

The role of a Student Representative

As a Student representative, you **work in partnership with the SU & University staff** to represent the views and experiences of your peers. Reps work formally and informally at different levels, providing an essential link and ensuring student voice is key in University decisions.

The representative programme is co-owned by the Students' Union & the University so you will have the chance to work with other student leaders including our Executive Officers to act on feedback, run campaigns or influence policymaking.

Our Expectations

As a rep, you are expected to:

- Complete online general training & face to face specific training
- Contact your cohort to introduce yourself & gather feedback
- Work with staff, the SU and other reps to act on feedback and enact change
- Use existing data to suggest improvements to student experience
- Attend regular staff-student meetings to deliver feedback & propose change
- Attend Faculty level feedback meetings (i.e. Faculty Forum)

Support for you

There is a dedicated team in the Students' Union available to support with each aspect of your role, along with staff contacts in each programme who help to facilitate the staff-student meetings you will attend.

This support includes:

- Methods for gathering feedback or engaging your peers
- Financial support for representation-related events
- Room bookings
- Training
- Contacting students in your cohort

Opportunities for you

As a rep, you're one of our student leaders which gives you an opportunity to learn and practice new life skills that can improve your employability; such as organisation, research and leadership qualities. You will also **be the first to hear about extra opportunities** to shape and change the Students' Union & University.

This can include:

- Networking opportunities
- Representing your school at events or meetings
- Taking part in disciplinary boards or panels
- Sitting on accreditation boards

Who reps work with

Reps have a strong tie with the Students' Union Executive Officers, to ensure that important issues feed into the decision making processes of the Students' Union.

They also work with:

- The students they represent, in order to find out their views.
- Other Student Reps in their school to coordinate work.
- Staff and academics in their department or school to represent students' views.
- The Students' Union Education Engagement team.
- Reps across the University, for example in Senate committees.

A number of reps have since gone on to represent different groups of students at Students' Union Senate through part-time officer roles or even full-time paid executive officer roles, using their experience as a student rep for their course to help them in their role.

Becoming a Student Representative

Undergraduates, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students are all eligible to become reps – it's important that we have good representation across all courses at the University to represent your voice at each level.

The representative role is a voluntary one, and sign-up for the role usually opens in January through the [Students' Union website](#). Some courses or departments handle their own recruitment and this may include an election process, you will get more details of this when registering your interest in becoming a rep.

Being an Active student rep

As a student leadership role, being a rep counts towards the Step Up and Lead aspect of STELLIFY. To have this role recognised as part of this, you must complete two compulsory actions and any two of the optional criteria detailed below.

Compulsory:

- Attend training
- Attend SSLC meetings, or give apologies if you are unable to attend

Optional:

- Gathered feedback from a group of students (i.e. through surveys, drop-ins, emails messages or focus group sessions)
- Reported on key successes of your role (i.e. through producing reports, submitting key successes to the SU Education team)
- Worked with other officers or reps to achieve a goal (i.e. through attending Faculty Forum, attending consultation sessions)
- Returned feedback to students, updating on progress of actions (i.e. through update emails, blogs, "you said, we did" infographics)