

## **R-22-04: Motion to create an International Students' Officer**

Owner: Anna-Ruth Cockerham, *Director of Wellbeing & Equality*

In Effect from: Upcoming Elections Cycle

Review Date: Semester 2 Elections 2023

### **The SRC notes:**

1. Prior to 2016, the position Member for International Students was included on the SRC and then Equal Opportunities Committee. The SRC voted to remove the position in February 2016 ([Source](#)) due to a perceived overlap with the Member for Racial Equality and a lack of work available.
2. The former position of Member for Racial Equality (briefly known as Member for Racial and Cultural Equality in 2020) was responsible for much of the Association's cultural equality work, like Multicultural Week and working with cultural and country-specific societies.
3. In 2020, the BAME Students' Network was founded and the SRC position and role description was amended to focus more on experiences of racism and BAME students. The position now has a substantially higher workload, owing to a greater number of University commitments and convening the BAME Students' Network.
4. Brexit, COVID-19, and the political culture around issues such as visa requirements have created a further need to focus on the representation of international students.
5. The Global Office and other University departments have expressed an interest in reaching out to international students and students on study abroad schemes.
6. Since last year, the Equality Committee has had an International Students' Officer who has worked closely with the Global Office and on running Multicultural Week.

### **The SRC believes:**

1. The cohort and experiences of international and BAME students, while sometimes overlapping, are distinct enough that they deserve separate representation.
2. The Association should be doing more to reach out to and represent the needs of international students.
3. It would be unsustainable for the BAME Officer to take on the work of representing international students in full, given the expansion of their workload and the focus of their role towards BAME students.
4. A dedicated International Students' Officer on the SRC would best be able to represent the diversity of needs of international students.

### **The SRC resolves:**

1. To include the International Students' Officer on the SRC following being elected in the March 2022 elections. (Role description attached as Appendix 1).
2. To amend the Laws of the Association to provide for the new position. (Relevant chapters are attached with tracked changes as Appendix 2).
3. To amend the constitution of the Equality Committee to provide for the new position. (Attached with tracked changes as Appendix 3).

**Proposed:**

Anna-Ruth Cockerham, *Director of Wellbeing and Equality*

**Seconded:**

Avery Kitchens, *Director of Student Development and Activities*

Lottie Doherty, *Association President*

Ananya Jain, *BAME Officer*

Haerim Lee, *International Students' Officer (Equality Committee)*

## **Appendix 1: Role Description**

### **Purpose**

The International Students' Officer represents international students to the Students' Association and the University to ensure that they have an enjoyable, enriching, and safe experience whilst at University.

### **Core Duties**

- Address issues affecting international students like access to welfare support, inclusion, and cultural recognition.
- Liaise with other officers in the Students' Association, like the BAME Officer, to identify and address issues affecting international students.
- Working with the BAME Students' Network to plan Multicultural Week in Semester 2.
- Attend and engage with Equality Committee and other relevant committees as required.
- Work with University staff and units like Student Services, the EDI Team, and the Global Office.
- Advocate for changes that can benefit international students.
- Actively collect feedback and views from international students and work on projects like events and publicity campaigns.
- Liaise with relevant student groups that share a common goal.
- Develop a close working relationship with the Director of Wellbeing and Equality, and the Equality Committee.

### **Useful Skills and Characteristics**

- Knowledge and interest in issues affecting international students.
- Awareness of the various cultural societies and relevant activities in St Andrews.
- Passionate and dedicated to making lasting change.
- Proactive and approachable.
- Organised, with good time management skills.

### **Benefits**

- Develop public speaking and professional communication skills.
- Opportunity to work with a diverse group of people and exposure to a wide range of projects across the Students' Association.
- Gain experience in student representation and feedback collection and develop leadership skills.
- Gain hours toward a Volunteering Award, which is listed on your academic transcript.

### **Expected Time Commitment**

On average you will spend 5-10 hours a week working on this role. Some weeks may be more demanding than others.

**Further Questions**

Email the Director of Wellbeing and Equality, on [dowell@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:dowell@st-andrews.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

**Appendix 2: Updates to Laws of the Association**  
**Chapter 3: Students' Representative Council (SRC)**

1. Membership of the SRC
  - 1.1. Association Chair
  - 1.2. Association President
  - 1.3. Director of Events and Services
  - 1.4. Director of Student Development and Activities
  - 1.5. Director of Education
  - 1.6. Director of Wellbeing and Equality
  - 1.7. Athletic Union President
  - 1.8. Accommodation Officer
  - 1.9. Alumni Officer
  - 1.10. Arts and Divinity Faculty President
  - 1.11. BAME Officer
  - 1.12. Community Relations Officer
  - 1.13. Disability Officer
  - 1.14. Employability Officer
  - 1.15. Environment Officer
  - 1.16. Gender Equality Officer
  - 1.17. **International Students' Officer**
  - 1.18. LGBT+ Officer
  - 1.19. Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer
  - 1.20. Postgraduate Academic Officer
  - 1.21. Postgraduate Development Officer
  - 1.22. Science and Medicine Faculty President
  - 1.23. Secretary to the SRC
  - 1.24. Student Health Officer
  - 1.25. Widening Access and Participation Officer
  - 1.26. Sabbaticals-Elect, Faculty Presidents-Elect, and Postgraduate Officers-Elect, after being elected and prior to taking office (non-voting)
  - 1.27. The Rector's Assessor, if they are a matriculated student of the University (non-voting)
  - 1.28. Student Advocate (Education) (non-voting)

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4. Remits of members of the SRC
  - 4.1. All SRC members shall:
    - 4.1.1. Coordinate their activities with their sabbatical line managers as laid out in Chapter 1, including during the formation of budgets.
    - 4.1.2. Work in cooperation with relevant members of staff within the Association and the University.
    - 4.1.3. Ensure that accurate minutes of their subcommittee meetings are recorded, filed with the Administrator, and available online.
    - 4.1.4. Represent issues within their remit to the SRC and, if necessary, to the SSG.

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- 4.13. **The International Students' Officer shall:**

4.13.1. Have responsibility for issues concerning international students.

4.13.2. Coordinate with the University to improve the experiences of international students.

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## Appendix 3: Updates to the Constitution of the Equality Committee

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### 2. Membership

2.1. DoWell (Chair and Convenor)

2.2. SRC LGBT+ Officer

2.3. SRC BAME Officer

2.4. SRC Disability Officer

2.5. SRC Gender Equality Officer

2.6. SRC Widening Access and Participation Officer

2.7. SRC Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer

**2.8. SRC International Students' Officer**

2.9. SRC Postgraduate Development Officer

2.10. Interfaith Steering Group Carve-Up

2.10.1. Encourage collaboration between faith societies and the subcommittee, so that students of all faiths can practice their beliefs free from judgement or discrimination.

2.10.2. Initiate and encourage cross-faith dialogue to facilitate a community of mutual understanding and coexistence.

2.10.3. All positions, excluding the Interfaith Steering Group Carve-Up shall fulfil their responsibilities as defined in the Laws of the Association.

2.11. The convenor can establish additional committee positions as deemed necessary which shall be co-opted or interviewed.

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