

GUILD ELECTIONS



THE GUILD OFFICER TEAM

YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

What is the Guild of Students?

The Guild of Students is the organisation that gives students a voice within the University of Birmingham. We lobby the University and national organisations to ensure that you have the best possible time at university. We work to improve the quality of your education. We provide a wide-range of activities for our members, ranging from societies to nights out in Joe's Bar. We also work to support students through their time at university by offering services such as confidential welfare advice, job seeking help and house hunting advice. Above all, we provide you an opportunity to get involved!

What is the Guild Officer Team?

The Guild is led by 18 Guild Officers, who together make up the Officer Team. The Officer Team leads the Guild's campaigning and representative work. It meets regularly during the term time to coordinate the work of the officers and ensure that the Guild is campaigning and lobbying effectively.

Working with Guild Council they provide the leadership that ensures the Guild is truly student-led. The Officer Team is made up of Non-Sabbatical Officers who combine their guild role with their university studies and Sabbatical Officers who take a year off from their studies or stay at university for a year after completing their degree to work in the Guild.

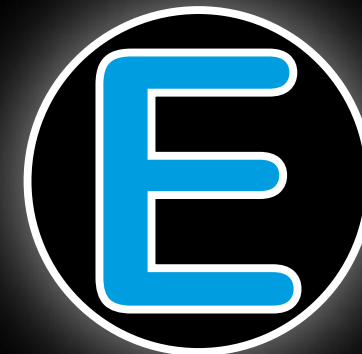
Why become a Guild Officer?

Being a part of The Guild Officer Team gives you a chance to work with student volunteers and staff members to make a real difference to the lives of students. Guild Officers are working constantly to directly improve the lives of students by improving the quality of the student experience here at the University of Birmingham.

Being a Guild Officer is also a great chance for you to develop yourself by gaining experience and new skills. Guild Officers gain valuable experience of developing projects, working in teams and leading campaigns. With graduate employers becoming increasingly demanding, requiring more than just academic qualifications, being a Guild Officer could give you the edge you need to get your dream job.

Which Officer Position is right for me?

Of the 18 Guild Officer positions, 1 of them (the Postgraduate & Mature Students Officer) is elected in the autumn in order to allow all postgraduates to be involved in the election. The other 17 are elected in March and take office in the summer. This booklet is designed to give you the information about the 17 Officer positions to help you pick out which one is the right for you.



Being a Sabbatical Officer

Sabbatical Officers are students who either take a year off from their course or stay at the University for a year after their studies have ended to work full-time in the Guild of Students. They are of course paid for their work, and during the summer receive extensive training both within the Guild of Students and at specially tailored NUS training conferences. They form the Sabbatical Officer Group (SOG), and play a leading role in the management of the Guild of Students as an organisation. There are few, if any, graduate positions that give you the freedom and creative autonomy that you get by being a Sabbatical Officer. Being a Sabbatical Officer is a unique opportunity to dedicate all your time to supporting students and is a great way to develop yourself.

The 7 sabbatical positions are:

President

Vice President (Education & Access)

Vice President (Democracy & Resources)

Vice President (Welfare)

Vice President (Housing & Community)

Vice President (Student Activities and Development)

Vice President (Sports)

President

The Guild of Students' President represents over 28,000 students who are diverse in backgrounds, location and needs. You will be responsible for leading the work of the Guild Officer Team and all the student volunteers. The President works to manage and motivate all those around them to perform at their best. Managing and developing relationships with such a wide-range of people is both a fantastic opportunity and an exciting challenge.

For the role you will need to be someone who thrives under pressure and enjoys a challenge. More than anything you need to be passionate and resilient in order to drive forward a large organisation and win the changes demanded by your members.

For more information email the current President **Jennifer Larbie** at president@guild.bham.ac.uk

Vice President (Education & Access)

The role of VP (Education & Access) is varied, dynamic, pressurised but very rewarding. One area of work is representing students to the University; you get a chance to voice the opinion of 28,000 students on a daily basis. This is arguing the case of students on a number of high-level University committees.

Campaigning and lobbying for change is pivotal to the work of the VP (Education & Access). Change is difficult to achieve, but through open, cross-campus campaigns it is possible to lobby the University to listen to the views of students and take their needs into account.

