

ARU Students' Union

Trustee Candidate Information Pack



Welcome from Our President Elect

As ARU Students' Union President-elect, it's a pleasure to welcome you to our Students' Union.

We're a lively, purposeful organisation rooted in representing and supporting the diverse community of students across all our ARU campuses.

We act as a bridge between students and the university, advocating for student needs and concerns.

From big campaigns to everyday support, clubs, events, and initiatives, we're here to help every student build connections, grow, and leave ARU with great memories alongside their academic journey.

If you're joining us, you'll be part of a team that genuinely cares about people, wants to do things differently, and believes a Students' Union should be a place where every student can thrive.

Rohan Rajesh

President Elect, ARU Students' Union





About ARU Students' Union

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) Students' Union ('the Union') is a student-led organisation, committed to enhancing the student experience at Anglia Ruskin University. The Union is both a Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee, with the object of the advancement of education of students at Anglia Ruskin University for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of students at Anglia Ruskin University during their period of study and representing, supporting and advising students.
- Being the recognised representative channel between students and Anglia Ruskin University and any other external bodies.
- Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students.

When students register at Anglia Ruskin University, they automatically become a member of the Union. Each year, they elect a new team of 6 Executive Officers to lead the Students' Union. Officers act as both Trustees of the Union and political leaders.

[The Union is governed by a set of articles which you can read here: Articles of Association.](#)

The Students' Union has a Board of Trustees made up of Student Trustees, External Trustees and the five Executive Officers.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the management and administration of the Union and may exercise all the powers of the Union. The Board is chaired by the President. The Board of Trustees have responsibility for the budget, governance and strategy of the Union.



Our Strategy

The strategy of ARU Students' Union is the backbone of everything the Union does. The strategy is split into four strands, with members being at the centre of each of them:

- **Conversations with you:** The Union will have meaningful and honest conversations together which shapes what it does along student journeys.
- **Belonging:** The Union will help students form strong communities and friends; to have fun and feel supported by the University, by the Union and by each other.
- **Broadening your horizons:** The Union will help you develop and discover your ambitions for the future. They will support you to be brave, resilient and explore opportunities on your journey through ARU.
- **Improving your learning:** The Union will place your education at the heart of its work. Collaborating with you and the University to make a positive impact now and for the students who come after.

The Union wants every single student to get the absolute most out of their time at ARU. Their vision is to make a difference to every student. It's their mission for every student to discover new things, build friendships and love their time at ARU.

At the centre of the success will be delivering the strategy through the Union's values. The Union is committed to making its values live and breathe through its work. They believe these values are important and being a values-led organisation is the only path to delivering its mission for its members.

The Union has made a commitment to being accessible to all of its members. [Find out more about the Accessibility Pledge.](#)



Our Values

Challenging:

We push ourselves, the University and students to think and do things differently.

Collaborative

We are better when we work together.

Creative

We think outside the box, learn from mistakes and use our imaginations.

Inclusive

We will champion the diversity of our students and their communities.

Sustainable

We will champion wellbeing, equality and justice' make ethical decisions and help to grow a cleaner, fairer planet.

Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The aim of inclusion is to include everyone. It is about giving equal access and opportunities, and removing discrimination and intolerance. Our diversity covers everything, all people irrespective of similarities or differences. Our society is changing; we choose to develop and engage with mutual understanding, respect, and dignity for all.

Unity, not uniformity, must be our objective.

We recognise that everyone is a unique individual with the right to a broad range of opportunities to feel included.

We welcome applications from anyone regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality, religion, socio-economic background or other difference.

We are committed to inclusive working practices, and during the application process we commit to:

- Paying for care and childcare whilst you are at interviews.
- Paying for your travel costs to the office and back for interviews if they are held in person.
- Making any reasonable adjustments - for example ensuring we have sign language interpreters organised in advance if you'd like them.
- Providing this document in a Word document format readily available to download.
- Offering a first stage interview with Inclusive Boards to disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the role.

If there is anything else you're concerned about or think we could provide, please let us know. [You can read more about the Students' Union's work on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion here.](#)



About the Opportunity

The Union is seeking to recruit an External Trustee to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities.

