

SSC Debates Officer (UDS)

April - March, Part-Time, Voluntary

Aim

The role is to convene and run the Union Debating Society (UDS), the oldest – and some might say the finest – of its kind, founded in 1794.

Key responsibilities

What you will be doing

- Maintain the smooth running of the Debating Society, running weekly board meetings
- Organise weekly public debates, with expert speakers attending from around the country
- Organise competitions hosted in St Andrews for schoolchildren and University students
- Create and maintain a budget for the society, apply for funding, and secure sponsorship
- Serve on the Student Services Council
- Convene and chair the Union Debating Society
- Oversee important aspects of the Society, including overseeing the training programme and volunteering programme

How you will be doing it

- Liaise with other debates societies around the country, student societies, the Director of Student Development and Activities, and other elected officers
- Work with schools from around Fife and teach younger students within Fife how to debate and develop their public speaking skills
- Attend SSC and Union Debating Society meetings
- Hold bi-weekly training sessions for University students and funding teams to compete in tournaments around the world

- Create important links with potential speakers and communicate with them to garner speakers for weekly public debates

Useful Skills or characteristics

- Be able to effectively time manage
- Ability to manage opinionated students
- Ability to be diplomatic
- Be adaptable and communicative

Benefits

- Learn how to manage groups of people and delegate tasks
- Gain experience organising subcommittees
- Develop your communication skills
- Opportunities to meet a wide number of students and external speakers
- Gain experience working in the third sector

Expected time commitment

On average, you will spend 30 hours a week on this role. Approximately 15 hours will be spent at meetings, training and public debates each week, while the other 15 will be comprised of work surrounding public debates, external meetings and other miscellaneous tasks. You will be expected to organise speakers for the first semester over the summer.

Further questions

Please email the current holder of this post if you have any questions about this role.