Government lobbying is another aspect of the VP (Education & Access) job and getting stuck into student and national politics is pretty much essential. The VP (Education & Access) is a member of the Aldwych Group (the Student Unions of the Russell Group universities) and attends monthly meetings around the country with other officers.

For more information email the current VP (Education & Access) **Tom Marley** at vpea@guild.bham.ac.uk

Vice President (Democracy & Resources)

Vice-President (Democracy & Resources) is the Officer that works to ensure that your Guild is working effectively for you. They work to ensure that as many students as possible can get involved in the Guild of Students, through ensuring that the elections are well-run and accessible to students. They also work with other Guild Officers and the Independent Chairs, to ensure that Guild Council and other Guild democratic structures are effective and relevant.

They also work to give student leadership to the Guild's services, working with Guild of Students staff to ensure that students get value for money from the Guild of Students and that its services are of the highest quality. They balance the needs of the Guild's income streams against the needs of investing in representation, support and involvement.

For more information email the current VP (Democracy & Resources) **Hannah Lazell** at vpdr@guild.bham.ac.uk

Vice President (Welfare)

The VP (Welfare) is responsible for representing the needs and interests of students to the University and external bodies in all areas of welfare. Their time is shared between promoting awareness of and mounting campaigns on welfare issues specific to students. Campaigns may focus on a single issue, for example lobbying the University to appoint a sexual health worker, or to raise awareness and aid the distribution of information about potentially sensitive issues such as mental or sexual health, or promote tips on crime prevention and personal safety. They also work with Guild services such as the ARC and the Mentor Scheme, and the University to highlight the welfare services on offer to students on campus.

For more information email the current VP (Welfare) **Hollie Jones** at vpw@guild.bham.ac.uk

Vice President (Housing & Community)

The VP (Housing & Community) is responsible for supporting students on housing and community matters. They work with the University to ensure that University Halls are high-quality accommodation. They also work with the RA Committees to ensure that there is a real community spirit in every University Hall.

The VP (Housing & Community) also works with community groups to ensure that students and local residents have a positive relationship. Through the positive working relationships they form with community leaders they work to win victories for students on issues such as housing and crime prevention. They also work with the Guild of Students' Community Warden Scheme to ensure that students are properly supported in the community. If you are interested in volunteer work, local government, charity, housing, PR and like being out and about and meeting lots of people, this is the Guild Officer role for you.

For more information email the current VP (Housing & Community) **James Ogden** at vphc@guild.bham.ac.uk

Vice President (Student Activities & Development)

The VP (Student Activities & Development) works to support the Guild's student groups, ensuring that they have the advice and resources they need to be effective. They work to get students involved in student groups. They also work with other Guild Officers and the Student Development Department to ensure our student groups are properly trained and work within Guild of Students regulations and policies. As the Chair of Student Groups Committee they play a leading role in deciding which student groups shall be recognised by the Guild of Students and how budgets are allocated to each student group.

For more information email the current VP (Student Activities & Development) **Rich Walker** at vpsad@guild.bham.ac.uk

Vice President (Sport)

The job of the VP (Sport) is multi-faceted. First and foremost, the VP (Sport) helps facilitate and support sporting activities at the University, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get as involved with sport as possible. The VP (Sport) does this by working closely with the VP (Student Activities & Development) in developing student-led sport, both for individual students and for the institution as a whole. The VP (Sport) is the chair of the Athletic Union and leads the development of performance sports. They seek to improve sporting facilities and provisions, support Guild sports clubs, and improve other sports such as Active Lifestyles and Intra-Mural Sports.

For more information email the current VP (Sport) **Mark Smith** at vps@guild.bham.ac.uk

Non-Sabbatical Positions

Non-Sabbatical Officers are students who work as a Guild Officer whilst continuing their university studies. The 11 Non-Sabbatical Officer positions are all dedicated to working with students and student groups and helping them make a real impact within the University and beyond! Whilst being a Non-Sabbatical Officer is challenging, it's also a lot of fun and very rewarding as you develop new skills and discover new experiences. And of course, no Officer works alone. The Guild of Students makes sure it supports its Non-Sabbatical Officers through providing the training and resources they need to make a difference for students.

