

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ACADEMIC & WELFARE OFFICER (POSTGRADUATE)

- 1.1. This document outlines the typical duties expected of the post-holder. The descriptions of the post cannot be exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, normally these will be broadly in line with the listed key responsibilities. Roles and responsibilities may also be subject to change.

2. **Summary of Role:**

- 2.1. Academic & Welfare Officers (AWOs) collate information regarding academic experience from their faculties' departmental representatives. AWOs are expected to initiate change on the back of feedback and ensure the quality of all postgraduate-facing services.

3. **Duties and Key Responsibilities:**

- 3.1. **Communication:**
 - Attend Faculty, Graduate School and College committees which typically number three to four a term.
 - Proactively communicate with constituents to ensure feedback is gathered on a regular basis. This must be done as a minimum prior to each Staff-Student Committee and adequate time must be given for students to send representatives information. Proactively seek student opinion on any significant proposed changes by College made to programmes of study.
 - Collate feedback from students to pass on to the committee.
 - Ensure information for the attention of constituent students is forwarded on in good time.
 - Listen to and encourage feedback from students on an ad-hoc basis.
 - Ensure they are known to their constituents and are approachable to students who wish to provide opinions.
 - Contribute to discussions within meetings which affect their constituents and raise issues where necessary.
 - Ensure updates are communicated to constituents and/or relevant parties within a reasonable time-frame. This includes when an issue is passed to another representative, when an issue is passed to a staff member or when a response is received. Where significant changes

have been made or where an issue affects a number of students this information must be disseminated to all constituents.

- Produce clear written communication in the form of e-mails, website copy or as otherwise appropriate to disseminate information to constituents.
- Communicate any issues, queries or suggestions to improve the representation system to the Representation Coordinator to ensure the system's efficiency is maintained.
- Refer urgent issues directly to departmental staff, the departmental representative or Deputy President (Education).
- Ensure student confidentiality is maintained at all times unless otherwise agreed.
- Submit items to discuss to meeting agendas.
- AWOs may be asked to contribute to and/or take part in review panels for the annual monitoring/review of programmes of studies and/or the periodic review of departments.

3.2. **Knowledge:**

- Awareness of the representation system structure and a good understanding of College's workings as a whole.
- Use discretion to determine whether an issue requires the attention of the representation system or College staff or whether it can be solved through alternative means.
- Where applicable refer issues beyond the representation system.
- Complete relevant training courses as required by Imperial College Union.
- Understanding of the Union's [Student Consultation Framework](#)
- Familiarity with the [QAA Quality Code of Higher Education](#), in particular expectations and practices regarding student engagement

3.3. **Collaboration:**

- Collaborate with other representatives (if applicable) to collate feedback and/or suggestions.
- Liaise with programme administrators and other staff members to ensure information is disseminated to relevant constituents.

- Liaise with departmental representatives or AWOs as appropriate on a regular basis to ensure student feedback is communicated to the relevant staff members.
- Encourage promotion of Union, College and national surveys (such as the Union Survey, PTES or PRES, PG SOLE module/lecturer evaluations, etc) and assist with the dissemination of results.
- Give and solicit feedback on new programmes and other College initiatives.
- Establish and maintain good relationships with relevant staff members, regularly communicating relevant information provided by students.
- Proactively pursue specific goals and aims as outlined by constituents and as outlined in the representatives' election manifesto.
- At the beginning of their term in office gather information from their predecessor about on-going projects and good practice.
- At the end of their term in office liaise with their successor to ensure good practice is shared and on-going projects are passed on.

3.4. **Experience:**

- None required, although experience of participating in meetings may be beneficial.

3.5. **Availability:**

- Students should expect to attend at least one meeting a term. These are usually held at the campus where the bulk of their programme of study is administered so should require no more travel than would be expected on a day to day basis. Meetings typically last one to two hours.
- Work relating to this position should take on average no more than a few hours a week. Work volumes will vary during the course of an academic term and will be term time only. Meetings and other work commitments during examinations will be avoided wherever possible.
- Representatives should expect to be available to constituents by e-mail and to reply within a reasonable timeframe. In person representatives should reasonably be expected to be approached or meet for a short time with constituents before or after lectures, workshops, etc., as required.
- It is recognised that students are first and foremost at Imperial to study or research and that this must be prioritised. Students who feel their studies are being compromised, are struggling or feel they are

spending too much time filling the role should speak to the Representation Coordinator.

Approved by QAEC
March 2013

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| Cross References: | Student Consultation Framework QAA Quality Code of Higher Education | | |
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