

# officer

## YOUR GUIDE

### TO THE OPPORTUNITIES LUSU HAS TO OFFER



[officer.lusu.co.uk](http://officer.lusu.co.uk)



# Overview

The job of Lancaster University Students' Union is to make sure that students are represented, provided for and respected whilst at University. This can mean anything from providing good nights out and the end of year Extravs, to campaigning for wheelchair accessible lecture theatres and attending national student protests. LUSU is for students, and run by students. Whilst we have a whole host of brilliant staff members that ensure everything is running as it should be the most important people running any Union are the Officers. It is students that run the entire show and they're all elected by you.

There are 150 Officers of the Students' Union, covering a whole range of roles. Every position, from a JCR Magazine Editor to the Cross Campus Chair of Elections is a Union Officer position. All these Officers have different areas they are responsible for and there wouldn't be enough room in ten of these booklets to list how much they do and achieve during a year in office! If you have a big idea, want to change something, want to enhance your skills and employability, throw a big event, tackle an issue or simply

have your say, then becoming a LUSU Officer is one of the best ways to do so.

This booklet will not tell you everything you need to know, and it's always best to speak to someone about their role in the Union if you're interested in it. Read on for a brief description of some of the things they do, but if you want more information then you can visit [officer.lusu.co.uk](http://officer.lusu.co.uk). Failing that, grab an Officer when you see them and just talk. Every one of them will be more than happy to explain to you the value of these positions and how they can aid your personal development and skills.



# JCR Executive Officer

The JCR Executives are voluntary teams of students representing the Students' Union within their college. They're all a little bit different from each other but generally have between 14 and 18 positions. Each college is run by a President and there will be a range of media, welfare, publicity and social officers. They run everything that goes on in the College, working closely with the rest of LUSU, to make sure their students get the best experience possible.

They are elected in week 8 of Michaelmas Term and start their term of office in the New Year. They then keep their role for a whole year and organise a wide range of activities, including Intro Week, Extrav, the Christmas Ball, sport, socials, welfare campaigns, advice workshops and a whole lot more. Each JCR has their own budget for the year which they can spend on anything to make their students' experience at Lancaster better, whether its a bus to take people on a night out or a bulk order of condoms! It can be hard work at certain times of the year, but it is one of the most worthwhile and rewarding things you can do at Lancaster.

Every member of the college, in any year, has the right and ability to run for any single position (including President). So, if you have ideas for the college and think you know what's best for the many students in it, then stand for election! There are tons of different positions to choose from, each with their own areas of interest, meaning that everyone should find something there to suit them. For more information read the back page of this booklet, visit [officer.lusu.co.uk](http://officer.lusu.co.uk) or, best of all, speak to a current Exec member who will gladly tell you all about it.

## Alex Carlin – Lonsdale JCR Vice-President

“Although organising the whole of Freshers' Week was tough at times, it paid off to see so many new students enjoying themselves and experiencing the college as it's meant to be.”



# Cross Campus Officer

The Cross Campus Officers operate in a similar manner to the JCR Execs but are elected across campus rather than being limited to a specific college. As a team of 24, they meet regularly to discuss broad issues which are impacting on the University and the student body as well as discussing the future strategy of the Students' Union and coordinating meetings between Full Time and JCR Exec Officers.

The two main types of Officer are Campaigns officers, such as Liberation or Welfare Campaigns, and Chairs of Committees, including Chair of Sports Exec and Chair of Social and Events Group. Do not be put off by their titles. Chairs of Committees do much more than simply coordinate a weekly discussion: they are responsible for the actions of that area and bringing new ideas forward, organising campus wide initiatives such as the popular Friday Fury events and comedy nights.

Recent changes to these positions make them more interesting than ever before, with more involvement with the Union and a better chance of bringing new ideas to

the table. With high responsibility for Union affairs, this opportunity has the potential to add a great deal to your portfolio of skills and increase your future employability as well as allowing you to create positive change for the student body.

## **Ros Ballinger – Welfare Campaigns Cross Campus Officer**

“As a Cross Campus Officer, you’re able to see the deeper workings of the university and fight for issues and campaigns that you might not have known about otherwise. It’s a chance to work with great people to help students and to have your own say, rather than sitting on the sidelines. Go for it!”



