



Being a Student Governor



Welcome

Welcome to your Student Governance Guide

We know that being a student governor is an important role that comes with a lot of responsibility. We also know that many Student Governors can initially find the role difficult to negotiate, so this guide, written by Student Governors themselves, is designed to help with that process.

For Student Governors

The Role

The role of a Student Governor is to work closely with the rest of the Governing Board to ensure that the opinions of the students are at the heart of the decision making process.

Remember that you are a Governor in your own right.

A Student Governor must demonstrate a balance between expressing the opinions and ideas from the student body, whilst bringing their own voice to the table as a full Governor.

Where possible it's also great for students to involve themselves with sub committees to expand their voice, and further help the college while developing the students own interests.



Next steps & top tips!

1

Confidence

Be confident in your own thoughts and opinions. Remember you are a full governor and have as much authority as anyone else in the room!

2

Grasp opportunities!

Take part in all the opportunities offered to you. This is a very unique role and there will be opportunities to do things that few others in your college will have the chance to do.

3

Connect with your peers

Reach out to other Student Governors, they are there to help and offer support. One way this can be done is through attending the training that is provided throughout the year as this is beneficial to you and will help with your understanding of your role.

4

Understand the Nolan Principles

You can read the [Nolan Principles by clicking here](#). The principles are an extremely useful resource explaining the morals upheld by the corporation. By understanding these you can better navigate your way towards successful outcomes.

5

Be prepared!

Walking into a board meeting can be a daunting experience, but your confidence and abilities will be greatly enhanced if you're prepared. Abbreviations and corporate jargon can be a minefield, luckily Unloc's Jargon Buster is here to help. [Simply click here to check it out.](#)



Support

How can board members and Governance Professionals better support their Student Governors?

A transparent role description will help a Student Governor to fulfil their role and understand what is expected of them, their commitment, confidentiality and other required responsibilities.

The Governing Body could regularly check in with their Student Governors by providing a mentor for them. This would provide support and build a stronger relationship with the Governing Body.

Ensure teaching staff and tutors are aware of the role so it is easier for Student Governors to take time out of lessons for meetings when required.

The board can consistently promote inclusion and equality by highlighting the benefits of having a student's perspective.

Hearing & Aiding your Student Governors

Hearing and Aiding your Student Governors

- Share any tips you have, for example: how to tackle board papers, what needs in depth reading and what can be read casually.
- Ensuring there is at least one point of contact for student governors to reach out to, such as the Clerk. Ensure the Student Governor feels they can talk to the person given as a point of contact.
- Promote FE Student Governors and HE Student Governors supporting each other and sharing tips.
- Networking through Unloc, LinkedIn and similar social platforms.
- Organise pre-meetings or 1-1s with new Student Governors to help Student Governors understand the content of the papers and to answer any final questions.



Meetings

- It is good to open opportunities for Student Governors to meet with a member of the board before corporation meetings to ensure the student understands the papers sent out and to clarify any questions.
- It's crucial for the board and the Clerk to ensure a Student Governor feels comfortable so they can fully engage with the meeting.
- Boards could do a 'round the table' exercise to ensure inclusion and make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to speak.
- Provide a name card for your Student Governor to hold up if they wish to contribute, as raising a hand can be quite daunting for students.



Get connected!

Use the helpful link buttons on the right to access a wealth of free resources to help you on your changemaker journey as a Student Governor. Whether it's deciphering the kind of jargon you see in educational reports or strategies, finding learning support or advice, or understanding the Nolan Principles, we've got you covered.

[Unloc's Student Governor Hub](#)

[Unloc's Jargon Buster](#)

[Government Nolan Principles](#)



Get connected!

It's now easier than ever to stay in touch and keep up to date with all the latest news, offers & opportunities from Unloc! Follow us on our social channels and be sure to join our opportunities platform **Unloc+**, unique & exciting events & experiences exclusive to members of the Unloc community!

Click here for **Unloc+**

Competition

The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge 2025

You could win £10,000 with your tech idea!



Got a business idea that you think could help change the world? The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge is now open for applications!

If you have an innovative and sustainable tech-led idea you could be in with a chance of winning up to £10,000 to invest in your business idea and make it a reality!

It takes just 60 seconds to submit your entry. That's one minute of your life that could change your whole future!

If your idea is innovative, viable, and promotes a sustainable development goal, you could be our next winner!

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