Section Representative: Role Description

- Mature Students’ Representative
- Part-Time Students’ Representative
- Student Carers’ Representative
- Student Parents’ Representative
- International Students’ Representative

The role
In this role you will represent one of the sections of the student body who are traditionally underrepresented in Higher Education (mature, part-time, carers, parents or international). You will represent their views to the University and to the Students’ Association. As an elected representative your vote at Student Council is weighted to reflect the responsibility that you have to represent the views of your constituents.

You will take proactive steps to reach out to students at the University in order to represent their views effectively. You will work with sabbatical officers to address current issues affecting the students that you represent, developing a plan of action to implement solutions to these issues. You will provide appropriate opportunities for these students to come together in a student-led space to discuss issues that concern them and to organise projects and campaigns that will make positive changes happen.

Benefits
Being a Section Representative is a great opportunity to develop skills in areas such as communication, public speaking, managing projects, teamwork and campaigning; all valuable experiences to enhance your CV. You’ll also expand your knowledge of issues that affect the section of students that you represent at Edinburgh and around the UK.

You will have the opportunity to take part in the Edinburgh Award for Representing Students, which recognises the excellent work that student representatives do. Both completion of the Edinburgh Award, and your active engagement with the role are recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR). In order for your role to be included on your HEAR you must attend initial training and ensure that you do not miss any two meetings of Student Council.

Commitments and responsibilities
In this role you will be expected each month to:

- Prepare for, attend and participate in Student Council meetings, representing the views of the students in your section (usually three times a semester, 2 hours per meeting). In order for your role to be recognised on your HEAR you must not miss any two meetings of Student Council.
• Represent the views of the students that you represent to the University and the Students’ Association when appropriate (as required).
• Lead on campaigns and projects relating to students in your section (approximately 2 hours per month).
• Regularly consult your section of students to enable you to represent their views effectively (usually 2 hours per month).
• Keep up-to-date with communications from the Students’ Association and respond to emails in the time requested (as required).
• Keep in touch with the sabbatical officers and staff at the Students’ Association and work together to address issues affecting your section of students (as required).
• Be an ambassador for the Students’ Association and help to promote its campaigns; you may be invited to help out on a stall, promote a survey (as required and fitting with your availability, approximately 2-3 hours per semester).

We understand that you have study commitments which vary throughout the academic year. We will provide support and flexibility to make sure that your role does not conflict with these commitments.

Training and support
• In semester one of the new academic year, you will receive training designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools to carry out your role. You must attend this training in order for your role to be recognised on your HEAR.
• We also offer additional training sessions during the year which focus on specific skills, such as campaigning, public speaking, and more besides.
• You will work with the sabbatical officers who have experience and knowledge in this area.
• You will receive support from Representation and Democracy staff at the Students’ Association. They can provide guidance on running campaigns, and information and advice on how to take forward projects within the University and beyond.
• There will also be the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of Students’ Association events as part of your development.

Further information
Email the Vice President Societies and Activities (vpsa@eusa.ed.ac.uk) or visit the Students’ Association offices in Potterrow for further information. There is also more information on the Students’ Association website:
http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/
• Student Council: [http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/studentrepresentation/studentcouncil](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/studentrepresentation/studentcouncil)
• The Edinburgh Award: [www.ed.ac.uk/EdinburghAward](http://www.ed.ac.uk/EdinburghAward)