

Guild Officer Elections 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

WHO ARE THE OFFICERS?

7 students are paid to lead the Guild as Full-Time Officers, and 7 students volunteer alongside their studies as Part-Time Officers. Students are elected into these roles in a cross-campus vote, and the roles are all a fantastic opportunity to make change for UoB students.

Full Time Officers become directors of a £million+ turnover organization, trustees of our charity and representatives of around 38,000 students.

WHAT IS THE ELECTION?

Every year, students have the chance to vote for who they want to be their next Officer Team. Last year, over 9000 students voted in the Officer Elections!

WHY SHOULD I APPLY TO BE AN OFFICER?

There are many reasons for applying. Officers can have their role recorded on their enhanced transcript, can claim PSA Points and even get Guild Life Membership at the end of their time in Office. Everyone involved in the election has the opportunity to make new friends, will gain campaign experience, and will have the opportunity to implement their ideas – so why wouldn't you do it?

CAN I APPLY IF I'M IN MY FIRST OR SECOND YEAR?

Yes! If you're elected for a Full-Time role, you can speak to your school or department about taking a year out to be a Full-Time Officer.

CAN I APPLY IF I'M A POSTGRADUATE STUDENT?

Yes, students at any level of study can run in the Elections – and we even have a dedicated Postgraduate Officer, specifically to look out for the interests of students like you!

We work with schools across the University to make sure they support you with applying, so don't let being a Postgraduate student hold you back!

HOW DO I CAMPAIGN ONLINE?

Campaigning is important to get students to vote for you. This year, all campaigning will be online. For lots of candidates, it will be their first time campaigning, or doing an online campaign. We'll be running candidate training sessions though, and providing all of the advice that you need on the different ways you can do an effective online campaign.

CAN I APPLY IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

Yes. Any EU or International Student can become an Officer with no restrictions. If you come from abroad and are elected for a Full-Time role, you may have to extend your visa – there is a special exemption for Tier 4 visa holders, so you can add a year to your visa to complete the role. If you have any concerns, contact us on elections@guild.bham.ac.uk, and we'll be happy to help.

We even have a dedicated International Officer, specifically to look out for students from abroad!

HELP! I DON'T KNOW WHICH POSITION TO GO FOR!

You can read about each position on the Elections web page (<https://www.guildofstudents.com/elections/>). You can also talk to the current Officers – you can find their contact details here:

- Full-Time Officers - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/>
- Part-Time Officers - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/part-time-officer-team/>

CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE POSITION?

We love your enthusiasm – however you can only apply for one role!

ISN'T IT JUST A POPULARITY CONTEST?

No! Previous Officers have come from all walks of university life. As long as you have great ideas and a passion for creating change, you'll be a great candidate!

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME- CAN I STILL CAMPAIGN?

Yes! Even one hour a week is enough time to run an excellent campaign. We'll work with you to help you create the best campaign possible with the time you have.

DO I GET A CAMPAIGNING BUDGET?

Yes, each Full and Part Time Officer candidate is entitled a £30 election budget, which will be reimbursed at the conclusion of the election. NUS Liberation Conference Delegate candidates are entitled to a £10 budget. You should not spend more than this amount. If you are in financial difficulty, we wouldn't want this to prevent you from applying – please email elections@guild.bham.ac.uk if you need help with this.

WHAT IS A CAMPAIGN TEAM AND WHAT DO I DO IF I DON'T HAVE ONE?

A campaign team is a group of your friends at UoB who help you with your campaign. They might contact students on your behalf, and help you to get votes.

WILL I GET AN EXTENSION ON MY COURSEWORK SO I CAN FOCUS ON CAMPAIGNING?

Extensions can be given for work where the questions have been set in advance. you may not get an extension for all other work, so we would advise planning your campaign and work in advance. If you are unsure whether you should get an extension, please email elections@guild.bham.ac.uk.

Please note that extensions can only be given to candidates, and not students on campaign teams.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?

Hopefully some celebrating! If you win you will spend the next year representing students and working on projects and campaigns to improve the lives of UoB students. Remember that Full-Time roles are paid, and Part-Time roles are completed alongside your studies. We will be in contact to discuss training for the year ahead.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T WIN?

We will still celebrate the efforts that you made for your campaign! We would be very happy to keep in contact, help you to move on, and let you know about more exciting opportunities to make change in the Guild and University!

TIER 4 VISA HOLDERS

You should be aware that the following is general information and guidance – and does not constitute professional immigration or legal advice.

I am an international student - can I apply to be a Full-Time Officer?

Yes, as long as you are a registered student who is also a member of the Guild of Students, then you're eligible to apply to be a Full-Time Officer – and we would encourage you to do so.

If you win, the University can assist you with extending your Tier 4 sponsorship for the time that you are a Full-Time Officer. There is a special extension for Tier 4 visa holders whilst they undertake a Full Time Officer role.

You are free to take up the role during your studies or immediately after you graduate. However, if you are planning to apply during your studies, you will need to let your College or School know as they are responsible for you until the time that your permission to be in the UK expires. They will also be able to advise you if there are likely to be any issues with your academic progression.

Any applications to extend your student visa from within the UK need to be made before your time in the UK is due to expire.

If you require any further help or support regarding immigration or sponsorship, you can speak to the Aston Webb Student Hub (Monday – Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm).

[You can also find further information from the UK Council for International Student Affairs here.](#)