STUDENT TRUSTEES PERSON SPECIFICATION

Introduction
The governing body of the University, the Board of Trustees, has ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the University. In particular the Board has to ensure that the University is well-run, meeting its aims and working within its legal, regulatory and financial obligations.

The Board has two student members (the Student Trustees). Student Trustees have just the same rights and responsibilities as the other members of the Board, and all trustees have a duty to act in the broad interests of the University. Other members of the Board include the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, as well as other University staff and members from outside the University. More detail about the current members can be found here.

It’s really important for the Board to make the best possible decisions, and so members of the Board are chosen to bring a wide range of skills and experience. Trustees make decisions for the benefit of the University as a whole, not just for their particular constituency, and take collective responsibility for Board decision-making. Although Student Trustees don’t ‘represent’ student views in the usual sense, and must not seek to lobby the Board in respect of student matters, they use their knowledge and experience of being a student to help inform the Board’s decision-making and to bring perspective rather than partisanship to Board discussions.

Term of Office:
One year: from 1 July to 30 June. You can stand for re-appointment if you continue to be a student or a Sabbatical Officer.

Time Commitment:
You must attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees, and you are expected to prepare for each meeting by reading the paperwork for that meeting (this is sent 7 days in advance). Most meetings of the Board of Trustees take place over one full day.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees for the year ahead are:
• 5 July 2019 (1 day)
• 20 September 2019 (1 day)
• 22 November 2019 (1 day)
• 31 January 2020 (1 day)
• 2 and 3 April 2020 (1 half day away day, followed by evening dinner and 1 day for a meeting)
• 26 June 2020 (1 day).

You may also be asked to join one or more of the committees of the Board of Trustees.

Core Responsibilities:
• Attend meetings regularly.
• Participate fully in Board of Trustees’ debate and discussion, listening to others, and to make your knowledge and experience available to the Board as the opportunity arises.
• Along with the other Trustees, to ensure that the University has a clear strategic direction; help to monitor/evaluate the University’s delivery of that strategy; and ensure that the University appropriately addresses risks to strategy delivery.
• Attend training as required to carry out your role (the University provides an induction, and both the University and the SU will provide you with ongoing support).
• Along with the other Trustees, to ensure that the University complies with its legal, regulatory and financial obligations.
• Act as an ambassador for the University, promoting its activities in the wider community.

**Who would make a good Student Trustee?**
This role would suit someone who really cares about the University and is interested in how it is run. In particular the University is looking for Student Trustees who are:

• Rational – you may have really firm views on a particular topic, but all Trustees should be willing to listen to the views of others and able to communicate their own in a diplomatic way.
• Reliable – you need to be able to attend meetings, and to make sure you prepare properly for them.
• Responsible – at times, you will be asked to discuss matters and papers that are sensitive and/or confidential. All Trustees have legal responsibilities and are ultimately responsible for the direction of the whole University.

Ideally, Student Trustees will have leadership roles within Bristol SU, the University and/or our local community. You should have a good understanding of the issues facing our diverse student body.

All members of Board are expected to act in accordance with *the University’s General Role Description and Code of Conduct for members of the Board*, which is available on our vacancy page which is listed below.

Information about all governance opportunities can be found [here](#).