

# Vice President for Education and Welfare

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## Role Summary

A full-time Sabbatical role, The VP Education and Welfare is responsible for the integration and development of welfare and education provisions for all Students.

The VP is a key part of the way the Union improves the Union's commitments to student welfare, stays aware of the issues that students face throughout their time at University, and represents the student body on issues that affect them.

The VP ensures that the Union actively campaigns for the benefit of its Members, that the University is aware of and responding to the concerns of students, and that the right support is on offer within the Union for any students facing hardship, in need of advice or who are underrepresented or unsupported.

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## Responsibilities

As VP, you'll work alongside the Executive Committee, the Union Education and Welfare Support Officer, and the University to guide, plan and implement welfare strategies for the benefit of the student body.

- The Union Education and Welfare Support Officer work to meet with students and provide advice and support; you'll work very closely with them, and share student concerns and cases that may benefit from their input. You'll also work with them to gather data to guide strategy, and to respond to any acute concerns that arise within the student body.
- You'll be working with students who are facing disciplinary concerns, problems with their courses, concerns about other students or members of the Faculty, personal issues and other welfare concerns, and will be in touch with other Staff and University bodies who you'll collaborate with to aid the affected students.

You'll be responsible for the successful running of Union campaigns and welfare support events - ensuring that these are well promoted, striving to maximise engagement, and ensuring that they are valuable to students.

You'll work with new students to provide an introduction to the Union's support services, and make sure that all students are aware of what is accessible through the Union the wider support networks on offer. As part of this, you'll develop and publish welfare support materials, including an annual Welfare Handbook, and run awareness campaigns throughout the year.

As a Sabbatical Officer, you'll work full-time in the Union, providing support and guidance to students who visit the Union. You'll also be responsible for sharing the Senior Officer duties with the other Sabbaticals, and for running one of the Executive's four Zones.

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## Zones and Committees

The VP is part of a wide range of committees, throughout the Union, the University and beyond.

Within the Union, you'll be the Zone Leader for the Union Advocacy Zone. The Zone is a collaborative working group, tasked with shared responsibilities for big projects and for duties that work best when shared between multiple Offices. As a Zone Leader, you'll have responsibility for leading this Zone, ensuring that all the responsibilities assigned to the Zone are completed. You'll also be responsible for chairing these Zone meetings, ensuring that minutes are made as a record of the meeting, and reporting each Zone's activities to the Membership as a whole at general meetings.

The Union Advocacy Zone includes the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Environment and Ethics, Representation and International Officers. The Zone has a responsibility to support the wellbeing of Union Members, and to organise and promote Union campaigns. As Zone Leader, you'll be working with your Zone to improve conditions within the Union and the University for protected and marginalised groups, running awareness and visibility campaigns throughout the year, building the Union's commitments to environmental and sustainability goals, and promoting the Union's activities and services to students.

You'll be the Union's representative at a range of University meetings, primarily those focused on University education and welfare provisions. You'll be able to actively contribute to these meetings and be an advocate for the Union Membership, raising issues facing students and making their time at University better. You'll also liaise with other Universities and Students' Unions to share and develop best practice.

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## **Skills and Abilities**

As VP, you'll be an approachable and valued part of the Union, who holds the interests of the Union and a belief in both the Union and its membership in high regard. You'll be dedicated to the welfare of students, and will strive to make the environment on campus and the experience of students a safe and nurturing one.

You'll be able to confidently step up to the challenges of the role, and take creative approaches to manage the way the Union provides welfare support and campaigns on behalf of students. You'll work closely with many other groups to further the Union, and will be able to balance commitments for all of these.

You'll be passionate about diversity and liberation, and will bring that passion to the running of awareness and visibility campaigns. You'll want the Union to be fair, representative, and free from discrimination and negative attitudes. You'll make sure that the Union's principles of equality and non-discrimination are part of everything the Union does.

You'll work closely with faith and cultural societies, welfare support groups and marginalised communities within the University to gather feedback, involve them with the Union's visibility campaigns, and produce an annual plan of important dates and campaigns that the Union should participate in.

You'll be able to manage difficult or complex situations, and will be available to students to discuss sensitive topics in an open, non-judgemental manner. You'll be able to put students at ease, work through their concerns in a constructive manner, and ensure you look after student welfare as you look after yourself.

You'll be able to integrate with the Union team and staff, and work closely with your Zone to ensure the Union is truly representative of its Members and their opinions. You'll be able to produce and design campaign materials, efficiently plan and run campaigns, and motivate those around you to take part and help build on campaigns to add to the Union and the support it can offer.

If this sounds like you, then we look forward to receiving your nominations pack!