Bucks Students’ Union Membership Guide 2023-24

# Welcome

Hello and welcome to Bucks Students’ Union - the Students’ Union which is ranked Number 1 in the UK\*.

As your Elected Officers (Sabbatical Officers) we will effectively represent your academic interests, and ensure that you have a great time while you are here, creating a sense of belonging to ensure you get as much out of university as possible!

Having recently graduated from Buckinghamshire New University ourselves, we can say hand on heart that this is a unique student journey. The close-knit community is second-to-none and, when combined with the incredible co-curricular package your Union offers, it’s fair to say that there is no other university in the country with a student experience quite like ours.

\*As voted in the 2022-23 National Students’ Survey amongst taught students at non-specialist universities.

## **Brandon Tester**

## President

As President of Bucks Students’ Union, my job is to make sure our members, the students of BNU, are having the experience they deserve. I help sustain the partnership between the University and Union as we act as the critical friend the institutions deserves. I also chair our Trustee Board, sit on the University’s governing body and engage with the wider higher education sector.

**Some of the areas I’ll be working on this year include:**

* supporting our members with the cost-of-living crisis
* tackling digital poverty
* ensuring BNU’s welfare and wellbeing support meets demand.

# Jess Bradbury

## Vice President Achievement and Belonging

My role focuses on the co-curricular aspect of the Students’ Union. I work with the Student Activities team in everything from sports clubs to societies as well as our charitable fundraising events and volunteering. I also work with our Training and Development team to support you in developing new skills, gaining new qualifications and boosting your employability so you can smash your career goals and ace your interviews.

**Some of the areas I’ll be working on this year include:**

* building strong links with community groups and networks to create more opportunities for our members
* driving forward our equality, diversity and inclusion work to ensure all students feel supported, valued and welcome and that there are equal opportunities for all
* maintaining a first-rate and unique co-curricular programme of opportunities, both developmental and social, that makes studying at BNU a ‘complete package’.

# Sruthi K. Subhash

## Vice President Education and Welfare (High Wycombe)

In my role I’m tasked with improving the educational and welfare provision of our members whilst they’re studying at BNU. I work alongside Amy and our Representation team to voice your opinions about your educational experience with the University, through constructive feedback and engagement. I also work with our Advice Centre to deliver a variety of campaigns to enhance positive mental health
and wellbeing.

**Some of the areas I’ll be working on this year include:**

* welcoming and supporting international students
* creating an equitable experience for all students irrespective of campus of study or point of entry
* gaining a better understanding of what learning resources and facilities would best suit our members and working with the University to ensure BNU students get the support they deserve.

# Amy Pile

## Vice President Education and Welfare (Uxbridge and Aylesbury)

My role focuses on the educational and wellbeing experiences of our members at BNU. I am based on the Uxbridge Campus, but occasionally Aylesbury too, to make sure that the students at all our campuses are equally represented. I work closely with Sruthi to support your educational and wellbeing needs. I’m also part of the Representation team and work with our brilliant Advice Centre.

* Some of the areas I’ll be working on this year include:
* better support on placements to ensure our members feel safe, valued and confident and that we reduce the stress and pressure in what can be a challenging experience
* improving access to teaching staff and key services, along with improving the communication with students
* supporting students during what is becoming a housing ‘crisis’ at BNU.

# Strategic Plan

Our mission: making life better for students at Bucks.

This year we are sharing the strategic vision and commitments for our Union that will outline our direction until 2026. Despite recent progress and successes, of which we can be collectively proud, we will put a huge amount of energy into driving the organisation forward and our focus will be:

* inclusivity and belonging
* student success and wellbeing
* employability and life after university
* community and sustainability
* responsible governance and resourcing
* people and development.

We truly feel the plan is leading us to become a more dynamic organisation that will inspire our members whilst tenaciously representing all students at Buckinghamshire New University.

We continue to make significant progress but there will always be much to do and our Union has the confidence we can meet the challenges we face and deliver on our commitments for our members.

**Our vision:**

Everything we do will create an environment where our diverse membership feel they belong. We will create inclusive, supportive communities based on shared interests, values and ideas.

Where our members are inspired to embrace and explore a broad variety of accessible educational, developmental and social opportunities which will support their successful student journey.

Where our members are encouraged and supported to create opportunities for others, developing into leadership roles throughout an organisation they feel truly part of.

Where the collective strength of the membership is recognised, respected and valued for its unique contribution both within the Union and our wider community.

Where the Union is an effective, trusted and credible agent for change and champion of all students of BNU.

