

Candidate Guide

THE 4 ROLES OF AN OFFICER

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READY**

TO NOMINATE YOURSELF

BSU

ELECTIONS

2024



BRIGHTON
STUDENTS' UNION

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The 4 Roles of a Sabbatical Officer

As a newly elected Sabbatical Officer, understanding the diverse aspects of your role is essential. While your main duty may seem to be advocating for student interests and representing their voices, there are times when you'll need to adopt different perspectives. These will be the four roles you might take as an Officer. This guide aims to explain the varied roles of Sabbatical Officers, their intersections, and the challenges they might meet while performing these roles.

Representing Students:

- Incorporate wide-spread student opinions into decision-making.
- Address the challenge of opposing student views on different topics.

Student Voice Reflects student wants and concerns.	Student Insight Engage with students to understand their perspectives and needs.
Student Interest Focuses on what benefits students and meets their needs. You'll need both Student Voice and Student Insight to figure out what the Student Interest is at that moment. Bear in mind that this might change over time!	

The Four roles of a Sabbatical Officer:

1. Activist
2. Representative
3. Staff
4. Trustee

Activist role:

- **Purpose:** Advocating for causes you believe in.
- **Accountable to:** Your conscience.
- **What happens when things go wrong:** Disappointment.

The Values of the Students' Union:

- Inclusive
- Authentic
- Supportive

Consider how your role as a Sabbatical Officer aligns with these values through your manifesto, past officer experiences, and campus services.

Representative role:

- **Purpose:** Advocating for student concerns.
- **Accountable to:** SU members (students)
- **What happens when things go wrong:** Petitions and votes of no confidence.

The Big Plan 2023-26

- Amplify the student voice
- Defend academic quality
- Promote positive wellbeing
- Build belonging & community
- Boost employability

These priorities that have been set in our strategic plan are based on student feedback we have received over the past years and are reflective of what direction the Students' Union is expected to take. These will base your representative role, but keep in mind that student insight changes rapidly, and these are goals are general rather than specific, so always make sure to incorporate student consultation within your work.

Staff role:

- **Purpose:** Working on tasks for the organisation.
- **Accountable to:** Employment terms and conditions overseen by the CEO.
- **What happens when things go wrong:** Disciplinary procedures and possible dismissal.

Understanding the Staff Role:

- Subject to employment laws.
- Employment contract with terms and conditions.
- Employed on a fixed-term basis.
- Receive a monthly salary.
- Entitled to annual leave.
- Works regular office hours with lots of occasional extra duties.

Trustee role:

- **Purpose:** Ensuring the charity's long-term future.
- **Accountable to:** Other trustees, full board, and charity commission.
- **What happens when things go wrong:** Code of conduct investigation and potential removal from the board.

While the Representative, Staff, and Trustee roles hold legal status, the Activist role does not.

It's crucial to navigate these roles effectively, balancing advocacy, representation, organizational duties, and long-term strategy leadership to serve the student community and uphold the values of the Students' Union.