



# Career Resource Sheet: Department Reps

Being a Department Rep not only allows you to improve the academic experience for your fellow students, it also affords you the opportunity to develop a set of unique skills and gain a range of experience.



## Who will benefit from your role as a Department Rep?

### Your fellow students

Will gain a leader to support their Course Reps and resolve issues based on student feedback.

### Your Department

Will gain an invaluable key contact to bring together the views of students from different programmes to advocate for University-wide changes and improve student experience within the department.

### You!

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate and develop a whole range of transferable employability skills:

- Engaging with people from a range of cultures
- Develop honest and respectful oral communication skills with people at a range of levels
- Experience of attending and participating in formal meetings
- Gain an understanding of professional conduct
- Demonstrate an ability to build relationships based on trust and credibility
- Collaborative working with others to achieve a shared goal
- Exploring methods of gathering student feedback
- Understanding and interpreting data and feeding back to a diverse audience
- Managing social media campaigns
- Gain an understanding of campaigning methods within a University context
- Gain experience of project management to a deadline within a higher education context
- Develop your leadership skills
- Develop an understanding of University and YUSU Policy process
- Experience of public speaking and publicising yourself
- Gain the opportunity to attend workshops for self development such as the CMI Management Course.

Well done for being elected now make this role work for you - create great things to put on your CV and use in job applications in the future. Take a look at the support you can get from **Careers and Placements** to help you with this.



## Which entry would you rather put on your CV next year?

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**September 2019 - ongoing: Department Representative, English Department, University of York**

- In an elected voluntary position as a Faculty Representative, I did a project with the Department Reps and met with them a few times and sat on some committees.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**September 2019 - ongoing: Department Representative, English Department, University of York**

- In an elected voluntary position as a Faculty Representative working for the York University Students Union, I took the lead on a project working with ten Department representatives and successfully increased engagement with the project group by 30%. I coordinated a project on accessible documents and as a result 'creating accessible documents' is now a core part of all Student Representative training across 28 academic departments which will benefit over 200 students each year.

The choice is yours...