Where opportunity is never defeated by circumstance.

As with everything we do, the plan’s success will rely on the engagement of our members so now it’s over to you to get involved.

# What membership means

**Enrolling on a course at Buckinghamshire New University automatically makes you a member of Bucks Students’ Union. You don’t need to join and there are no fees involved, but membership gives you access to the vast range of services that we offer - all for free thanks to The Big Deal.**

These include:

* representing our members
* sport (competitive and recreational)
* entertainment, nights out
and cultural events
* societies
* additional skills training sessions
* recreational activities
* support from our Advice Centre
* a rewarded student rep scheme.

But, most importantly, it gives you the opportunity to stand and vote in our elections, attend Union Council and help influence the way the University is run.

If you think there’s something we should be doing, or would like to suggest ways we could do things differently, please let us know at union@bnu.ac.uk.

All of these free services are available to every single member no matter how you study, thanks to The Big Deal.

For more information on the range of services we provide
visit [bucksstudentsunion.org](https://www.bucksstudentsunion.org/), or get in touch:
email union@bnu.ac.uk or call 01494 601 600.

# Graduate attributes

## The Bucks Graduate

* Leadership and self-development
* Social and ethical awareness and responsibility
* Knowledge and its application
* Creativity

The Bucks graduate attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders, in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in today’s market, and make a positive impact on the world around them.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds, with a range of experiences, so you may well arrive with some of these attributes already in place. Wherever you are on your journey of self-development, we are here to support you.

By taking part in any of our Big Deal activities, you are gaining the skills to help you make a difference in your chosen sector.

We welcome suggestions from you as to what you think will give you the most benefit, so come to the Students’ Union offices or check out pages 24-27 for more information.

## Useful contacts:

Your personal tutor.

BNU Careers and Employability Service:
careers@bnu.ac.uk | [bucks.ac.uk/careers](https://www.bucks.ac.uk/life/student-success-and-support/career-success)

Bucks Students’ Union: HR & Development Manager
sarah.jackson@bnu.ac.uk

# The Big Deal

Once you’ve enrolled at BNU, you are automatically a member of Bucks Students’ Union, and we believe in putting our members first. As part of our exclusive Big Deal package, we are the only UK university to offer our members free access to such a diverse and inspirational range of activities - all to enrich your university experience. The Big Deal is designed to encourage all our members to try different activities, make new friends and to join in with the BNU community, all completely free. We are grateful for the support and funding from the University to make The Big Deal possible.

bucksstudentsunion.org/bigdeal

## FREE social activities

We’re more than a bar and have a broad calendar of events allowing you to experience new things and socialise with broader groups of people. Live music, mixers, cultural celebrations, and comedy - you name it, we do it!

## FREE recreational activities

Free activities throughout the year including taster sessions and demonstrations - from jewellery making to theatre trips, guitar lessons, cookery and singing.

## FREE sports

The opportunity to play competitive sport in 25 different teams in 14 different disciplines. Whatever your standard, there is a place for you in our squads.

## FREE club nights and events

From drum and bass to cheesey pop nights, we’ve got something for everyone from Freshers’ Fortnight right up to our three day annual Festiball. Free to all BNU students and hosted in our award-winning venue.

## FREE societies

If you’re interested in it, you can bet someone else is too. We can help you set-up a society and even provide funding to get it off the ground.

## FREE Sport for Fun

Don’t want to commit to a competitive sport yet, or just want to keep active? Sport for Fun offers a whole range of opportunities to get involved with.

## FREE additional skills training

A range of different skills-based workshops and sessions to help boost your CV and make sure you leave university with more than just a degree.

## REWARDED student reps

Student reps are the voice of their course and represent their class at a range of University meetings, ensuring that student views are heard.

# The Bucks Award

**Here at BNU, we want you to succeed in all aspects of your university experience and beyond. We know how good you are, so we’re giving you the opportunity to receive a record of all of your fantastic Union-related achievements in one place**.

Every time you participate in an activity with us - be it volunteering, a skills session or securing a committee role - we have a record of it and are now able to collate these records to really showcase your involvement through the Bucks Award.

The Bucks Award is divided into sections with the idea that by the time you leave university you have something in every section – a completely achievable goal due to all the free opportunities you have access to, thanks to The Big Deal.

## Employment

We will list any role you have had with the Students’ Union during your time at BNU, backing up that you have had the work experience you claim on your CV.

## Skills

Maybe you’ve attended our course- specific or generic training sessions or achieved accredited qualifications through us. These will all be listed here so you can see exactly how much you’ve developed with your Students’ Union.