ARU Students' Union has grown in size and scope over recent years, and so too has its responsibility to support an increasingly diverse and dynamic student body. Representing students on six campuses across the East of England and London has prompted the Union to reflect on how it can best meet the needs of students and continue to provide exceptional services and support.

The Union has listened to our students, staff teams and stakeholders, learned from their experiences, and developed a plan that will drive it forward as an organisation, providing students with greater opportunities for involvement, support, and personal growth. As a Trustee, you will play an essential role in guiding this strategy, ensuring that the Union stays focused on its mission and achieves the goals it has set out. You will have the opportunity to contribute your expertise, and perspectives to help shape the future of ARU Students' Union.

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.

The successful candidate will also Chair the Finance and Risk Committee.

Person Specification

All Trustees should be:

- Committed to the purpose, objects and values of ARU Students' 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
- Understanding of 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.

For this role, you will need to evidence extensive experience in a senior professional financial role, with solid strategic financial management skills. A working knowledge of the rules and regulations governing charity finance and corporate risk management would be advantageous, and a professional accountancy qualification is essential. As it is anticipated that the successful candidate will lead the Finance and Risk Committee, confidence chairing strategic meetings effectively is essential.



Key Responsibilities

Trustees have a duty to:

- Ensure that ARU Students' Union acts in full accordance with its charitable objects, constitution and other guiding documents and focuses on its goals, developments and purpose.
- Help ARU Students' Union achieve its objectives and improve the lives of its members.
- Ensure that ARU Students' Union complies with all relevant legislation and regulations, including relevant charity and education acts.
- Ensure that ARU Students' 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 ARU Students' 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 ARU Students' Union is well governed and efficiently managed.
- Seek external professional advice where there may be material risk to ARU Students' Union or where the Trustees may be in breach of their duties, or at any other appropriate moment.
- Add value to the Board and ARU Students' Union through generating ideas, challenging the status quo, broadening thinking and supporting and promoting innovation and creativity.



Additional Information

Term of Office

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

Time Commitment

The Union holds four formal board meetings per academic year. Meetings are held on a Wednesday academic year and take three hours each.

There are four subcommittee meetings per academic year also held on a Wednesday afternoon, each taking between two and three hours each.

Meetings primarily take place online though there may be occasional in-person fixtures in Chelmsford.

The Board also has two away days per day to which Trustees are invited.

Remuneration and Expenses

This is an unremunerated role; Trustees may claim reasonable expenses for reimbursement.

Conflicts of Interest

All candidates will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest. This will be examined to see whether an actual conflict exists.





How to Apply

The recruitment process is being undertaken by Inclusive Boards on behalf of Anglia Ruskin University Students' Union. If you wish to apply for this position, please supply the following by **11.59pm on 10/08/2025**:

- A detailed CV, setting out your career history, with responsibilities and achievements.
- A cover letter (maximum two sides of A4) highlighting your suitability for the role for which you're applying and how you meet the person specification. Please note that the cover letter is an important part of your application and will be assessed.
- Details of two professional referees together with a brief statement of their relationship to you and over what period of time they have known you. Referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.

If you have further questions after reading this pack, please email ARUSU@inclusiveboards.co.uk or call 0207 267 8369.

Please visit www.inclusiveboards.co.uk to apply online or send your CV and cover letter to the [email address above](mailto:ARUSU@inclusiveboards.co.uk).

Thank you for your interest in becoming an External Trustee for Anglia Ruskin University Students' Union.

INCLUSIVE BOARDS

About Us

Inclusive Boards is the UK's leading board diversity practice. We have worked alongside over 300 organisations to provide support with Board recruitment, development and governance reviews. We strive to be at the forefront of equity and diversity, and believe that everyone should be represented at Board level. Additionally, we also provide bespoke training sessions on a variety of subjects including personal branding, inclusive recruitment practices and board structures and governance as well as delivering leadership development programmes for underrepresented leaders across a range of sectors.

Contact us today

Improve diversity on your Board, please don't hesitate to contact us via hello@inclusiveboards.co.uk.

To join a Board, sign up to become a candidate via our website and be notified of the latest opportunities as and when they become available.



www.inclusiveboards.co.uk



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