

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES...



What do they do?

Student representatives work to enhance the teaching, learning, and research experience of OU students (both current and future) as members of university committees or working groups in all faculties and throughout the senior leadership and management committees.

They act as the voice of students, drawing on their own experiences and the experiences of the students around them to influence everything from the development of new modules and qualifications to university policy.

The student representatives on formal governance committees, Boards of Studies, and many of the OU's working groups are affiliated with the OU Students Association as either elected or appointed representatives. They are chosen to promote the views, thoughts and perspectives of all students.

Why are Student Representatives needed?

- Student representatives can provide real-time, detailed, feedback on the student experience at the OU.
- They are engaged students who wish to help make positive changes.
- They provide a fresh outlook on areas of work, research and learning and teaching.

Transferable Skills

Through this work, student reps grow and develop transferable skills such as:

- communication,
- confidence,
- meeting skills,
- negotiation,
- time management.

These skills can positively impact their studies and future employment, or further studies, prospects.

What do Student Reps do?



Student reps sit as full members of the committees which they belong to, with the same rights and responsibilities as other members as laid out in the OU Governance Code of Conduct.

Student reps sit on their respective committees as individuals and, although they are encouraged to consider the views of both other students and the Students Association, they cannot be bound or mandated to vote in a particular way or raise particular issues (see 4(f) in the Governance Code of Conduct).

Student reps are encouraged to be proactive in seeking the views of other students. This might be through interacting with students at tutorial, lectures, residential schools, community events, or on social media.

Student reps are encouraged to be champions for the student voice, ensuring that students are consulted through a variety of means and at different stages of decision-making processes.

Student reps are encouraged to work closely with each other, sharing best practise and information about common issues.

Student Reps dont...



Act as a substitute for other methods of student consultation – it is still important to engage with the student voice through other means.

Have direct lines of communication to the entirety of the cohorts that they represent so cannot gather the views of every student.

Offer advice on individual student issues, or represent individual students although they may refer students to other services/contacts or raise an issue with a committee if they think it might affect multiple students.

Act as official spokespeople for the OU Students Association, although they may refer to formal position statements from the Students Association.

Accept payment for their role – they are volunteers. However, they are able to claim reasonable expenses such as travel related to their role (subject to conditions).