## Volunteering

This will detail the number of hours volunteering you have completed (and most importantly logged) by type of role – club or society committee role, ambassador role, community or external projects and Students’ Union or internal projects. Being able to talk about your volunteering experiences and relate them to roles that you apply for will be invaluable.

## Leadership roles

Whether you’ve been a school officer or student rep, ambassador or chair of a club or society or team leader in our bars, you have had to use leadership skills to perform your role. As a candidate in our elections you will have planned a campaign and influenced people into voting for you, thereby demonstrating signs of your leadership skills. Whatever you want to do as a career, leadership skills will give you an advantage.

## Awards

Here will be a list of any award you have received at the Athletic Union Dinner or Union Awards, including any awards you have been shortlisted for. These are really great achievements and should be recognised.

## Memberships

If you are a member of a club or society, it will be listed here. Participation in these activities demonstrates commitment to a sport or interest and the ability to build your own networks and team-based skills.

The Bucks Award can be used as an ongoing reflective tool to identify any areas you feel we can help you develop. Maybe you have accrued many volunteering hours but would like to secure a leadership role or maybe you’ve attended lots of skills sessions and would like to use those skills working for us. It can also be a way of showing prospective employers the many activities you have been involved in, thereby demonstrating the transferable skills and experiences you’ve picked up during your time studying.

For this reason, we also offer Bucks Award sessions, where we are able to produce your Bucks Award on request and use this self-reflective session, to really help you understand all the skills you have gained from your involvement with our activities and how each of these can be transferred into the workplace. These sessions can be booked directly with the Training and Development team, by emailing sutraining@bnu.ac.uk.

Find us on social media:

Facebook
Bucks Student Development

Instagram
@BucksStudentDevelopment

# Freshers’ helpers

Freshers’ helpers are a team of current students, employed during the first weeks of the new academic year, to help our members settle into their new environment. They are fully trained, get paid and gain great job satisfaction through helping others that were in a similar position to them when they were freshers.

Keep your eye out for the helpers at the start of term and be sure to ask them any questions you may have, or even just stop them for a chat. You can find out more on our website at bucksstudentsunion.org/freshershelpers.

Project Coordinator
katie.smith@bnu.ac.uk

# Buddying

Bucks buddies are a group of current students that volunteer to provide discreet, peer-to-peer support via email to BNU applicants, and those that become students. They are fully-equipped to answer any questions that arise and can point you in the right direction for more information and help.

Buddying is a great opportunity to give something back, help others and make a difference. It is flexible and can be carried out in conjunction with paid work, course and social commitments. The role is fully supported by the Union’s Project Coordinator.

Recruitment for buddies begins during the spring term, but register your interest as soon as possible if you would like to be involved.

It’s never too late to be assigned a buddy to help you settle into university life. To request a buddy, please contact katie.smith@bnu.ac.uk.

And, buddies will receive an award of £100 on completion of evaluation admin at the end of the project. You can find out more at [bucksstudentsunion.org/bucksbuddying](https://www.bucksstudentsunion.org/support/bucksbuddying/).

# Events

**Our gigs, club nights, comedy, themed parties and entertainment are totally free for BNU students, 7 nights a week. With special funding from the institution, we can promote a wider range of quality events that much bigger universities would envy, as well as delivering the things that our members already enjoy**.

We’ve got events happening all the time, so there really is something for everyone. Ever wanted to go to a comedy show, catch some live music or go to a club night that you just can’t afford? You don’t have to worry about that at BNU as everything is free, thanks to The Big Deal.

We believe an active and varied social life, that creates a sense of belonging, is a key ingredient in becoming a well-rounded graduate, and mixing with new people and sharing new experiences is vital. No other university in the country supports the social activities of their students to this extent.

**Build your CV** - help us promote events by working with our Events team or even run a night yourself.

**Expose your talent** - we’re always looking for student acts and artistes, DJs and promoters - don’t just come to our events, be a part of it and make them happen.

**Gain experience** - learn new skills and enhance your experience by joining our team as a member of staff –
we have a range of different positions available!

**Want to get involved further?** Want to work for us, DJ, promote or just have a burning question? Contact the team now by emailing suevents@bnu.ac.uk.

We are proud that many of our management and operational staff team are graduates of BNU or current students, expertly running our bars, security and tech and devising, promoting and delivering our events.

Our venue holds the very highest score in the Best Bar None accreditation with a Gold award, recognising industry best practice, customer care and safety and corporate social responsibility.

