

‘My Role’ - Union President

What is your role? / What do you do?

As YUSU President, going out and listening to students is a big part of my role. I act as a key representative for you when meeting with senior members of the University and other key people in the community, so it's important you know what I'm up to and how you can shape YUSU. I also play a major part in YUSU campaigns, work closely with colleges and their student committees, as well as being responsible for coordinating and supporting the other elected Sabbatical Officers.

What interested you about the role?

I had been involved in my college committee for two years, and the York Sport Committee during my time at York. I really enjoyed the events and involvement with student life through these roles and going for this role was the next step in this and an opportunity to give back to York.

Why did you decide to nominate yourself?

I had quite a few people ask me if I was going to run for the position or not, and I initially wasn't sure, but I thought I might as well give it a try! I already had done lots of work within my college but thought that this would be a chance to work on a bigger scale.

How did it feel being elected?

Being elected felt like all the hard work from campaigning really paid off, and I was really excited for the year ahead.

What are you most proud of having done in your role so far?

The most rewarding moment so far was Freshers Week. We got to welcome all the new students in our welcome talks, watch the college committees run amazing events and see over 10,000 students attend freshers fair.

What have you gained by being an Officer?

My confidence in myself and my public speaking has improved so much during my time in the role. I have also been able to work with so many amazing people within the Union and University, and while it isn't an easy job it has definitely been rewarding.

What advice would you give to somebody thinking about doing your role?

All of the sabbatical roles need someone who is passionate about the job, as it will be a big part of your life for your year. You need to be prepared to give it your all and try to be creative and think up new ways to try things, and be ready to get stuck into working with students and people from the Union and University.