Liberation Officer Role Description

If you’re passionate about building supportive communities for Edinburgh’s marginalised students, running challenging social justice campaigns, and giving students like you a voice within the Students’ Association, you could be the perfect Liberation Officer.

What does the role involve?

As a Liberation Officer, you’ll be responsible for representing one of 5 marginalised communities on campus:

- **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students**, including students of African, Asian, Arab and Afro-Caribbean descent, those from minority ethnic groups including Jewish and Romani students, and those who identify as having mixed or multiple ethnicities
- **Disabled students**, including students with a physical disability, mental health condition, or a Specific Learning Difference
- **LGBT+ students**, including but not limited to students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual
- **Trans and non-binary students**, including but not limited to trans men, trans women, non-binary people, and any student who identifies as a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth
- **Women students**, including all women – trans and cis – as well as any student for whom woman forms part of a more complex gender identity

You’ll work closely with self-identifying students, the other Liberation Officers, 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 curriculum diversity.

You’ll be able to shape the on-going development of the Students’ Association’s work on liberation issues, from our policies and processes to Sabbatical Officer priorities and staff training. You might also be invited 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.

You’ll need to build effective relationships with relevant student groups, as well as external organisations including charities and community groups.
**How much of a commitment is the role?**

The Liberation Officer role is designed to be flexible and fit around your studies.

The core parts of the role should take no more than 20 hours a month to complete, but you may wish to do more.

**What support is available in the role?**

As a Liberation Officer, you’ll be supported in your role by the Vice President Welfare, and the Students’ Association’s Welfare and Liberation Coordinator. 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?**

If you’ve been involved in the Liberation Campaigns as a student, becoming a Liberation Officer is a great opportunity to give something back, while shaping liberation 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 Liberation Officer 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.

Each Liberation Officer also receives an honoraria of £1,200 split into 3 payments across the year, in recognition of your contribution to the Students’ Association.

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

If you have any questions regarding the role of Liberation Officer, you can contact the following people:

- Laura Smith, Welfare and Liberation Coordinator, laura.smith@eusa.ed.ac.uk
- Oona Miller, Vice President Welfare 2019/20, vpwelfare@eusa.ed.ac.uk

If you would like to speak to any of the current Liberation Officers about their role, please email liberation@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.

**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 Liberation Officer, you need to self-identify into the Campaign you are hoping to represent.
If you’re eligible then click [here](#) to submit your nomination – you’ll just need to fill out some basic details. **The deadline for nominations is 23:59 on February 19th.**

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 at 12:00 on February 26th.**

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