We train and support the largest student workforce in the area and provide many hundreds of hours of valuable work experience every year.

The Venue and The Lounge combine to be a safe and inclusive, student-centred social space that hosts, amongst plenty of other events:

* cultural events and celebrations
* orientation events and welcome mixers
* club nights and themed events
* live music and mini festivals
* LGBTQ+ events
* talent shows and cabaret
* comedy and karaoke nights
* quizzes and bingo
* international food tastings
* live sports and movie nights
* dinners, awards and celebratory events
* campaign launches
* games nights
* crafts and skils workshops
* training sessions and recreational classes
* student takeovers, society showcases, fundraisers and community events
* plus a whole host of student promoted events and member-led activities.

# Competitive sport

**The Athletic Union (AU) provides the opportunity to play competitive sport against other universities in a variety of national leagues - both in team and individual sports. There is also the opportunity to compete in our annual Varsity fixture as well as intramural events**.

Whatever your standard, our squads will welcome you to come along and train. With over 25 different teams in 14 different disciplines, from football to swimming, there really is something for everyone. If you play a sport that we do not currently provide, and want to know how you can continue whilst at BNU, please contact our Student Activities team and we will aim to help you represent the University.

At BNU, sport is free to participate in. Through The Big Deal we have removed the cost barriers to taking part, and the Students’ Union pays for your club affiliation, insurance, travel to away fixtures, match day officials, essential playing kit, training equipment and coaching. Apart from the obvious health benefits, sense of belonging, the friendship groups you develop and the pride that comes with representing your University, there is also an opportunity to enhance your CV through being a captain or holding a position on a committee.

## You can look forward to joining all of these teams and more:

* Athletics
* Badminton
* Basketball
* Cheerleading
* Cricket
* Dance
* Football
* Futsal
* Hockey
* Netball
* Rugby
* Swimming
* Volleyball
* and a whole range of BUCS individual sports.

For those of you that just want to dip your toes in the water and try a sport out (for free of course), before jumping in at the competitive deep end, we also offer Sport for Fun opportunities that can be found on page 20.

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

Activities Coordinator (Competitive Sport)
alex.ditchburn@bnu.ac.uk

# Sport for Fun

**Sports for Fun offers our members the opportunity to try a variety of different sports and fitness activities without having to commit to training every week. If you enjoy getting active, having fun and meeting new people Sport for Fun is for you**.

We have a variety of different activities on offer, ranging from traditional sports, such as badminton and basketball, to more adventurous activities such as skiing and climbing. We also offer wellbeing activities such as bike hire and running if you fancy something more relaxing. All of our sessions are mixed and there is no ability requirement so there really is something to suit everyone. Most of our sessions are free, thanks to The Big Deal, and where activities take place off-site, we provide free transport.

There is even the opportunity to enhance your CV by becoming a Sport for Fun ambassador. This role enables you to develop a range of skills whilst having your say in how recreational sport is delivered at BNU..

For more information email: sport@bnu.ac.uk or visit [bucksstudentsunion.org/sportforfun](https://www.bucksstudentsunion.org/activities/sportforfun/)

## Here are just some of the recreational sports on offer:

* Bike hire
* Gym classes
* Snowsports
* Climbing
* Boxing
* Running
* Badminton
* Basketball
* Volleyball
* Ice skating
* Golf
* Go Karting
* Indoor football.

# Bucks New Usage

They’ve got everything from pots and pans to cutlery, mugs, and bedding. Even if you are looking for a toaster or kettle you might be able to find them along with any similar items that you may need during your time at University.

The Bucks New Usage initiative works with students who are leaving University or halls donating their perfectly good, but no longer needed items, and then new students picking up something they might need, totally free. It’s a fantastic scheme which is especially useful for students who need to travel internationally with limited luggage allowance or freshers’ who may have forgotten that all important bottle opener. Even if you’re not a fresher, you’re more than welcome to pop in to replace your chipped mug.

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

# Societies

**Societies can help build a sense of belonging by meeting a group of like-minded individuals who share a common interest or hobby**.

Getting involved in a society, or creating a new one, will give you the opportunity to try something new during your time at BNU or continue doing something you love.

You can even apply for a grant to help set-up your society or to run events within your society.

If we don’t have a specific society that you are looking to join, then why not start your own? We can provide you with all the help and support you will need to get your very own society up and running. You can always find out more and plan what to join at bucksstudentsunion.org/societies.

