



Liberation Officer Role Description

The Role:

As a Liberation Officer, you represent one of four communities of students (Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), Disabled Students', LGBT+, and Women) who have been traditionally underrepresented in Higher Education and who continue to face oppression in wider society. You will work closely with self-identifying students, the other three elected Liberation Officers, and the Vice President Welfare to ensure that the students you represent are supported, engaged, and have their voices heard within the Students' Association and the University.

To do this, you will liaise with students who self-identify as BME, Disabled, LGBT+, or Women to identify issues; attend meetings within the Students' Association and University to raise these concerns with the appropriate individuals; organise events and campaigns on relevant topics; and provide advice and sign-posting to students who request your support.

You will lead on the Students' Association's work in areas relevant to the students you represent, including planning events to mark significant days or months (Black History Month, Disability History Month, LGBT+ History Month, and International Women's Day) and running campaigns on issues such as cultural appropriation and sexual harassment.

You will also act as a representative of the Students' Association to the students you represent, ensuring they are aware of key events, campaigns, and activities which are taking place within the Students' Association.

The Liberation Officer role should take about 16 hours a month to fulfil.

Benefits:

Being a Liberation Rep is an excellent opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of students from underrepresented and marginalised groups.

You will also gain skills in areas such as leadership, negotiation, communication, and events planning. A key element of this role is working in partnership with a variety of different people including students, your fellow elected reps, Students' Association staff, and members of University management, which will give you experience of managing sometimes complex relationships. These are skills which are particularly valued by employers.

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 of Liberation Rep, are recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR).

Each Liberation Officer will receive a recognition payment of £1,200, which will be paid in three instalments of £400 on October 17, January 18, and March 18.



Commitments and responsibilities:

- Gather feedback from self-identifying students on their experiences at the University of Edinburgh and any issues they might have (ensuring you engage with a range of students)
- Represent self-identifying students by attending and taking part in Student Council and any relevant Students' Association and University meetings
- Sign-post students in need of support on to the relevant Students' Association or University service e.g. The Advice Place or the Student Disability Service
- Organise events and activities throughout the year – these may be social events, educational events, or campaigning
- Plan events and campaigns for significant dates such as Black History Month, Disability History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, International Women's Day, the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women, and Bi Visibility Day
- Support self-identifying students in running their own projects and campaigns on issues relating to your role
- Ensure self-identifying students are kept updated on any relevant activities within the Students' Association and University by sending regular email newsletters and participating in outreach activities
- Create a handover document at the end of your term to pass on to your successor, outlining key issues and campaigns from the year

Training and support:

- You will receive an initial welcome to your role with the Students' Association at an event held shortly after your election.
- You will receive bespoke Liberation Rep training before the summer which will provide more specific information about your role, allow you to meet and bond with your fellow Liberation Reps, and will enable you to plan for the year ahead.
- In Semester 1 of the new academic year, you will be invited to more general training designed to provide you with more information about the Students' Association's representative structures and allow you to meet other elected student reps.
- We also offer additional training sessions during the year which focus on specific skills, such as campaigning, public speaking, effective communication, and more
- You will work closely with the Sabbatical Officers, particularly the Vice President Welfare, who can support you in your role.
- You will receive support from staff within the Representation and Democracy team 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/>



Representation & Democracy

- Student Council: <http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/studentrepresentation/studentcouncil/>
- Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR): <http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/order-documents/transcripts/hear>
- The Edinburgh Award: www.ed.ac.uk/EdinburghAward