

Ratification of Student Trustee Appointment

Note from Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare)

Council is asked to vote to ratify the appointment of two student trustees, the process for which was followed in accordance with the constitution.

The standard of candidates was extremely high. All applicants were passionate, experienced, and strongly believed in the Union's values, particularly inclusivity. There were also a lot of applications – we needed to shortlist the candidates, and held a full day of interviews to assess all of those shortlisted. We are very grateful to all those who applied, and look forward to supporting them in their excellent work in the future.

Trustees

“Trustees have overall control of a charity and are responsible for making sure it's doing what it was set up to do.” (gov.uk, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>) As a registered charity, Imperial College Union's highest governing body is its Board of Trustees. This board decides the strategic direction and priorities of the Union.

Constitution - Appointment

The appointment of student trustees is outlined in section K, clause 48 of Imperial College Union's constitution (<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/constitution-and-regulations>). It states:

Up to two Student Trustees shall be appointed by a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees, who will receive advice on the appointment from the Appointments and Remuneration Committee, provided that the appointment of each Student Trustee is ratified by a two thirds majority vote of the Union Council.

Process

- Applications opened on May 22nd, and closed at 23:59 June 5th. The position was listed as a news article on the Union website, and was advertised in the Union's all-student email newsletter on May 25th. All council members were notified by email on May 23rd.
- Applicants were asked to submit a CV and cover letter
- The interview panel shortlisted the applications, and invited the shortlist to interview
- Interviews took place on June 13th. The interview panel consisted of:
 - Alex Chippy Compton (Officer Trustee, member of Appointments and Remunerations Committee)
 - Fintan O'Connor (Officer Trustee, member of Appointments and Remunerations Committee)
 - Jill Finney (External Trustee, Chair of the Board of Trustees)
 - Jarlath O'Hara (Managing Director, Imperial College Union)
- The interview panel advised the Appointments and Remunerations (A&R) Committee. The A&R committee consists of:
 - Alex Chippy Compton (Officer Trustee)
 - Fintan O'Connor (Officer Trustee)
 - Kate Owen (External Trustee, Chair)
 - Eric Suen (Elected Student Trustee)

Candidates were evaluated against the criteria listed on the news article, included in the appendix, and as follows:

- A current and continuing student of Imperial College London
- Understanding of the issues affecting students in the UK and at Imperial College London, particularly those with [protected characteristics](#) or under-represented groups at Imperial.
- Awareness of the systems and structures in, and issues affecting, Higher Education
- Understanding of, and passion for, the students' union movement
- The ability to challenge the status quo, test perceived wisdom and question authority
- Strong communication skills with the ability to relate to and communicate effectively with people at all levels
- A leader on equality of opportunity who values diversity and removes barriers to equality
- An excellent role model who promotes the highest standards of probity, integrity and honesty

Ratification - Appointment

The Appointments and Remunerations Committee recommends the appointment of the following two student trustees:

- Hafiza Irshad
- Madina Wane

Hafiza Irshad

Hafiza is a second year Biochemistry student. In her two years here, she has been highly involved in multiple aspects of College and Union life, as well as in wider society. At the Union, she has acted as vice chair for the Faith management group, an academic representative, and a news reporter for Felix. Hafiza has worked extensively in student outreach, both individually, and with the College's Outreach department. Hafiza is the student representative on the societal engagement team, and has challenged the College to be more ambitious with its Widening Access targets. She is passionate about inclusivity, and representation of all underrepresented groups. She offers fresh perspective on student issues, and how the Union can better engage with its members – particularly those who have not been involved with the Union in the past.

Madina Wane

Madina is a PhD student in the Department of Life Sciences, studying Immunology. She began her Bsc in Biochemistry here in 2012. Over the past six years, Madina has been an active member of every aspect of Union and College Life, including in science communication and outreach, as a Chair and a committee member of Imperial Cinema, and as a supervisor to undergraduate and master's students. She has an excellent understanding of student issues, and a strong commitment to the Union's value of inclusivity. She is excited to use her breadth of experience to the board to benefit every member of the student community, regardless of level of study or background. In particular, she looks forward to using her flair for communication to improve the Union's communication, and bridge gaps between the students' union and its members.

Council is asked to vote to ratify the appointment of:

- 1. Hafiza Irshad as Appointed Student Trustee**
- 2. Madina Wane as Appointed Student Trustee**

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Apply to be a Student Trustee

Become a Student Trustee

Tuesday 22 May 2018

The Board of Trustees, the most senior governing body of Imperial College Union, is recruiting two appointed Student Trustees.

