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General Officer Elections Queries

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 an online cross-campus vote, and the roles are all a fantastic opportunity to make change for UoB students. Full Time Officers become directors of an organization that has a turnover of multi-million pounds, trustees of our charity and representatives of around 40,000 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 6000 students voted in the Officer Elections!

Who is responsible for the Elections?

Elections are administered by the Elections Team, and are overseen by the President. The Returning Officer is responsible for the overall fair conduct of this election.

Applications

Why should I apply to be an Officer?

There are many reasons for applying. For example, Officers can have their role recorded on their enhanced transcript. Everyone involved in the election has the opportunity to make new friends, gain campaigning experience, and 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 apply for any position 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!

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 apply 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: <https://www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/>), and/or attend one of our elections events!

Can I apply for more than 1 position?

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

What if I change my mind and no longer want to apply??

You are free to withdraw at any time. You will be asked to provide your wish to withdraw in writing to elections@guild.bham.ac.uk.

The website says I am not eligible to apply for a role, why is this?

If you are a registered student, then you should be able to apply for a role that you want. Some roles have additional criteria, where you would need to self-define. Guidance on how to do this can be found on the Elections webpage. If you are still struggling, please let us know as soon as possible.

Campaigning

HELP! I don't know how to campaign!

Campaigning is important to get students to vote for you. If you have never done an election campaign before, don't worry – there is lots of guidance on the elections webpage on different ways of campaigning effectively – both online and in-person. We will also host a number of training, drop-in and Q&A sessions, where you can find out more, and ask any questions. Campaigning, and elections in general will also be new to lots of other candidates – so you won't be on your own!

Do I need to submit a written statement (manifesto) and candidate photo?

YES! You **MUST** submit a written statement (manifesto) and candidate photo as part of your application.

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 £50 election budget, which will be reimbursed at the conclusion of the election. NUS 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 prevent you from applying for a role – please email elections@guild.bham.ac.uk if you need help with this.

Can I support my friend who is applying for another role??

Yes, of course! Candidates in different elections can endorse (recommend/support) each other. This is called a Slate. However, if you are running in the same election e.g. a multi-seat election, you are prohibited from supporting each other.

Can my friends help?

Of course! The more people who get involved in your campaign the better! They must however also be current students at the University of Birmingham.

Support

Where can I go to for advice?

This depends on the information being sought – please find a directory below:

Your Elections Team

The Elections Team is there to support candidates with general election issues, such as having problems applying for roles or understanding the election rules. You can contact the Elections Team on elections@guild.bham.ac.uk

Your Guild President – Acacia Matthews

The President oversees the running of elections as part of their remit and will be happy to answer any questions about the election process. You can contact them on president@guild.bham.ac.uk

Your Guild Advice Team

Your Guild Advice Team can offer free, impartial advice on issues related to wellbeing, money, academic issues, housing and international issues. You can contact them on guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk

Your Chaplaincy Service

The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy at UoB offers an inclusive space for prayer, meditation, relaxation and worship, among many other activities, for all UoB students – regardless of if they are religious or not. The Chaplaincy are happy to help the Guild with supporting candidate welfare. You can contact them on chaplaincy@contacts.bham.ac.uk

University Careers Service

Your Careers Service at the University can support with queries related to skills, reflection and employability. You can find out more here:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/students.aspx>

For further information in general, please email: elections@guild.bham.ac.uk.