

‘SU’

LEADERSHIP
ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT (PG)

JOB PACK | 2026

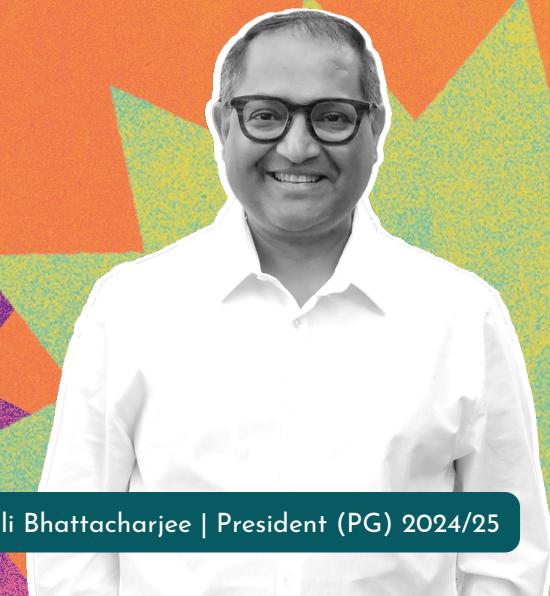


RUN TO BE A SABBATICAL OFFICER!

Interested in changemaking? Want to be the leader of a student-led organisation? Run to be a Sabbatical Officer!

Cambridge SU aspires to be an empowering organisation which supports all students at the University of Cambridge. Our Sabbatical Officers are a huge part of this, especially with implementing their own experience into what they wish to campaign on. Being a Sabbatical Officer is a transformative experience. It's a chance to develop leadership skills, work with a diverse group of people, and gain experience that will serve you well in your future career.

This role is incredibly student facing, whether that's through communicating, running events, or lobbying for change across the student community. The work you do will affect not just your year, but future generations of students at Cambridge.



Sumouli Bhattacharjee | President (PG) 2024/25

WHAT IS A SABBATICAL OFFICER?

Sabbatical Officers are an elected position within Cambridge SU. They are leaders of the SU, and only those who are current students can stand for election. The key remit of the role is to represent and campaign for students, ensuring their voices are heard across the collegiate university.

All Sabbatical Officers have a manifesto of campaigns they want to run or goals they want to achieve whilst in post. Sabbatical Officers also work on policies and campaigns which have been passed by students or previous Sabbatical Officers. They will then attend university meetings, meet with and talk to students to collect their views, run events and campaigns for students and lobby for change for the benefit of the student community. If you've enjoyed student life and want to give back to students, this is an excellent role to take on a full-time, paid position where every aspect of your role is working to improve students' lives!

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Postgraduate (PG) President
Place of Work	Students' Union, Third Floor, University Centre, Granta Place, Mill Lane, CB2 1RU
Contract	Full Time (35 hours a week); 1 year contract
Salary	Circa £27,000

JOB PURPOSE

As a President of the SU, you will lead the political direction of the SU alongside the other Sabbatical Officers.

The Postgraduate President is the lead representative for postgraduate students at the University. There are two Presidents to reflect the equal demographic split between postgraduate and undergraduate students. Both the Presidents will have equal rights as all students can vote for the roles. The Postgraduate President will ensure that the voices of their constituents are heard at the highest level, supporting and developing wider campaigns and initiatives to benefit the postgraduate population. They will also advance the SU's work and campaigns pertaining to ethical and environmental concerns.

You will also be a Trustee of the SU. The Board of Trustees are legally and financially responsible for Cambridge SU and its activities. The Board ensures that Cambridge SU remains legally compliant, financially stable and has robust future planning. You'll be putting into practice strategic leadership and planning skills, negotiation tactics, as well as gaining knowledge on financial oversight, plus much more, which will contribute to your professional development and career boosting opportunities.

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be the lead representative of undergraduate students at the University of Cambridge;

2. Deliver on the commitments made in their election manifesto;
3. Serve as a Trustee of the University and SU.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Campaign for the rights and interests of students on an institutional, local, and national level;
2. Lead campaigns, projects, and/or events that will benefit the postgraduate student body;
3. Represent the student body on a range of University committees, from collegiate issues to sustainability and ethics;
4. Represent the student body to local and national organisations, such as charities and MPs;
5. Seek student insight and feedback to inform campaigns and projects;
6. Build and strengthen relationships with student representatives, particularly MCR Presidents;
7. Participate in the SU's regular democratic meetings, including Student Council, Executive Committee, and Forums;
8. Undertake responsibilities determined by democratic student mandate, e.g. campaigning on student-led policies;
9. Publicise your work to students, through social media, blogs, or other means;
10. Serve as a Trustee of Cambridge SU, sharing ultimate responsibility for governing the charity and alongside the other Trustee Board members;
11. Serve as a Trustee of the University, as a student member of the University Council.

¹www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STAFF MEMBER

1. Work collaboratively across Union departments and with your fellow Sabbatical Officers as an equal member of the team;
2. Contribute to organisational priorities and strategic plans;
3. Support organisation-wide projects and activities, such as Freshers Fair;
4. Support or lead projects and activities where relevant, such as Reclaim the Night, Access-a-Ball, and the Alternative Prospectus;
5. Follow all SU policies and procedures in relation to your employment.

PREVIOUS POSTGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Used data from the SU Postgraduate Funding Survey to secure £1 million extension funding for self-funded doctoral students.
- Campaigned for the University to scrap the PhD application fee and reduce the masters application fee.
- Published the Improving Doctoral Supervision report, which led to the University establishing the Supervisor Training Working group to look at better training for the supervisors of PhD students.
- Campaigned alongside Cambridge UCU and Justice 4 College Supervisors to ensure PhD students who supervise are paid for the mandatory training they undertake.

SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN

Here's a look at some skills you'll use and gain when you become a Sabbatical Officer. Don't worry if you don't have all of these currently, the SU offers lots of opportunities for training and development for all staff and Sabbatical Officers.

- Invaluable leadership skills
- Effective campaigning skills
- Chairing and influencing meetings
- Relationship building and stakeholder management
- Public speaking
- Event and project management
- Charity governance

WHY SHOULD YOU RUN ?

- You can make a real change in the University, improving the experience of current and future students.
- You can stay a part of the Cambridge community whilst working, either after your degree or as a one-year break.
- It's an amazing opportunity to develop your own skills for the future, with regular access to high-level university stakeholders and a leadership role in our organisation.
- You'll also work in Cambridge SU's beautiful office, with river views.



TO FIND OUT MORE SCAN
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