The eleven Non-Sabbatical Officer positions are:

International Students' Officer

Community Action Officer

Satellite Sites Officer

Anti-Fascism & Anti-Racism Officer

Ethical & Environmental Officer

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Queer (LGBTQ) Officer

Ethnic Minority Students' Officer

Disabled Students' Officer

Womens' Officer

Home Students' Officer

Postgraduate & Mature Students' Officer*

*The Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer is elected in the autumn, so that all postgraduates (including students on a one-year masters course) can be involved in the election. For more information email the current Postgraduate & Mature Students' Officer **Sarah-Jane Belton** at pmso@guild.bham.ac.uk.

International Students' Officer

International Students face a range of issues and challenges unique to studying in a foreign country. They pay far higher fees than UK students, there may be cultural barriers to overcome and they may need additional help with accessing essentials such as healthcare and housing. The Guild works with the University to ensure that these unique challenges are overcome, and that international students have a great time at Birmingham. The International Students' Officer takes the lead in this work, giving international students a powerful and effective champion within the Guild and University. They work to ensure that international students get the support, services and representation they need. Candidates are expected to be an international student.

For more information email the current International Students' Officer **Arun Mishra** at iso@guild.bham.ac.uk

Community Action Officer

Students play a positive role in the community with many students getting involved in community activities or supporting community groups. The Community Action Officer exists to promote a positive student image to the community and ensure that local residents understand the issues that students face when living in the community. They will work closely with the Vice-President of (Housing and Community) to give students a voice within the community and work within the Guild to promote community volunteering. They will also work with the Community Wardens to co-ordinate Community Action Days. Becoming the Community Action Officer offers you a unique chance to work with a wide range of students and encourage them to get involved in community action.

For more information email the current Community Action Officer, **Sam Gannon** at cao@guild.bham.ac.uk

Satellite Sites Officer

One of the great things about the University of Birmingham is its breadth and diversity across the globe. This does mean that at least a fifth of the student population aren't based on the Edgbaston Campus. We have students completing Life or Health Science courses, studying on Selly Oak Campus, at the Ironbridge or Shakespeare Institutes, or even on industrial placements abroad. The Guild of Students needs to reach out to all these students, to be effective on all University of Birmingham campuses and supporting all students regardless of where they are studying. The Satellite Sites Officer works to ensure that the Guild of Students does reach out to all these students.

For more information email the current Satellite Sites Officer, **Chris Nash** at sso@guild.bham.ac.uk

Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer

The Guild of Students is committed to combating racism and fascism in all its forms; to ensure that all students are treated with equal respect the Guild of Students has an Equal Opportunities policy and a No Platform policy. The Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism Officer works with student activists and student groups to develop the Guild's campaigning work against bigotry and discrimination. Above all the Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer works to promote tolerance and respect, and seeks to ensure that the University, students and the local community work with the Guild of Students to embrace and promote these values.

For more information email the current Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism, **Suzy Raily** at araf@guild.bham.ac.uk

Ethical & Environmental Officer

The Ethical & Environmental Officer works to coordinate campaigns about environmental and ethical issues. They work with activists and student groups to help them raise awareness of ethical and environmental issues amongst students and to effectively lobby the University to be more environmentally and socially responsible. Internally, the Ethical & Environmental Officer is there to try and make the Guild of Students aware of, and act upon, the ethical and environmental implications of everything it does as an organisation. This could be in a decision about the clothes our clubs and societies buy or the sponsorships we receive to fund our publications and events. This is an incredibly dynamic role; the Ethical and Environmental Officer provides a vital voice on behalf of all the students and student groups who campaign tirelessly on behalf of the planet, the oppressed and disadvantaged.

For more information email the current Ethical & Environmental Officer, **Phillippa Calver** at eeo@guild.bham.ac.uk

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Queer (LGBTQ) Students' Officer

The LGBTQ Students' Officer works to ensure that the Guild of Students is at the forefront of the fight for LGBTQ rights and properly supports all LGBTQ students. The LGBTQ Officer works with the LGBTQ Association to campaign against discrimination against LGBTQ students and to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within the University. It also works with the LGBTQ Association and the Guild's welfare services to ensure that LGBTQ students who are in distress or difficulties get the help they need. They also represent Birmingham LGBTQ students on a national stage, by working with other LGBTQ Officers from across the country through the NUS LGBT Campaign. Candidates are expected to self define as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans or Queer.