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

Activities Coordinator (Recreational Sport and Societies)
daniel.lawrence@bnu.ac.uk

## Some of our recent societies include:

* Alt Society
* Anime & Cosplay
* Aviation
* Blades HEMA
* BNU Believers Love World
* Boxing
* Bucks Tabletop and Gaming
* Business and Law Society
* Climbing
* DJ Society
* Esports
* LGBTQ+
* Men’s Netball
* Midwifery
* Music Society
* Musical Theatre
* Nursing
* Paramedicine
* Psychology
* Women’s Rugby
* Plus you can start your own society.

# Recreational activities

As part of The Big Deal, we offer a fun and varied range of recreational activities.

From one-off classes and taster sessions to guest speakers and demonstrations which cater for our diverse student population, at times that suit you - all to support your academic experience.

With all these activities being free it gives you the opportunity to not only continue doing what you enjoyed back home but to try new and exciting things you may have never considered before.

We have had everything from singing lessons, theatre trips, parent and child trips (such as Sea Life London and Hounslow Urban Farm), Rush Trampoline Park, jewellery making, paintballing, plus a whole lot more - there really is something for everyone.

Getting involved in lots of different activities opens up new experiences and friendship groups that you may not have found ordinarily. You can even learn transferable skills that will benefit you in your future employment, start a hobby for life, or maybe just help pass the time and give you a welcome break from your studies.

Getting involved in lots of different activities opens up new experiences and friendship groups that you may not have found ordinarily. You can even learn transferable skills that will benefit you in your future employment, start a hobby for life, or maybe just help pass the time and give you a welcome break from your studies.

You can view all of the activities on offer on our website and, to sign-up, simply select the session you want to attend and claim your free ticket.

If you have an ability or skill you want to share with others, or if you would like us to put on activities you can’t find elsewhere, then get in touch and help us offer more..

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

HR & Development Manager
sarah.jackson@bnu.ac.uk

Training & Development Coordinator
jessica.hughes@bnu.ac.uk

bucksstudentsunion.org/recactivities

## Previous activities have included:

* theatre trips
* exhibition and museum trips
* fitness classes
* language lessons
* cocktail/mocktail workshops
* singing lessons
* Student Pride
* jewellery making
* stress relief sessions
* life drawing workshops.

# Additional skills training

**When you graduate, it’s important to us that you have more on your CV than just your degree. To boost the employability of our members, we offer a range of skills-based workshops and sessions that anyone can take part in and that will complement your studies**.

Each year, we expand our programme of training sessions to cover the topics that you have asked for or that complement your university studies and help you develop the Bucks graduate attributes. For example, last year we arranged a full year of singing lessons, as well as headshots for our performing arts students. In the past we have also held sessions on public speaking, interview skills and much more.

As well as the co-curricular sessions, our development programme gives you the opportunity to enhance transferable skills such as communication, negotiation or simply how to articulate your experiences on your CV.

We make sure there is something for everyone, with all sessions being free, thanks to The Big Deal. If you don’t see anything useful to you, get in touch and let us know what skills you would like to develop. To sign-up to your free place, visit our website.

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

HR & Development Manager
sarah.jackson@bnu.ac.uk

Training & Development Coordinator
jessica.hughes@bnu.ac.uk

## Previous sessions have included:

* Mental Health Awareness
* Personal Licence Holder
* Door Supervisor
* CV Writing
* Child Safeguarding
* Positive Behaviour Management In Sport
* Managing Your Workload
* First Aid
* Public Speaking Masterclass
* Effective Chairing Masterclass
* Negotiation Skills
* Online Reputation Management
* Stage Combat
* NHS Workshops
* Journalism
* Sign Language
* Understanding Learning Difficulties
* Sports Taping
* So You Want To Run The Students’ Union.

bucksstudentsunion.org/additionalskills

# Representation

**Student reps are elected by their peers to give student feedback in University meetings and in more informal settings**.

They represent the views of their peers and classmates by carrying forward any concerns they may have surrounding the education they are receiving whilst also highlighting good practice that takes place. In order to become a rep you have to stand in an online election, but don’t worry, it’s easier than it sounds. It’s a brilliant opportunity to effectively represent your academic interests.

Our student reps help to enhance the quality of their course, they are involved in shaping the curriculum and can help create positive change. Reps are rewarded up to £100 and will also have the opportunity to develop and enhance skills for their CV, learn more about higher education, representing students and running campaigns.

The important thing to mention is that you don’t do it alone. We have staff and officers who will train you, send you briefings, and meet with you in both groups and one-to-one settings. We also have online resources available on our website. This includes newly developed initiatives that we have made, just for our reps, in order to enhance their ability to be the voice of the students they represent. You can also read more about the full range of training we offer in the additional skills section on page 26.