# Full Time Officer

The Full Time Officers are 6 students that are paid a full salary and work almost every day of the week to direct and organise everything the Students' Union does for a whole year. As Trustees of the Union, they take financial and reputational responsibility for the entirety of its activities with a level of responsibility that many graduates will never achieve even after years of employment. Although they are technically at the top of the pile, they work very closely with the JCRs, CCOs and anyone else in LUSU to make things happen. There is one President and five Vice Presidents, each of which is responsible for a particular aspect of the Union including sports, societies, media, welfare, events and academic representation.

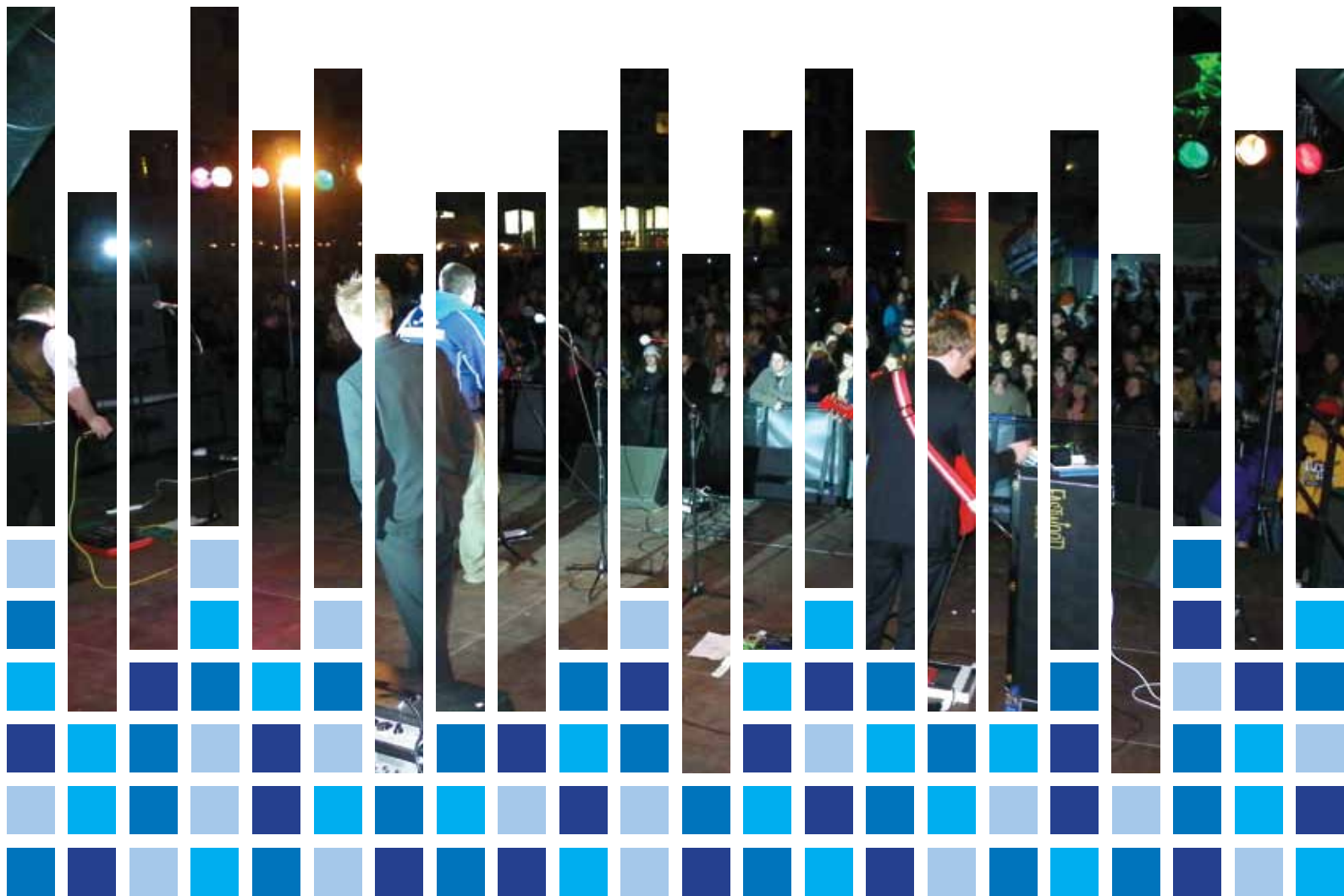
Anyone who is a student at Lancaster University can run to be an FTO. It is a full time job and you would not study during your year in office. You can either run in your final year and then do an extra year in Lancaster after you graduate, or you can take a year out of your studies to do it. After you finish the job, you can then carry on with your degree. The FTOs all have demanding jobs

