



NUS Charity Independent Trustee Recruitment

Voluntary position

About NUS Charity

NUS Charity is the membership organisation for Students' Unions in the UK and our membership includes 95% of students' unions across the country.

Together, we use our collective power to create, build and grow strong Students' Unions. We develop and champion strong students' unions through advice, guidance and crisis support. We connect members and curate services. For members who trade, we help students' unions to make the most of their commercial enterprise income. www.nusconnect.org.uk

Key achievements in the last year have included

- Submitted [written evidence](#) to the committee for the HE (Freedom of Speech) Bill.
- Ran an [Employee Engagement Survey](#), which helped our members to measure the engagement and satisfaction of their staff.
- Trained over 540 officers in leadership skills at our training events across the UK.
- Returned over 100 students' union elections, through our [unique elections support service](#)
- Produced [people management and salary benchmarking data](#) for our sector
- Ran [Creating Equity at Work](#) and [Leadership on Race Equity](#) training courses, helping our members to make those important strategic decisions, promoting understanding and equity within their SUs.
- Posted over 850 Jobs on our [SU Careers site](#)
- [We launched an updated version of the SU Governance Code.](#) Unique to NUS Charity, we created this code to help other charities and their trustees develop high standards of governance.

[Read more about our impact and value in the last year here.](#)

We are seeking a new Trustee to join our Board to support this work. We're looking for an independently minded person who can offer insight and leadership scrutinize our work and champion what we do.

If you are interested in being part of NUS Charity and having a role in this work please read on!



About NUS Charity Trustees

We are seeking **one** Trustees to join on a three-year term. The NUS Charity Board consists of 12 members in total, four member Trustees from students' unions elected by NUS UK members, four members of NUS UK Board, and four Independent Trustees.

As a trustee you'll attend board meetings, scrutinise finances, feed into strategy for the Charity and make sure we are fulfilling our Charitable objects. You'll be working with fellow Board members on our three priorities to **rebuild SU faith in NUS, make NUS sustainable and deliver on our promises**

NUS Charity is linked to a non-charity, National Union of Students (United Kingdom). This link allows us to share board members, share resources for mutual benefit and act 'shoulder-to-shoulder' to the 430 Student's Unions that are members of both organisations. The link between the Charity and NUS UK has recently come under scrutiny from our members, the public and the regulator. As an appointed Independent Director you'll have a role alongside other Trustees in scrutinizing that relationship, ensuring it is in compliance with [Charity Commission guidance](#) and best practice.

Role Description

We see a combination of the below six areas as key to the success of NUS Charity Board. We don't expect every member to cover each of these areas but we expected Trustees to have an interest in all of these areas with specific expertise in one or two of them (explored further below.) A commitment to NUS Charity's values is particularly important.

Being Effective Board Members: First and foremost Trustees are responsible for the financial health and legal compliance of NUS Charity. Trustees will be expected to ensure the long-term viability of the organisation by ensuring organisational plans are effectively executed.

Lead with Students' Unions: Students' unions are the members of NUS Charity. We are made legitimate by their support, financed by their affiliation, and democratically accountable to them. We want Trustees who are interested their work and can turn their mandate into action.

Support Change: NUS has arrived at a place of financial safety but not financial security. We need Independent Trustees who can support the growth of our services, membership and spot new opportunities.

Interrogate what works: NUS Charity will only do the things that students' unions can't do by themselves for themselves. We need Trustees who can support the development of tools to assess the efficacy of our services and in turn interrogate data to see what's working.

Support NUS Staff: NUS Charity will be working in a marketplace, changing services frequently, and constantly innovating and trying new things out. We want Trustees who can bring new ideas and insight from commercial, public, and charitable sectors, and point us toward new innovations as an umbrella body.

Upholding NUS Charity's Values: Where students lead others have followed. Liberation is important to NUS because our identities affect our participation, achievement and progression in education. We want Trustees who can support our work with Black, LGBT+, Disabled, Trans, and Women, students.