We are always creating more opportunities for our student reps to engage with the wider University community, and encourage all students to take the next steps in democracy, training, and governance - whether that’s as a rep, school officer, executive officer or sabbatical officer.

Vice President Education and Welfare (HW)
sruthi.subhash@bnu.ac.uk

Vice President Education and Welfare (Uxb and Ayls)
amy.pile@bnu.ac.uk

Student Experience Manager
lucy.ryan@bnu.ac.uk

Student Engagement Coordinator (HW)
surepresentation@bnu.ac.uk

Student Engagement Coordinator (UXB)
natasha.neal@bnu.ac.uk

bucksstudentsunion.org/yourvoice/repzone

# Executive Officers

**To ensure that the Students’ Union is representing all our members to the best of our ability, we have eight executive officers who represent different student groups. They are elected by the students they represent to ensure our work is inclusive and accessible for all**.

Hearing directly from these students is hugely important to what we do, to make sure that we are not making assumptions about their student experience.

Each of these groups are students that have their own unique challenges alongside those that are common across all student groups. In order for us to better deal with these issues we need to know them in detail, which involves seeing it from your perspective. Executive officers are offered an extensive package of benefits, including support with applications for the Leadership Academy, additional free skills and training sessions, personalised one-to-one support, and are rewarded up to £350 for their work.

Four of these roles are self-defining: women students’ officer, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students’ officer, students with disabilities’ officer, and LGBTQ+ students’ officer. The final four positions are based on your entry criteria when applying for university:

mature students’ officer (aged 21 or over at the start of your degree), part-time & commuting students’ officer (part-time programmes or those who commute to University), international students’ officer (paying international fees) and postgraduate students’ officer (postgraduate programmes).

Our Executive officers are fully supported by the Students’ Union team. If you are interested in representing the views of a larger group of students, or wish to get involved with the work your executive officer is doing, then please contact the Representation team.

Representation team
surepresentation@bnu.ac.uk

## BAME (Black, Asian and Minority ethnic) Students’ Officer

Vacant
subameofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## LGBTQ+ Students’ Officer

Jay Ramsden
sulgbtqofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## Women Students’ Officer

Liv Ross
suwomensofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## Students with Disabilities’ Officer

Jacob Hosanee
sudisabilitiesofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## International Students’ Officer

Danya Sairaj
suinternationalofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## Mature Students’ Officer

Samuel Adams
sumatureofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## Post-Graduate Students’ Officer

Vacant
supostgraduateofficer@bnu.ac.uk

## Part-time and Commuting Students’ Officer

Malikhai Samworth
suparttimeofficer@bnu.ac.uk

# Elections

We pride ourselves on being led by our members.

This ensures that all of our decision-making places student concerns at the core of what we do and that our services are run in your best interests. Throughout the year, there are a host of opportunities to stand in elections to become student leaders.

This can be as a full-time, paid, sabbatical officer: President; Vice President Achievement and Belonging; Vice President Education and Welfare (High Wycombe) or Vice President Education and Welfare (Uxbridge and Aylesbury), or as an executive officer, student trustee, NUS delegate or as one of nearly 250 student reps helping to improve the academic experience for them and their peers. It can also include getting involved in the wider work of the Union as well as with specific departments.

If you become a student leader, you will improve your CV by picking up public speaking, campaigning and negotiation skills along with core leadership skills. You will be helping to run a Students’ Union that employs around 40 full-time and over 100 part-time staff, and runs a range of different services that are important to our members.

Elections for our various roles usually take place in October and March, and any student can nominate themselves. A manifesto must be submitted for all elections and, if you win an election, you will receive training and ongoing support from the Union staff team.

Student Experience Manager
lucy.ryan@bnu.ac.uk

bucksstudentsunion.org/elections

# Union Council

Union Council, which has an elected student chair, is a great way to suggest ideas or raise issues with any aspect of your University experience. Topics raised by students and Sabbatical Officers can be discussed with others in the meeting and may then be taken to a higher level within the University. It also gives Union and University staff the opportunity to run any concepts, decisions or ideas past our members to see whether they believe it would be beneficial for the wider student body.

Union Council is also the place where members can hold the Sabbatical Officers to account and ask about plans and campaigns that the Students’ Union is running. Union Council meets once a month and all members of the Students’ Union are invited to attend.

