

## Section Representative Role Description

*If you're passionate about building welcoming communities for Edinburgh's non-traditional learners, improving student support, and giving students like you a voice within the Students' Association, you could be the perfect Section Representative.*

### What does the role involve?

As a Section Representative, you'll be responsible for **representing one of 6 student communities on campus**:

- **Commuter students**, including those who chose not to move away from home for University, and commute to-and-from campus
- **International students**, including all EU and overseas students
- **Mature students**, defined as any student who is over the age of 21 when they begin their course, but with a particular focus on students who are significantly older than their peers and those who are returning to education after a break in their academic studies
- **Part-time students**, including any student currently studying part-time, at any level
- **Student carers**, including any students who have unpaid caring responsibilities for a friend, partner or family member
- **Student parents**, including any students who – alongside their studies – are the primary carers for a child

You'll work closely with students within your community, the other Section Representatives, and the [Vice President Welfare](#) to **ensure the students you represent are supported, engaged, and have their voices heard within the Students' Association and the University.**

You'll work to **coordinate events and campaigns**, creating empowering community spaces and driving forward change on everything from student support to funding.

You'll be able to **shape the on-going development of the Students' Association's work on the issues affecting the students you represent**, from our policies and processes to staff training. You'll also have the opportunity to **sit on key University committees and working groups**, ensuring that students have their say on the issues that matter to them.

As the point of contact between the communities you represent and the Students' Association, you'll be responsible for **ensuring that students are aware of key projects throughout the year, and letting us know about any upcoming events or activities that could benefit from our support.**

### How much of a commitment is the role?

The Section Representative role is designed to be **flexible** and **fit around your studies**.



The core parts of the role should take **no more than 10 hours a month** to complete, but you may wish to do more.

## What support is available in the role?

As a Section Representative, you'll be supported in your role by the **Vice President Welfare**, and **staff within the Representation and Democracy team**. They'll be on-hand to answer your questions and offer advice on your work.

You'll receive **introductory training** to help you get the most out of the role, and you'll also have the opportunity to attend **skills-based training workshops** throughout the year.

## What would I get out of the role?

Becoming a Section Representative is a great opportunity to **give something back to your community**, while **shaping student experience at Edinburgh for the future**.

In the role, you'll develop **key transferable skills** like leadership, negotiation, relationship management and communication, and the experiences you have as a Section Representative will give you **plenty to talk about in job interviews and on your CV**.

Provided you're active in your role, you'll receive **recognition on your [Higher Education Achievement Record](#)**, and you'll also have the chance to complete an **Edinburgh Award** focused on representing students.

## Where can I get more information about the role?

If you have any questions regarding the role of Section Representative, you can contact the following people:

- Sarah Moffat, Representation and Democracy Manager, [sarah.moffat@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.moffat@eusa.ed.ac.uk)
- Niamh McCrossan, Vice President Welfare 2020/21, [vpwelfare@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:vpwelfare@eusa.ed.ac.uk)

If you would like to speak to any of the current Section Representatives about their role, please email [elections@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:elections@eusa.ed.ac.uk) and we'll put you in touch.

If you have any questions regarding the elections, please email [elections@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:elections@eusa.ed.ac.uk).

## If I decide to stand, what are the next steps?

The first step is to **check that you're eligible** – in order to become a Section Representative, you need to be a member of the student community you are hoping to represent.



# Student Elections

# 2021

If you're eligible, then once nominations have opened on January 11<sup>th</sup> you can [click here](#) to submit **your nomination** – you'll just need to fill out some basic details. The deadline for nominations is 17:00 on February 17th .

Once your nomination has been submitted, we'll email you once your nomination is confirmed.

Once your nomination has been confirmed you'll need to **upload your candidate photo and manifesto**, letting students know why they should vote for you. Candidates who have completed their manifesto are significantly more likely to be elected, so it's important you do this before the deadline on 17:00 on February 24th .

There's lots of advice on **planning your campaign** available online [here](#), including specific guides on Creating your Manifesto, Creating Posters and Flyers, and Campaigning on Social Media.

If you would like to **meet with a Students' Association staff member to discuss your campaign**, please email [elections@eusa.ed.ac.uk](mailto:elections@eusa.ed.ac.uk).

