

UNION
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External Trustee





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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Trustees at Union.

As we move forward from our former identity as ARU Students' Union, this new chapter represents a pivotal moment for our organisation. Rebranding as Union reflects our ambition to be a modern, values-driven organisation that is clear in purpose, confident in voice, and united in its commitment to students and staff.

We are a student-led organisation, committed to enhancing the student experience at Anglia Ruskin University. As a Trustee, you will play a key role in shaping our strategy, ensuring we deliver valuable services and represent our students' interests effectively. Our Trustees help guide the Union's vision, uphold its values, and ensure that we remain accountable and transparent in all our work.

As a Trustee, you will be part of a diverse and passionate Board that is dedicated to supporting students and making a difference within the ARU community. This is a unique opportunity to gain strategic leadership experience, develop governance skills, and have a direct impact on student life at ARU.

We are looking for individuals who are committed to the well-being and success of students, who bring fresh perspectives and ideas, and who are ready to take on an exciting and rewarding responsibility. If you're passionate about making a difference, have a strategic mindset, and are eager to contribute to the future of Union, we would love to hear from you.

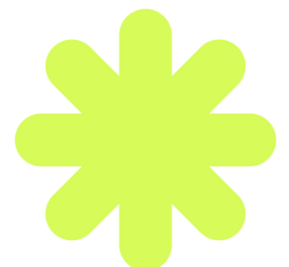
If you have any questions or would like to know more about the role, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Rohan Rajesh
Union President



John Valerkou
Chief Executive Officer



Strategy

Mission: A student-powered union where every voice matters, every campus connects, and good vibes are part of the culture.

Model: Five Campuses, One Union

Pillars and Foundation:

- A) We will put students in charge
- B) We will extend students' rights and opportunities
- C) We will build and nurture communities
- D) Multisite organisation and functionality



Who We Are



This organisation is a registered charity and limited company supporting Anglia Ruskin University students across five distinct campuses, each offering unique opportunities and challenges for its 30,000 members. Led by annually elected sabbatical officers and a senior management team, it empowers a staff team of around sixty-five and fifty student staff to deliver representation, opportunities, and advice.

Directorates

We have three distinct directorates:

Student Leadership and Communities

Marketing, Enterprise and Insight

Central Services

Student Leadership and Communities

The Student Leadership and Communities Directorate leads on Union's core student-facing work, including Advice, Representation, Societies, internal Volunteering, Student-Led Projects, and Campus-Based Engagement.

Marketing, Enterprise and Insight

We deliver bold, insight-driven marketing, vibrant enterprise spaces, and data-led decision-making that together strengthen student connection, opportunity, and experience. By combining creative storytelling, welcoming commercial environments, and robust student insight, we ensure every service and campaign is purposeful, impactful, and truly shaped by our community.

Central Services

Our Central Services directorate underpins the Union with strong, people-centred HR support and robust financial and risk management, ensuring our organisation is stable, compliant, and ready to grow. By investing in our staff and safeguarding our resources, these functions create the foundations that allow every part of the Union to operate confidently, sustainably, and in the best interests of students.



THE OFFICER TEAM



Top Row (left to right)

Amelia, Ramees, Gawdham and Rohan

Bottom Row (left to right)

Roshan, Ashmin, Jeena and Nayem

External Trustee Job Description

Purpose

Trustees play a crucial and pivotal role at ARU Students' Union, holding ultimate responsibility, both individually and collectively, for all aspects of the organisation's activities. The Board of Trustees is entrusted with setting the vision, values, and strategic direction of the organisation, ensuring that its core purpose is consistently delivered. Trustees of ARU Students' Union are committed to guiding the implementation of a long-term strategy designed to enhance and improve the lives of our members.

Current Vacancies

We are looking to appoint one Lay Trustee to our Board, with expertise in Appointments & Governance

Students' Unions

We are seeking candidates with a strong understanding of student representation, democratic governance, and the role of Students' Unions within higher education. For this role, you will be able to evidence experience of operating at a strategic level within a Students' Union environment, such as serving as a sabbatical officer, senior manager, trustee, or adviser. An understanding of the regulatory and governance framework affecting Students' Unions, including charity governance and stakeholder accountability, would be advantageous. Experience of working with diverse student communities, balancing student voice with organisational sustainability, and contributing to long-term strategic planning will be particularly valuable.

Remuneration

These roles are unremunerated; Trustees may claim reasonable expenses for reimbursement.

Term of Office

The term of office for this role is four years. Trustees may serve a maximum of two terms.

Time Commitment

The Board meets five times per year, including the Annual Away Day. Trustees are expected to commit to at least another four days per year for additional subcommittee meetings. Board meetings will take place on Wednesdays, with all Board and committee meetings take place during the working day.

External Trustee Job Description

Key Responsibilities

Trustees have a duty to:

- Ensure that Union acts in full accordance with its charitable objects, constitution and other guiding documents and focuses on its goals, developments and purpose. Help Union achieve its objectives and improve the lives of its members.
- Ensure that Union complies with all relevant legislation and regulations, including relevant charity and education acts.
- Ensure that Union does not undertake activities that put its financial stability, members or reputation at unnecessary risk.
- Work with other trustees, staff and volunteers in a constructive manner and for the greater good of Union and its members.
- Act in accordance with Nolan's 7 principals for public life.
- Participate fully in Board meetings and join at least one of the Board's sub-committees.
- Use their personal skills and experience to ensure Union is well governed and efficiently managed.
- Seek external professional advice where there may be material risk to Union or where the Trustees may be in breach of their duties, or at any other appropriate moment.
- Add value to the Board and Union through generating ideas, challenging the status quo, broadening thinking and supporting and promoting innovation and creativity.

Person Specification

All Trustees should be:

- Committed to the purpose, objects and values of Union.
- Constructive about other committee members' opinions in discussions and promote contribution from all members at meetings.
- Able to understand the ambassadorial role of a Trustee and act reasonably, respectfully and responsibly when undertaking Board responsibilities and promoting the Union.
- Able to maintain strict confidentiality.
- Understand the importance and purpose of Board and sub-committee meetings and be committed to preparing for them adequately and attending them regularly.
- Able to understand and digest complex information and strategy, and when appropriate, challenge constructively.
- Able to make decisions by consensus and stand by them.
- Able to respect boundaries between management and governance functions.
- Excellent role models who promote the highest standards of empathy, honesty and integrity.
- Committed to equality of opportunity and promoting diversity.

How To Apply

To apply to join the Board of ARU Students' Union Trustees, please complete the online application found by clicking the button below.

We'll ask you to complete our online application to clearly demonstrate how you meet the requirements for the role. We will also ask for the names, positions, organisations and email addresses for two referees, relevant to this role. References will only be taken once your express permission has been granted. Successful applicants will also be asked to complete an enhanced DBS check.

The closing date for applications is 8 March 2026. Panel interviews will be held during w/c 16 March 2026.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information, or would like to talk to someone informally before you apply, please contact recruitment@angliastudent.com

APPLY NOW