that require people to go out of their way to get things done for students. Like lots of other Officer positions in LUSU, it requires people to work late nights, extra hours and be prepared to drop everything to help students out. However, the jobs are extremely satisfying and rewarding; the experience you gain from being an FTO is unparalleled.

Elections for the Full Time Officers are in week 8 of the Spring Term, and the new elected officers start in July and continue for a full year. The salary for an FTO is just over £17,000 a year, limited to encourage you to run for the love of the job and not for the money!

## Robin Hughes – Full Time Officer

“At LUSU we have a great working environment. We have great members of staff that help us run the show, but more importantly we're on the front line of student issues. This is where things happen. “



# What do I give?

Some of the different Officer positions in LUSU all have different levels of involvement; for example, if you were a college President, you would be doing more than a college Magazine Editor. However, every officer has a lot to do throughout the year and everyone pitches in when they are needed. Remember, it's a team effort! There are many meetings and committees that take place both with the University and within LUSU. As a LUSU Officer you would be expected to attend some of these and speak your mind.

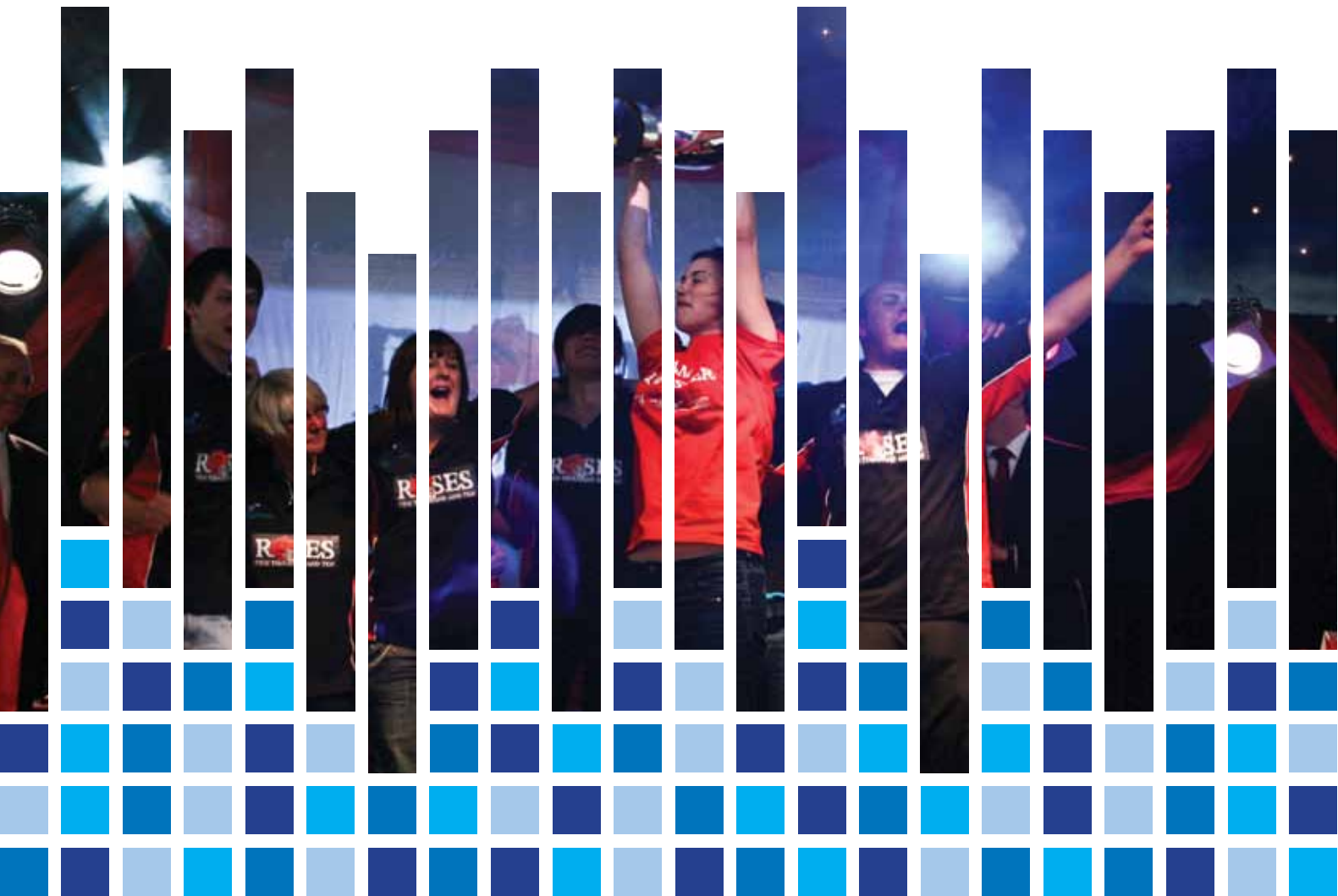
Even though there will be certain events, meetings or initiatives that you will be expected to attend, do not let this put you off being an Officer. You will never be expected to put your duties before doing your degree. After all, that is what we're here for!

