



Vacancy: Student Expert Panel member

Background

The University of York has a strong culture of representing student voices across all areas of the institution and throughout students' journeys at the University. This practice is built in to the University's academic, governance and pastoral systems and structures. We have an excellent relationship with our Students' Union, YUSU, and work closely with them at all levels. As a University, we understand the importance of giving our students a voice and acknowledge that if we have a better understanding of the experiences of different groups of students, at different stages, we will be better placed to effectively tackle the existing gaps in relation to who comes to study at York, the quality of the degree they achieve, and their graduate outcomes.

One of the key strategic projects outlined in our latest [Access and Participation Plan](#) is the creation of a Student Expert Panel. We believe this will strengthen our commitment to moving from a culture of consultation through to true partnership and developing a more systematic approach to listening to student stories.

Role and Responsibilities

The primary role of student panellists is to ensure student experiences, needs and perspectives are represented in the work of the University in relation to access and participation.

The Panel is an important source of advice and challenge for the University's Access and Participation Monitoring and Evaluation Group (APMEG) and the Access and Participation Steering Group (APSG). The Panel is required to be both proactive in the creation of its own priorities, but also reactive in response to the priorities and requests of the University.

The Panel's main responsibilities are:

- To provide student insight to both APMEG and APSG to ensure that student interests are considered at all stages and in all discussions and decisions.

- To engage with representative groups (e.g. YUSU Networks and Officers) and bodies and to have an overview of the wider sector, so that Panel members are able to provide insight and perspectives beyond their own personal experience.
- To contribute to the development and achievement of the University's Access and Participation Plan by:
 - Reviewing and challenging suggested interventions, measures, budgets and monitoring arrangements.
 - Developing proposals for student-led projects, including appropriate evaluation.
 - Monitoring and evaluating the impact and effectiveness of interventions and measures under the University's Access and Participation Plan.
 - Ensuring that the Access and Participation Plan is appropriately aligned to the lived experiences of the University of York's students.
 - Maintaining an overview of internal and sector-level statistical data.
- To respond to relevant consultations as appropriate.
- To provide reports to the APSG in a timely manner, as agreed.

Selection Criteria

The following are essential criteria for the role of Student Expert Panel member:

- A commitment to identifying and challenging barriers which may hinder the equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds;
- An interest in higher education as a current student.
- The ability to:
 - take account of student perspectives for the short, medium and long term;
 - think critically about the 'big picture' in higher education, particularly in relation to widening access and participation;
 - analyse and evaluate evidence and use it to inform views;
 - articulate and present own views and those of others;
 - challenge effectively, where appropriate;
 - work effectively as part of a team;
- A preparedness to make the necessary time commitments and attend the relevant meetings, as outlined below;
- An understanding of the need to respect confidentiality and the views of others;

We welcome applications from all current students, no matter how you are studying, whether you live on or off campus, your stage of study and regardless of previous experience. We are particularly keen to hear from students from lower income/socioeconomic status groups, those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups, mature students and students with disability status. If you have experience of living in care or have been estranged from your family, we would also particularly welcome an application from you.

Please note that priority will be given to Home (UK) students due to the remit of the Access and Participation Plan.

Expected Time Commitments

The Panel will meet three times a year. The expected time commitment, which includes the panel meetings, training and development, preparation for meetings, responding to consultations from the wider University and work in between meetings will be a maximum of 6-10 hours per term.

Panel members will sit for one year and will then have the opportunity to put themselves forward for one further year.

Fees and Expenses

Panel members will be paid £8.37 per hour.

Reasonable travel expenses and subsistence will be reimbursed in line with the University of York's travel and subsistence policy.

Application and Appointment Process

Candidates should firstly check that they meet the criteria set out in this document. Applications can be submitted via the google form [here](#).

Please ensure that applications are submitted by noon on Monday 4th November 2019.

Applications will be reviewed and assessed against the criteria outlined in this document. If there are a high volume of applications, the selection panel may choose to shortlist applications against a single essential criterion. Candidates successful in reaching the interview stage will then be provided with further information about the role, the terms and conditions of appointment and practical arrangements for interviews.

Interviews for this role will take place on Wednesday 13th November and Thursday 14th November at the University of York.

Please email Michelle Hughes m.hughes@york.ac.uk or Stuart Bottomley stuart.bottomley@york.ac.uk if you have any queries.