President
brandon.tester@bnu.ac.uk

Chief Executive Officer
tristan.tipping@bnu.ac.uk

bucksstudentsunion.org/yourvoice/unioncouncil

# Volunteering

**Student volunteering provides opportunities for students to gain extra skills and develop themselves as individuals, whilst assisting good causes in our community**.

Every year, our members volunteer their time in both the local community and within the institution itself. Students are engaged in a wide variety of projects, working with organisations such as Marlow Rugby Club, Wycombe Mind, One Can Trust and Wycombe Homeless Connection. You can also volunteer within the Students’ Union, by writing for the student newspaper, The Bucks Student, working within the Events team or by becoming a committee member for a sports team or society.

To reward students for the work they do in the local community, we offer volunteering bundles. Within this bundle is a t-shirt, jumper, backpack, portable charger, water bottle and much more! You will be fully kitted out to volunteer at any activity you like, all whilst representing the Union.

If you would like to receive this bundle we are asking students to log 30 hours of community volunteering. Once you have achieved this, pop down to the Students’ Union offices and speak to a member of the Student Activities team on how to get your kit. Be quick, as we only have 50 bundles, so they are first come, first served..

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

Activities Coordinator (Volunteering and Charity Fundraising)
volunteering@bnu.ac.uk

Volunteering is split into three categories: short and long-term projects and international opportunities.

Short-term projects can last anywhere from one hour to one day and involves students taking part in individual or group tasks. It’s a one-off commitment and you can help with as many projects as you like.

Long-term projects vary in length from two-months up to one-year. They require more commitment, but provide greater rewards in terms of self-satisfaction and employability.

Please come in and speak to us in the Students’ Union offices if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

On average, you would need to commit a few hours per week, with the duration varying on each project. Some students run their own projects, supported and guided by our team. So, if you come up with an idea to start a project, then we would love to hear from you.

At BNU you are rewarded for your time volunteering by receiving certificates for each volunteering milestone: 50 hours is bronze; 100 is silver; 200 is gold; and for 400 hours of volunteering, you will receive a platinum volunteer award. This can really help you stand out after you finish university.

## Short-term projects have included:

* conservation projects
* poppy selling
* hosting a lunch for the elderly
* Christmas hampers for local care homes
* Student Volunteer Week
* Smile Campaign
* Green Week.

## Long-term projects have included:

* events volunteering
* committee volunteering
* trustee roles
* project leader opportunities
* social media and marketing opportunities
* charity fundraising.

bucksstudentsunion.org/volunteering

# Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is available to all students and entirely bespoke to the individual. We will create a development programme based on your goals for the year and beyond. Whether you are in your first or third year we can create a programme for you. We will offer you training courses specific to your needs, funding for recognised, certified qualifications and networking opportunities to give you the best possible chance for success - all free of charge courtesy of The Big Deal.

## A typical programme will include:

* One-to-one sessions to agree your leadership development route and monitor progress
* Workshops focusing on leadership styles and self-awareness
* Accredited training courses specific to your chosen route
* Employability sessions focusing on CVs, interviews, applications and assessment centres
* Access to networking opportunities through conferences, staff days and external events
* Full support of the Students’ Union Development team

We will be recruiting our Leadership Academy members at the beginning of the first term to start the programme at the end of October.

To find out more, drop an email to sutraining@bnu.ac.uk.

bucksstudentsunion.org/employability/leadershipacademy/

# JobShop

You may have to work whilst studying at university, whether that’s to earn extra money or simply pay for food and bills. So, we have created the JobShop to provide you with links to local part-time employers.

Aside from the earning potential, the transferable skills you can gain from a part-time job will be a great start to your chosen career, whatever that is, and provide essential detailed experience for your CV.

We have many opportunities of paid work at the Students’ Union directly throughout the year or, through our networks, we are sure you can find something to suit your financial requirements and be flexible around your course commitments.

This year we have advertised roles in the following industries: music, care, events, hospitality, retail, sports and admin.

As a member, you can access extensive support to enhance your academic experience. Visit our website for full information, feel free to pop into our offices or you can contact us at sujobs@bnu.ac.uk.

HR & Development Manager
sarah.jackson@bnu.ac.uk

Training & Development Coordinator
jessica.hughes@bnu.ac.uk

bucksstudentsunion.org/employability/jobshop

# International Big Deal

**The Big Deal: International programme is designed to welcome, orientate, and prepare our students from all over the world, ensuring your journey continues successfully at BNU**.

We’ll provide the social occasions, training, recreational activities and developmental opportunities to ensure everyone feels part of our university community and that you are equipped to make the most of your time with us – and thanks to The Big Deal, it’s all completely free of charge.

