



THE STUDENTS' UNION AT UWE

THE STUDENT ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY 2025

THE STUDENTS'
UNION
AT UWE

WHAT WE WILL COVER

- About The Students' Union
- Eligibility in election
- Employment at The Students' Union
- Immigration and Visas



ABOUT THE STUDENTS' UNION

- All elected representatives are supported by over 40 permanent staff at The Students' Union.
- There are many departments all with own goals including Advice, Commercial, Community, Finance, HR, IT, Marketing, Opportunities and Representation. The SU even has a nursery!
- Staff provide expertise and support in key functional areas.
- Elected representatives will work with staff on their manifestos to translate them into actual plans.



ELIGIBILITY

All candidates must be current UWE Bristol students when running in the election.

- Students who are part of a partner organisation (e.g. International College, Weston College or SGS College students) are not eligible to run or vote in the elections
- Students whose course has completed by March 2025 will not be able to run in the elections or vote



ELIGIBILITY

All candidates must be current UWE Bristol students when running in the election.

For the President and Vice-President roles, it is a full-time (37 hours per week) role with an employment contract from June 2025 – June 2026.

1. You must have the relevant right to work documents and paperwork to work full-time in the UK for the entirety of your term.
2. You will not be studying during your sabbatical year and must either have completed your studies or willing to defer your studies during your term.
3. You will also be a trustee of the Students' Union, there you must be eligible to be a **charity trustee**.



TRUSTEE CRITERIA

The trustees are the individuals who make decisions on behalf of the charity. They must fulfil the following criteria:

- At least 18 years old
- No unspent convictions for offenses such as: dishonesty, terrorism, money laundering, misconduct in public office
- Not previously disqualified from being a trustee
- Not currently declared bankrupt
- Not on the sex offenders register
- Able to attend regular Board of Trustee meetings



ELIGIBILITY

All candidates must be current UWE Bristol students when running in the election

4. The SU President role is also appointed as a student governor to the University Board of Governors.
5. Students who are elected as a sabbatical officer and require a Student Visa can be sponsored by UWE Bristol for their elected term. They will have the opportunity to apply for the graduate visa if they meet the eligibility criteria for doing so.



FULL TIME SABBATICAL OFFICERS

- The full-time sabbatical officers (or Presidents) represent the students, both within The Students' Union, to the University and in the wider local community.
- The Presidents support student activities such as campaigning and engaging with students.
- The Presidents work with the Part Time Officers to inform Students' Union services to ensure its long-term sustainability and relevance to the student experience.



WHAT DOES 'FULL TIME' MEAN?

- Annual salary – paid in monthly instalments
- You will receive a yearly 'annual leave' / holiday entitlement of 27 days + Closure days/Bank Holidays
 - You will only have time off when holiday is booked and approved (unless you are unwell)
- You will work 'full time', 37 hours per week
 - Office or Campus Based – You will be here to work alongside key stakeholders, engage with students and to complete work
 - Mandatory attendance to key meetings associated with your role
 - Will include evening and weekend working within the 37-hour working week



WHAT DOES 'FULL TIME' MEAN?

- You will be expected to work in adherence to:
 - Eligibility to work within the UK
 - Our Staff Handbook
 - Your individual contract of employment/ employment terms
 - The Constitution
 - In alignment with our organisational values and behaviours
- All full-time roles will include the following duties:
 - Admin and office based tasks, such as emailing, attending meetings, phone calls, printing etc.
 - Obtaining feedback from students, networking and attending conferences
 - Leading key campaigns and events alongside Students' Union staff plus lobbying for change and representing students



Presented by

**Immigration
Advice Service**

January 2025

International Students and Student Union Sabbatical Officer posts

Can I become a Student Union Sabbatical Officer if I am an international student with a Student Visa?

Yes!

The Student Visa route explicitly permits holders to undertake up to two years as a full-time, salaried, elected executive position as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer.

UWE will remain your Student Visa sponsor during your time in the role.

The Student Visa restrictions around working no more than 20 hours per week during term-time do not apply to Student Union Sabbatical Officer roles.



Will I have to apply for a new visa in order to undertake a Student Union Sabbatical Officer role

Yes, but...

It will still be under the Student Visa route.

If you have an existing Student visa which is not due to expire immediately you can start the sabbatical role on that visa, but will then need to apply for a new one before it expires

If you have completed your studies and your existing Student Visa is about to expire you can apply for a new Student Visa to cover the period of the sabbatical role



Can the Immigration Advice Service at UWE advise me on making a Student Visa application?

YES!!

Please contact us by emailing immigrationadvice@uwe.ac.uk or attending one of our drop-in sessions (Mon/Wed 2-4pm and Tue/Thurs 10-12am)

The **current** cost of a standard application is £490 and the immigration health surcharge is £776 per year of leave requested



Can I study whilst I undertake a Student Union Sabbatical Officer role

No.

UKVI have advised UWE:

“A Student Union Sabbatical Officer is expected to be taking a sabbatical from their studies for the purpose of undertaking a full-time, salaried, elected, executive union position. They should not be studying and working full-time at the same time.

If the sabbatical role does not fall between or after your academic years you will need to explore a suspension of studies and be aware of the implications of this – for example the deadlines for requesting a suspension and options for returning to studies after the sabbatical post.



Can I still become eligible to apply for the Graduate Visa if I undertake a Student Union Sabbatical Officer role

Yes, provided...

That you meet all of the normal criteria for the Graduate Visa – these include successful completion of a relevant qualification studied for in the UK on a Student Visa

That your qualification is completed either before or after (not during) leave granted to undertake a Sabbatical Officer role



Should I contact the Immigration Advice Service at UWE before running for election as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer?

YES!!

It is essential that you understand how your visa works in relation to sabbatical role and that you are aware of any actions you may need to take regarding your visa before you commit to taking the role.

Please contact us by emailing immigrationadvice@uwe.ac.uk or attending one of our drop-in sessions (Mon/Wed 2-4pm and Tue/Thurs 10-12am)





THE STUDENTS' UNION AT UWE

QUESTIONS?

Register your attendance!

