is going through an exciting and transformative process. Fuelled by growing student members and increasingly high expectations, it aspires to make the student experience at Aston the best it can be. The award winning SU Building, in the heart of campus, is allowing more students than ever before to experience the Union.

We are looking for motivated and talented individual to become our Chair of the Trustee Board

ASU is membership organisation, made up of the 18,000 students studying at Aston University. Our members are as diverse as the city itself. You can find out more about this exciting organisation here: [About Aston SU](#)

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 officers, external alumni and students. There are normally four to six 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. You will be the chair of the board

You have an opportunity to play a key leadership role in one of Birmingham's biggest and most exciting charities.

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.

As Chair of the Board you have the further responsibility of supporting and holding the charity's CEO to account. This takes place both formally – for example annual setting of objectives and KPIs and informally – short regular catch up meetings.

Funding and Staffing

90% of income is derived from a Block Grant awarded by the University of £1.750m and Commercial services and other fundraising account for the final 10%. Total turnover is around £3m.

ASU employs around 50 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?

Trustees are appointed by the appointments committee, following submission of a CV and covering letter and then interview. The panel are particularly keen to hear from candidates from Birmingham and the wider region and traditionally underrepresented groups on Trustee Boards

What can you expect from the Students' Union?

A typical year would include:

Month	Activity
August - October	4 th 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 2 nd Quarter Finance and KPIs report Budget boundaries set for coming year
May – July	Budget for following year 3 rd 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 an induction programme.

Next Steps

If you are interested, please contact Shadab Hussain, s.hussain30@aston.ac.uk, to arrange an informal conversation or simply send through your CV and covering letter.

Further information about the board can be found here:

<https://www.astonsu.com/your-su/governance/>