What is The Board of Trustees?

The Board provides the strategic direction and vision of the organisation. It ensures that we are working towards Our Strategy 2017-20, and verifies that our staff and student leaders are conducting their activities safely and legally. It also approves Imperial College Union's annual budget and examines its financial performance, issuing our annual reports.

The Board of Trustees comprises:

- Five Officer Trustees
- Two elected Student Trustees
- Two appointed Student Trustees
- Four External Trustees
- One Alumni Trustee
- Union Council Chair

External Trustees are selected from industry and academia for their expertise, external viewpoint and experience.

Subcommittees

The Board of Trustees has four subcommittees, which are responsible for managing particular areas of the charity in greater detail. The subcommittees are:

- Appointments & Remuneration
- Communications
- Finance & Risk
- Governance

Key responsibilities

- Trustees are accountable for delivering the responsibilities detailed in the Constitution & Bye-Laws and Board of Trustees Policy. All Trustees have a duty to:
 - Ensure that Imperial College Union acts in accordance with its charitable objects, constitution and other guiding documents and remains true to its Mission, Vision and Values
 - Help Imperial College Union achieve its objectives and improves the lives of its members
 - Ensure that Imperial College Union complies with all relevant legislation and regulations, including relevant Charities Acts and Education Acts, and related regulatory requirements
 - Ensure that Imperial College Union does not undertake activities that put its financial stability, members or reputation at undue risk
 - Work with other Trustees, staff and volunteers in a constructive manner and for the greater good of the Union
 - Participate fully in Board meetings and join one of the Board's subcommittees
 - Use their personal skills and experience to ensure Imperial College Union is well run and efficient
 - Seek professional external advice where there may be material risk to the Union or where the Trustees may be in breach of their duties, or at any other appropriate moment
 - Add value to the Board and the Union through generating ideas, challenging the status quo, broadening thinking and supporting and promoting innovation and creativity

Time commitment

The Board of Trustees meets six times per year. Our Student Trustees are expected to attend all meetings of the board, and of one of the subcommittees. Each subcommittee meets about 4 times a year.

The time commitment for this post is expected to be at least 7 days per annum plus preparation time, including attendance at all Board of Trustees meetings (11 days each, 6 per annum), membership of one Board Subcommittee (14 days each, approximately 4 meetings per annum), attendance at annual trustee away day and residential (3 days per annum) and optional attendance at other events, meetings and planning days as required.

Student Trustees are in post for one year, from the date of appointment by the Board, and can be reappointed.

Key skills you'll need to demonstrate

When applying, you must meet and/or demonstrate the following criteria:

- A current and continuing student of Imperial College London
- Understanding of the issues affecting students in the UK and at Imperial College London, particularly those with protected characteristics or under-represented groups at Imperial.
- Awareness of the systems and structures in, and issues affecting, Higher Education
- Understanding of, and passion for, the students' union movement
- The ability to challenge the status quo, test perceived wisdom and question authority
- An interest in strategic planning and governance
- Strong communication skills with the ability to relate to and communicate effectively with people at all levels
- A leader on equality of opportunity who values diversity and removes barriers to equality
- An excellent role model who promotes the highest standards of probity, integrity and honesty

Development opportunities within the role

Becoming a Student Trustee is an invaluable opportunity to gather real-life experience in a high performing and complex organisation at the most senior level. Your time on Board will give you a chance to develop your strategic thinking capabilities, understanding effective governance and its purpose as well as oversight of commercial and financial operations, communications strategy and human resources management of a £9 million turnover charity. You will learn how to play a meaningful role, help shape the direction of the Union and develop your critical business thinking skills.

You will be paired with an external trustee with 20+ experience in their field to mentor and support you through your term. They will support your personal development and any projects you want to drive forward during your time as a trustee.

To find out more about this role, you can contact one of the current Student Trustees:

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To find out more about this role, you can contact one of the current Student Trustees:

- Eric Suen: ho.suen14@imperial.ac.uk
- Thomas Waite: thomas.waite14@imperial.ac.uk
- Lynn Zheng: lingru.zheng10@imperial.ac.uk

How to apply

Please submit a CV and cover letter outlining why you think you would be suitable for the role to tu@imperial.ac.uk. Your cover letter should be no more than one page. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a short interview in the week commencing 11 June.

Deadline for applications is 23:59 BST Tuesday 5 June.

Please note that, once appointed as a Student Trustee, individuals cannot hold employment at Imperial College Union.

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