JCR and CCO Officers have a lot to give outside of their specific role. For example, a Webmaster of a college does not solely have Webmaster duties; they are a part of the whole JCR Exec team. Anyone can help Social Secretaries on a social night or pull together some support for the sports teams.

As an Officer, it is your choice exactly how much you put into the role in order to get things done. The key is to find a balance so that you can be successful and make a huge difference to the lives of fellow students at Lancaster University whilst ensuring that you don't get carried away and forget you still have essays to write!

## Adam Pearson – Furness JCR DJ

“I've performed at some really great places at Lancaster, both on and off campus, outside and indoors. It means I have to go on late in to the night now and then, but, it's definitely worth it!”



# What do I get?

If you were to ask a LUSU Full Time Officer, Cross Campus Officer or a JCR Exec member for one thing that they have loved about their role, it is highly likely that they will tell you that it was all about the friends they have made throughout their term of office. The whole web of Officers is massive and you will immediately feel welcome amongst like-minded people. As well as colleagues, you will also meet lots of people on a day-to-day basis around and about campus.

Moreover, the satisfaction that you get when you realise just how big a difference you are making to students' lives here at Lancaster makes it all worthwhile. Whether it is making people feel welcome during Fresher's week, providing a memorable night out, or sitting up comforting a home sick student, the feeling of pride that you get is unparalleled.

Finally, and crucially, you get a fantastic addition to put onto your C.V. and your degree transcript. Being an officer will undoubtedly increase your employability once you have graduated and it can put you head and shoulders

above other candidates who have applied for the same job. This is particularly useful in a time when graduate job opportunities are at their lowest, and there are an ever increasing number of graduates fighting for the same job.

## **Robbie Pickles – LUSU President**

“Being LUSU President is without doubt the most fantastic experience of my life and has already opened up opportunities that would otherwise be completely unavailable to me. There is no better experience at Lancaster University than volunteering as a student officer and improving the lives of the fantastic community we have here.”



For more information on anything you have seen in this booklet, please visit **[officer.lusu.co.uk](http://officer.lusu.co.uk)**. Here you will find a PDF document that goes in to more detail about the excellent opportunities available to you.

**Elections are held in week 8 every term. To stand in an election you will need to do the following:**

- Nominate yourself in week 7. If you are running for a JCR position you need to sign up in your College Bar, and if you're running for a CCO or FTO position you can sign up in the LUSU building.
- Have an idea of what you want to do for students at Lancaster.
- Get involved and start investigating what we're all about!
- Be prepared for what will almost certainly be the best year of your life!