President
brandon.tester@bnu.ac.uk

# Raise and Give (RAG)

Raise and Give (RAG) is the area of the Union that raises money for charity. We focus on two local charities each year and our members pick them, so it’s up to you who you fundraise for.

RAG cannot succeed without the commitment of its volunteers and a team of students is needed every year to manage our fundraising events. These events allow students to raise money whilst having fun.

Getting involved in RAG will give you a number of benefits. Employers want to see commitment in graduates and you can demonstrate this by raising money for charity, alongside your studies. It also allows you to get out into the community and learn about local causes, whilst gaining valuable skills.

In the past, our members have taken part in a wide variety of activities including endurance events, raffles and sponsored runs..

Vice President Achievement and Belonging
jess.bradbury@bnu.ac.uk

Activities Coordinator (Volunteering and Charity Fundraising)
volunteering@bnu.ac.uk

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# Communications and marketing

We know that communicating with our members and the wider community is one of the most important things we do. That’s why our team works with a wide range of media to keep you up-to-date with all the valuable information you need - ensuring you get the most out of your time at university.

The Bucks Student is a free publication that is widely available both around our campuses and online; maintain our website bucksstudentsunion.org; run our digital radio station, Rusty’s Radio; update official social networking pages; create promotional videos; design poster campaigns, leaflets, flyers; and just about any other medium we can think of to ensure we engage with as much of our increasingly diverse audience as possible.

We’re always looking for journalists, reviewers, writers, radio and TV presenters, graphic designers and editors to help us deliver our messages in fun and creative ways. So whether you fancy writing a few articles for the paper, want to get into radio, or are a budding marketeer, who wants to add to their portfolio, getting involved in media at BNU can benefit anyone.

Communications and Marketing Manager
simon.mcdowell@bnu.ac.uk

Visual Marketing and Print Coordinator
oli.gunson@bnu.ac.uk

Digital Marketing Coordinator
nellie.hughes@bnu.ac.uk

The Bucks Student Editor
editor@thebucksstudent.com

# Work for us

Join our team aiming to ‘make life better for students at Bucks’.

We are always looking for energetic and bright new team members who are committed to excellent customer service, and willing to put their efforts towards helping the team deliver a great student experience for their peers.

We have a wide range of paid opportunities available within the Union, and you don’t necessarily need experience, but a great attitude is essential. Opportunities are available each year in the following areas: catering, bars, events, sound and lighting technicians, security, admin support, representation and freshers’ helpers..

## Benefits include:

* build your CV and become more employable
* learn new skills and develop existing ones
* earn money to support yourself
* make new friends.

bucksstudentsunion.org/workforus

# Advice Centre

**Our professional, confidential, and independent advice service provides information, advice, and guidance and is available to all students at BNU**.

From course-related issues and money worries to personal problems and general welfare concerns, our experienced advisors are set-up to provide you with confidential advice and guidance when you need it.

We have the time to listen, advise and support students, providing a service which is accessible and welcoming. We use our experience and knowledge on student issues to make life better for students at Bucks.

High Wycombe Campus
Room N0.04, ground floor, North Wing
01494 603 016

Uxbridge Campus
Room 1.03, first floor
01494 605 180

We offer in-person appointments at High Wycombe or Uxbridge, or if you are off-site, telephone or online appointments, whichever suits you best. If you have an enquiry or want to make an appointment just drop-in, phone or email us.

bucksstudentsunion.org/advice

suadvice@bnu.ac.uk

# Become a Sabbatical Officer

Do you want to lead a dynamic registered charity with thousands of inspiring members, over 40 tenacious permanent staff and a turnover of £2 million?

Do you want to earn a competitive graduate salary, gain valuable experience in leadership, decision-making and campaigning and have access to great personal development opportunities?

Do you want to lead this organisation as soon as you graduate, or even earlier?

If your answer is ‘yes’ to any of these questions then why not run in the sabbatical elections for Bucks Students’ Union? Our annual elections are open to any student currently studying at Buckinghamshire New University.

For more information visit: [bucksstudentsunion.org/elections](https://www.bucksstudentsunion.org/elections/)

or email: matthew.kitching@bnu.ac.uk

# Our journey

We’re proud of our journey over the last 50 years, bringing us to where it has today, and always striving to make life better for students at Bucks.

So here’s a glimpse into how we achieved the number one ranked Students’ Union in the UK, as well as staying within the Top 5 for seven years in a row.