For more information email the current LGBTQ Officer, **Emma O'Dwyer** at lgbtqo@guild.bham.ac.uk

Ethnic Minority Students' Officer

The Ethnic Minority Students' Officer works to campaign for the rights and interests of Birmingham's ethnic minority students. This campaigning work ranges from tackling the racism and discrimination that ethnic minority students can suffer from during their time at university, to working to ensure that the University and Guild of Students are an inclusive organisation that works to include all students. They work with BEMA, the Birmingham Ethnic Minority Association to energise ethnic minority students and get them involved in the Guild of Students.

They also work on a national stage, representing Birmingham's ethnic minority students at the NUS Black Students Conference. As such they work with other ethnic minority representatives from other universities to give ethnic minority students a voice on a national level. Candidates are expected to self define as belonging to an ethnic minority.

For more information email the current Ethnic Minority Officer, **Yasmin Patel** at emo@guild.bham.ac.uk

Disabled Students' Officer

One of the greatest barriers that disabled students face is the attitude of other people. There's a great deal of misunderstanding and confusion surrounding disabilities, and there is often a stigma attached to 'coming out' as a disabled student.

The Disabled Students' Officer exists to give disabled students a voice. It campaigns to remove the stigma from all disabilities, and to encourage all members of our society to take a positive attitude towards understanding the nature of disability and overcoming prejudices. They work with other Guild Officers and disabled students to support and represent disabled students throughout the Guild and University. Candidates are expected to self define as being disabled.

For more information email the current Disabled Students Officer, **Andrew Jones** at dso@guild.bham.ac.uk

Women's Officer

Even in today's society women still suffer from sexism and discrimination; issues such as the pay gap, the glass ceiling and domestic abuse are still as relevant today as they were forty years ago. The Women's Officer works to raise awareness of these issues within the student body and motivate female students to get involved in student campaigns to address these issues. They also work with other Guild Officers and Guild services, to ensure that the Guild of Students places the needs and concerns of women at the heart of all its actions. The Women's Officer is also an active member of the NUS Women's Campaign and as such works to represent Birmingham students at a national level by working with Women's Officers from across the country. Candidates are expected to be women.

For more information email the current Women's Officer, **Domeneque Di Ciacca** at wo@guild.bham.ac.uk

Home Students' Officer

The Home Students' Officer works to support those students who have chosen to live at home whilst they study at the University of Birmingham. The Home Students' Officer works to ensure that such home students do not miss out on the full University of Birmingham experience. The Home Students' Officer works closely with the Home Students' Association and the Freshers Off-Campus Society to provide a wide range of services to home students including socials, welfare support and Welcome Week. They also work with other Guild Officers and the University to encourage more local residents to attend university and so widen participation in higher education. Candidates are expected to be a home student.

For more information email the current Home Students' Officer, **Siobhan Dunne** at hso@guild.bham.ac.uk

All the Guild Officer positions covered in this booklet will be elected in the 2009 Guild Officer Team Elections. These are the largest elections in the Guild's year, with thousands of students voting to decide who shall lead the Guild of Students in 2009/2010. Just being a part of these elections as a candidate is a lot of fun as you campaign around campus, appear in the student media and of course talk to loads of students.

And should you win, you will then receive an opportunity that only a handful of students get - the chance to lead the only organisation that is dedicated to representing Birmingham's students throughout their time at university. Being a Guild Officer not only allows you to help others, it gives you a unique chance to broaden your horizons and develop new skills.

But of course, to become a Guild Officer you first need to stand in the Guild Officer Team Elections. We will be opening nominations for the Guild Officer Team 2009 Elections on February 2nd 2009, and they will close on February 13th 2009. During those two weeks, pick up a nominations pack from the Guild of Students Reception or download one from www.guildofstudents.com/elections.

To keep up to date with all the latest news on the Guild Officer Team Elections 2009, visit our website

www.guildofstudents.com/elections.

If you have any questions about the elections, email democracy@guild.bham.ac.uk

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