



Student Trustee Recruitment Pack 26*



When **you** want
to be a part of
our journey.





Welcome from the President

Thank you for your interest in the role of Student Trustee at Sunderland Students' Union. Our vision is to provide students with opportunities to grow, develop and achieve throughout their lives. We have recently undertaken a Democracy and Governance Review to revitalise how students engage with their Students' Union across both the Sunderland and London campuses. The findings highlighted the need to move away from traditional models of SU democracy towards a more community organising approach.

Engaging with our students is fundamental – everything we do is for them. We are now seeking to appoint two Student Trustees with passion and enthusiasm to help shape the future of the organisation.

Your perspective as a current student is essential to ensuring student voices are represented at a strategic level. As a Trustee, you will play a key role in both supporting and constructively challenging how we deliver the best possible student experience.

To continue improving what we do, we must understand what matters most to our students and ensure they are at the heart of every decision.

If you are passionate about enhancing the student experience at the University of Sunderland, we encourage you to apply.

For further information or an informal discussion about the Students' Union or the role please contact centralservices@sunderland.ac.uk

Ade Adeoye

President: Sunderland 2026/27



The Role

What are we looking for?

We are looking to recruit two motivated individuals to become our next Student Trustees. This role offers valuable experience and an opportunity to enhance your CV, while contributing to the strategic direction of the organisation.

You should be passionate about making a positive difference to the student experience and committed to supporting the continued development of the Union. As a Trustee, you will contribute to overseeing the organisation's strategy and finances, working collaboratively to deliver meaningful and lasting impact for students.

To apply, you must be a current student for the full 2026/27 academic year. No prior experience is required, as full training will be provided.

The role is for an initial term of one or two years, as agreed by the Appointments Committee, and commencing in accordance with the Byelaws. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with the alteration of the year start or end.

A Student Trustee may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms, subject to remaining a student for the duration.

The Board typically meets eight to twelve times per year, alongside induction and training sessions. This includes Board meetings and any sub-committees to which you are appointed. At least two Board meetings per year will be held in person at the Sunderland campus. We will of course reimburse any out-of-pocket expenses incurred.



Our Board of Trustees:

Understanding your role and remit

Sunderland SU is governed by a Board of Trustees, who ensure that it operates effectively and in the best interests of Sunderland students. The Board consists of 11 Trustees, each bringing a unique perspective and contribution to discussions.

The table below offers a brief summary of expectations for Trustees:

Type of Trustee	How many?	Term of Office	Recruitment Method	What they bring to the board
Officer Trustee 26/27	2	One year – two if re-elected	Cross campus ballot – Trustee by virtue of this representative position	Elected mandate from students • <i>Understand the issues affecting the Union</i> • <i>Understand the University landscape</i>
Student Trustee	4	One or two years	Appointed by trustees on recommendation of an Appointments Panel	Voice of current students Knowledge of issue affecting students
External Trustee	5	Four years, can serve a maximum of two terms		Experience and skills from wider world • <i>Potential specialist areas of knowledge (campaigning, charity or media law, accounting, social policy, etc.)</i> • <i>Possible previous Trustee experience</i>



Key Responsibilities

The key responsibilities for the role are:

- To ensure that the Union complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that the Union pursues its objects as defined in the Articles of Association
- To ensure the Union uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects
- To contribute actively to the board of trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the Union, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of the Union
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Union
- To ensure the financial stability of the Union
- To protect and manage the property of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds
- To appoint the CEO, as and when necessary, and monitor their performance

Additionally as a Trustee, you will be required to:

- Actively participate in the meetings
- Prepare for Board meetings by reading through materials and Board papers beforehand
- Keep in regular contact with the other Trustees and provide feedback and input on issues when they arise
- As an Officer Trustee or a Student Trustee, be mentored by an External Trustee; as an external Trustee, mentor an Officer Trustee and/or Student Trustee



Trustee eligibility

You will be required, by law, to declare that you are able to become a charity Trustee. Before submitting your expression of interest, please determine that you are not prevented from becoming a Trustee because you:

- Actively participate in the meetings
- Prepare for Board meetings by reading through materials and Board papers beforehand
- Keep in regular contact with the other Trustees and provide feedback and input on issues when they arise
- As an Officer Trustee or a Student Trustee, be mentored by an External Trustee; as an external Trustee, mentor an Officer Trustee and/or Student Trustee
- Have an unspent conviction for one or more of the offences [listed here](#)
- Have an IVA, debt relief order and/or a bankruptcy order
- Have been removed as a trustee in England, Scotland or Wales (by the Charity Commission or Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)
- Have been removed from being in the management or control of any body in Scotland (under relevant legislation)
- Have been disqualified by the Charity Commission
- Are a disqualified company director
- Are a designated person for the purposes of anti-terrorism legislation
- Are on the sex offenders register
- Have been found in contempt of court for making (or causing to be made) a false statement
- Have been found guilty of disobedience to an order or direction of the Charity Commission

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable	Method of assessment		
			A	I	P/T
Qualifications					
Current student	✓		✓		
Evidence of ongoing CPD		✓			
Skills, abilities, knowledge and expertise					
Understanding of the current issues affecting students	✓		✓	✓	
Excellent communication skills	✓		✓	✓	✓
Offer challenge to the SU management and other Trustees	✓		✓		
A commitment to the development of others; being supportive and enabling them to be empowered	✓		✓		✓
Ability to work effectively in a team as well as work independently	✓		✓		
Experience of the Students' Union movement		✓			
Experience of working at a board level and of governance		✓			
Values and behaviours					
Act with integrity; adhere to the Nolan principles	✓		✓		
A demonstrable commitment to our organisational values	✓		✓		
Be an ambassador of the Students' Union; a critical friend to both the SU and, indirectly, the University	✓		✓		
Be able to network on behalf of the Students' Union	✓		✓		
Contribute to Board meetings and value the opinions of others	✓		✓	✓	
Strong commitment to, and understanding of, the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion	✓		✓	✓	

Key:

A – Application form

I – Interview

P/T – Presentation/task



The Nolan Principles

The Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles) apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder.

These principles are:

Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity: Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity: Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness: Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty: Holders of public office should be truthful

Leadership: Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs



How to apply

To express an interest in this role, please provide:

- A covering letter (maximum one side of A4) outlining your motivation for applying. Please include details of your course, along with your start and expected end dates.
- A personal statement (maximum two sides of A4) demonstrating how you meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification.
- An up-to-date CV detailing your relevant experience and achievements.
- A completed Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion form, available at: sunderlandsu.co.uk/jobs

Please send completed applications to: centralservices@sunderland.ac.uk by midnight on Sunday 27 September 2026. Interviews will take place on Friday 9 October 2026.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact: centralservices@sunderland.ac.uk



Welcome to your space on campus.

