

NUS Finance Committee Member Recruitment

Voluntary Position

About NUS and NUS Charity

NUS and NUS Charity work side by side with a common purpose: **to make our education, and our world, better through the collective power of students.**



NUS – campaigning nationally to improve the lives of students and delivering tangible impact for the student movement.

www.nus.org.uk



NUS Charity – developing and championing strong students' unions through advice, guidance and crisis support. Connecting members and curating services. For members who trade, helping students' unions to make the most of their commercial enterprise income.

www.nusconnect.org.uk

NUS and NUS Charity share a membership that includes 95% of students' unions across the country. 2021-22 has been an extraordinary year for students and students' unions. With the return to campus, new free-speech legislation, the cost-of-living crisis, and increased loan repayments, we have had to tackle a lot of challenges, with many still on-going. Despite the challenges, we've pulled together and achieved some amazing things.

The NUS family has been here with students and students' unions throughout the year and **we're proud of the positive impact NUS has had and the value NUS Charity has delivered.** [Read more about our impact and value in the last year here.](#)

We are seeking new members of our Finance subcommittee to support the work of NUS and NUS Charity by overseeing financial strategy and performance. We need members who can be excellent custodians of our financial responsibilities, ensuring both NUS and NUS Charity can exist and thrive in the future. If you have an enthusiasm for our work and a passion to harness our collective ambitions please read on!



About Finance Committee Members

We are seeking Finance committee members to join us on a **two-year term**. The Finance Committee is a subcommittee of the NUS and NUS Charity Boards with a responsibility for financial strategy looking at both of the two organisations. The committee consists of five members drawn from the NUS and NUS Charity Boards, plus external members. You would be joining us as an external member bringing a particular focus and expertise in finance and risk.

Whilst the Boards of NUS have decision-making powers in relation to Finance, the Finance Committee provide structures, governance and technical input according to the Board's decisions.

The purpose of the committee is to provide good governance and oversight to NUS and NUS Charity's finance strategy, performance and activities as well as ensuring that there are effective internal financial controls and processes.

It monitors the budget setting and reforecasting process together with the ongoing performance reporting against the budget set.

It ensures that the annual financial statements and accounts are prepared correctly and using the appropriate processes including with external auditors.

It ensures the presence of an appropriate reserves policy and supervises assets and investments.

This committee reviews any strategies that have finance implications including business plans and advises the boards and management of appropriate courses of action where appropriate.

This committee also has responsibility for audit and risk, including ensuring the effective business planning is in place to manage any risk.



Role Description

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

Being Effective Committee Members: Members will be expected to ensure the long-term viability of the organisation by ensuring organisational plans are effectively executed.

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

Lead with Officers: The political times we are in now call for committee members who can share their expertise and support our Full Time Officers to navigate a changing landscape. The job often involves balancing how we react to change within the parameters of our plans.

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 Members who are interested their work and can turn their mandate into action.

Support NUS Staff: NUS Charity will be working in a marketplace, changing services frequently, and constantly innovating and trying new things out. We want Members 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's Values: We strive to be anti-oppressive through our actions, reflections, and learning. We champion students and students' unions and use their power to build a movement that shapes the future of education for the benefit of the wider community. We will be welcoming, compassionate and treat our colleagues, members and friends fairly and equally. We treat each other with respect without fail, promote diversity and seek out new partnerships.

Skills and expertise

We are seeking to recruit the widest possible pool of talent to the Finance Committee. We're looking for applicants with a background in finance, risk and audit, but more than that we want to speak to applicants who have one of or a mixture of the following skills:

- Relevant financial qualifications
- Experience on a Subcommittee or Board of Directors/Trustees
- Experience at a senior level of financial management, scrutiny and planning
- Understanding of organisational risk
- Understanding of audit practices
- Understanding of risk and strategy
- Ability to understand a budget and to review audited accounts
- A collaborative approach and supportive nature
- 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

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

.....

Responsibilities

Collectively the committee is expected 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 stated vision
- Keep a check on the organisation's finances and activities;
- Act in accordance with the Nolan Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life; and
- Champion the values of our organisation.

NUS expects all committee members to read and agree to follow the terms:

- NUS [Code of Conduct](#);
- A confidentiality agreement; and
- A committee member agreement.

Time Commitment

Our committee members are required to attend approximately four meetings per year (usually online but some in person). This is in addition to the occasional away day, conference call, and attendance at NUS events. Members will also be expected to set time aside for reading papers.

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 7 million students, we work to create a better world and support students to drive change.

Support

We value our committee members 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.



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 with either the Chair of the Committee or Director of Finance please let us know via email to membership@nus.org.uk

