

# NUS UK Lay Director Recruitment

## Role Profile

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## Voluntary position

### About the Job

NUS UK works to make the world better for students through campaigning across the UK. We spend our time mobilising students, meeting with policy makers, and winning over public opinion on the big issues which impact all 7million learners we represent.

NUS is 97 years old and this might be our most important period yet. We've changed the way we work, we've got ourselves on a stable footing, and we can't wait to get going with our new organisation.

The challenge for us is not only how we win for students but how we operate as a new organisation. [In all of our work](#) we are seeking to build a consensus that a more equitable, affordable, and inclusive, FE and HE education system is possible. To do that, we need Directors who are comfortable with change, attuned to managing political risk, and can support our elected Full Time Officer.

Alongside this we need Lay Directors who can be excellent custodians of our reputation, finances, and legal responsibilities. We need to strengthen our relationships, be more visible, and win students back over to cause. If this sounds like you then read on.

### Commitment

Our NUS UK Lay Directors are required to attend approximately four meetings per year. This is in addition to the occasional away day, conference call, and attendance at NUS events. Directors will also be expected to set time aside for reading papers.

NUS UK Lay Directors may also have the opportunity to serve on the Finance or HR Committees which is approximately another four days per year meeting.

### Term length

We are looking for someone to complete a 3 year term as a NUS UK Lay Director.

A Lay Director may serve a subsequent three year term of approval by the Board.

### About NUS UK

#### **NUS UK is building a national student voice that is too loud to ignore**

- We bring students together to campaign on the things that matter
- We use political influence to make change for students across FE and HE
- We seek to eliminate all forms of discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry wherever it may appear.

- Through practical information and national action, we make sure students can thrive.
- We are informed – we develop research that influences national policy.
- We are active – we take on all the issues that affect students' lives now and in future.

## Our Priorities

2020 will be the first year of NUS UK's new operation. We've [come through reform](#) and our priorities over the next three years are pretty straight forward:

### ***Establish New Ways of Working***

We've been on a journey to reimagine what collective campaigning can look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need to turn this ambition into a student voice that is too loud to ignore.

### ***Securing the Future of NUS UK***

We've worked hard to get to a position of financial security but we're not yet at a position of financial safety. We need to keep tight control of our finances and build reserves to protect our future.

### ***Building a Public Presence***

We can make the biggest difference where we call people in to support our work. We have a programme work led by our Officers. We want Directors who can support their success and provide informal mentoring to build their confidence, and NUS UK's public presence.

## Job Description

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

**Take NUS UK to its Centenary:** NUS has arrived at a place of financial safety but not financial security. We need Lay Directors who can spot the opportunities for financial growth and organisational development which will ensure we get to our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in a better shape than ever.

**Lead with Officers:** The political times we are in now call for a Board of Directors 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.

**Build a Voice too loud to ignore:** Board members will be expected to support, interrogate, and strengthen, the work NUS does around political campaigning. This means we need Board members who have an interest in education policy and campaigns.

**Upholding NUS UK'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 Directors who can support our work with Black, LGBT+, Disabled, Trans, and Women, students.

## About you

To help students shape NUS' future direction, you will need to be able to think strategically, be creative and bring a range of different perspectives to the Board.

You will be the kind of person who would feel comfortable working in a student-led, democratic environment and who values equal opportunities. You will need to use a highly collaborative style to deliver real progress against a challenging, political mission.

This is a non-political role and committee members are not in place to shape the political and campaigning decisions, but they are in place to ensure we have a sound organisation with the best resources and finances in place to enable us to campaign.

## Skills and expertise

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

We're interested in the people who can support great campaigns, bring students together, and who can influence policy at the highest level. We're particularly keen to hear from candidates who might have the below skills:

- Experience in acting as Non-Executive Directors particularly in relation to Finance and HR.
- Knowledge and experience of managing organisational change

- Comfortable in driving strategy led by NUS' elected officers
- Experts in digital campaigns and using digital tools to enact change
- Enthusiasm and experience in youth-led campaigning
- An excellent track record in building campaigns around diversity, equality, and social justice
- A great knowledge of the Further Education/Higher Education sector
- A keen political antenna who can spot opportunities
- Wide ranging knowledge in building links with public and campaigning organisations.

We want a wide range of applicants with a diverse range of skills who share a common belief in the power of students to make change.

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 Directors of NUS UK and within the sector more broadly.

## Legal and Governance Responsibilities

- 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, usually defined in NUS UK's Articles;
- 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 Lay Directors to read and agree to follow the terms of:

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

## Benefits

### 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.

### Expenses

All reasonable expenses will be covered by us for the duration of your service as a volunteer. At all meetings lunch and beverages are provided, travel is arranged by us at no expense to you and any additional costs you incur due to travel are refunded.

### Support

We value the Directors of NUS UK 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 those 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.

Please submit your application via email to [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk)

**Applications are open from:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January until 12:00 on 27<sup>th</sup> February **Interviews will be held:** 16<sup>th</sup> April

Interviews are completed by a nominations committee which includes Directors, student representatives and the National President.

