

## Being a Trustee at ENSA

ENSA's Trustee Board was first established in 2013. ENSA has consciously invested in external professional expertise and the use of "critical friends" to embed appropriate structures and processes. It has also sought to develop a culture that will support the Board's aim of building a stronger association that is capable of delivering on ENSA's mission for its student beneficiaries. It commissioned an external governance review in 2017 to strengthen a developing Board.

The membership of ENSA's Board is comprised of full-time student officers (elected sabbaticals), students who are appointed solely as trustees, and external lay trustees who bring with them a range of expertise and perspectives from outwith the organisation. The current backgrounds of external trustees on the Board are from PR and marketing, financial and management accounting, university fund-raising, and a recently retired senior academic.

The current advertisement has arisen as a result of a member coming to end of their tenure. The Board would especially welcome applications from those with a background in HR. The post is voluntary, with reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses to fulfil trustee responsibilities are acceptable.

The Trustee Board is collectively in charge of ENSA; for upholding its values and aligning it to the Association's charitable objects and for governing in the interests of ENSA's student beneficiaries. It aspires constantly to improve standards of governance and standards of good practice. It also sets the overall strategy for ENSA and evaluates progress towards goals. It has overall responsibility for ENSA's governance: assets and employees (currently 19, or 16.1 full time equivalent, including 3 full-time paid elected student officers), budget-setting and financial reporting, health and safety, risk assessment and legal compliance.

In line with charity law, all of ENSA's trustees (student and lay external, elected or appointed) have equal status. They have a variety of experience and skills, which may bring different perspectives, but they are each and all, jointly and severally, liable for the running of the charity. Trustees are expected to take their responsibilities seriously and manage any conflicts of interests appropriately. They are also expected to engage in the legitimate business of the Board and contribute to its work; ensuring due diligence through adherence to robust decision-making and scrutinising processes.

The Board meets 6 times annually, usually at 6pm on a Monday at Merchiston Campus (10 Colinton Road). In addition there are a number of sub-groups that meet less frequently and deal with finance and HR. There is an annual planning day, and all trustees are offered training on their role.