Skills and expertise

We are seeking to recruit the widest possible pool of talent to be NUS Charity Independent Trustees. We need people who can perform the role of a Trustee in overseeing finance, risk, HR, and organisational development, but we also need a bit more than that.

Fundamentally, we're interested in people who can support NUS Charity to be sustainable and thereby support the success of its members. Some of the skills that we're interested in are listed below – this is non-exhaustive and we wouldn't expect one candidate to possess all of them!

- Experience in acting as Trustees or non-executive directors
- An awareness of the work of membership organisations and how to enhance their effectiveness
- Commercial expertise and an interest in growing our commercial offer
- An excellent track record in supporting organisations to deliver positive outcomes on diversity, equality, and social justice
- Experience in interrogating performance data and designing ways to measure organisational effectiveness
- A great record in fundraising for a range of organisations
- Worked in designing services in advice, capacity building, or crisis support (for organisations)
- Wide ranging knowledge in building links with public sector organisations.

But we also need a bit more than that. As a Trustee you'll be an active listener, someone who can interact with a range of stakeholders, holding to account and getting your point across with tact and clarity. We're looking for people who actively live our values to be inclusive, collaborative and anti-oppression in everything we do.

We want a wide range of applicants with a diverse range of skills who share a common belief in the ability of students' unions to affect change. This is open to anyone who believes they can volunteer to take NUS Charity on the next steps of its journey.

We're totally committed to equality of opportunity for all. We welcome applications from individuals regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation. We particularly welcome applications from black, asian and minority ethnic candidates, as they are currently under-represented as Trustees of NUS Charity and within the charity sector more broadly.

Legal and Governance Responsibilities

Collectively the NUS Charity Board has a responsibility to:

- Act as a single body;
- Ensure the organisation has a clear strategy or set of goals;
- Ensure the work and goals of the organisation are in line with its Charitable Objects
- Keep a check on the organisation's finances and activities;
- Act in accordance with [The Charity Commission's Essential Trustee guide](#)
- Act in accordance with the Nolan Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life; and
- Champion the values of our organisation.

Before taking up office we strongly advise you to make yourself aware of the [duties and responsibilities of company Directors](#) as well as the [responsibilities of Charity Trustees](#).



NUS expects all Trustees to read and agree to follow the terms of the NUS [Code of Conduct](#); a confidentiality agreement and a committee member agreement.

Time Commitment

Our NUS Charity Trustees are required to attend approximately four meetings per year (in person). This is in addition to the occasional away day, conference call, and attendance at NUS events. Trustees will also be expected to set time aside for reading papers. Trustees may also have the opportunity to serve on the Finance or HR Committees which is approximately another four days per year meeting. NUS Charity covers all reasonable out of pocket expenses as part of your trustee duties and we book in travel/accommodation for you so you are not out of pocket.

What you'll get out of it

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to give back and share the knowledge and expertise you have gained. NUS is a unique place to spend some time volunteering. Through the voices of 7million students we work to create a better world and support students to drive change.

Support

We value the Trustees of NUS Charity and seek to support them as volunteers. Feedback is a valued part of your experience and throughout your term you will be given opportunities to feedback on your experience. During your term any additional access needs or requirements will be supported.

Induction

We provide a comprehensive induction for board and committee members. In this induction we ensure that committee members understand the organisation's long term strategy and goals for the year ahead, are aware of the organisational risks and understand their responsibilities. The boards and committees also set out a plan for the year ahead on how they will work together, see the meetings working and ensure we receive value from their expertise.

Meeting others

This is a great opportunity to work with passionate, talented and experienced people from a diverse variety of backgrounds. This role will enable to you make great connections with student representatives, other trustees and colleagues which in turn will develop you as a person and in your career.

How to Apply

To apply for this position please email your CV and a Cover letter that outlines how your skills, experience and qualifications match the ambitions for the role set out in this pack.

The covering letter provides you with the opportunity to explain your motivation, as well as highlighting how your experience and achievements fit with the requirements of the role.

To apply please email your CV and covering letter to membership@nus.org.uk

Application closing date: 12pm 1 September 2022

If you would like an informal chat about the role ahead of applying please let us know via email to membership@nus.org.uk