CHAIR OF PLEXUS

ELIGIBILITY TO STAND

To stand for the position of Chair of PLEXUS you must satisfy all the following criteria:

1. Be a Full Member of PLEXUS prior to the announcement of nominations
2. Be a registered student of the Open University
3. Hold at least 12 months volunteering experience within PLEXUS, the OU Students Association or a similar LGBT+ group or association

OVERVIEW OF ROLE

PLEXUS was created in August 2016 by a group of individuals who recognised that there was a vacancy for a safe space for the LGBT+ community within the Students Association and a space where LGBT+ students could access support throughout their studies.

PLEXUS is led by a team of student Officers who are elected every two years by the Full Members of PLEXUS. The Chair of PLEXUS leads the Officer team which is supported by Caucus Representatives who are unelected.

The Chair of PLEXUS is constitutionally bound to manage the affairs of PLEXUS, support the other Officers of PLEXUS, act as liaison between the Open University, Students Association and PLEXUS on matters relating to LGBT+ equality and work collaboratively with the Open University’s LGBT+ Staff Network.

ESSENTIAL FOR ROLE

The Chair of PLEXUS should be passionate about representing OU Students whether this be online or face-to-face. The Chair of PLEXUS is expected to attend the Inclusion Committee which takes place on campus, representing the views of LGBT+ students, and present ideas around possible engagement. The Chair of PLEXUS will provide written reports to the Central Executive Committee (our overarching governing body) and the PLEXUS annual report.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair of PLEXUS will deliver in the following areas:

1. Responsible for managing the affairs of the Group
2. Lead all committee meetings and ensure agreed actions are carried out
3. Keep in contact with all committee members
4. Represent the Group within OU Students Association
5. Produce an article for the OU Student’s Magazine where appropriate
6. Attend the OU Inclusion Committee Meeting
7. Attend at the OU Students Association Biennial Conference (or send a representative)
8. Liaise with the Vice President Equal Opportunities on activity and wider support and engagement
9. Liaise with the OU Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit
10. Liaise with the OU LGBT+ Staff Group on joint campaigns and engagement

PLEXUS (LGBT+ Group) are affiliated to the OU Students Association to provide an avenue of support to LGBT+ students and allies of the LGBT+ Community. PLEXUS welcomes members of the alumni and staff members of the Open University. For more information visit www.ouplexus.co.uk
PLEXUS (LGBT+ Group) are affiliated to the OU Students Association to provide an avenue of support to LGBT+ students and allies of the LGBT+ Community. PLEXUS welcomes members of the alumni and staff members of the Open University. For more information visit www.ouplexus.co.uk

**DESIRED SKILLS**

- Good communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good networking skills
- Passionate about student representation and the mission and aims of PLEXUS
- Willingness to engage with new and existing students

**SUPPORTED BY**

The Chair of PLEXUS is supported by the Central Executive Committee of the OU Students Association, particularly the Vice-President Equal Opportunities. PLEXUS is further supported by the Student Support staff team who are based in Milton Keynes. You will be in regular contact with all parties via email and hold/contribute to virtual and face-to-face meetings when possible.

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE PLEXUS MEMBERSHIP AND OU STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

- To act professionally whilst in the role
- Successfully implement the Constitution of PLEXUS
- Respect the views and opinions of others
- Represent PLEXUS in a positive manner
- Behave in a manner that respects the Constitution and by-laws of the Students Association, including our commitment to Equality and Diversity

**IN RETURN, THE CHAIR OF PLEXUS CAN EXPECT**

- Support from the Vice-President Equal Opportunities
- Support from the Student Support Team
- Confidence from the Head of Equality, Diversity and Information Rights office
- Access to networking opportunities and events delivered by the Open University and the OU Students Association
- Induction and appropriate training deemed necessary for the role
- Reimbursement of reasonable expenses (currently earmarked for Pride events and attendance of the inclusion committee)
- A handbook detailing the services available within the Association, policies, support structures and general information.
- Develop transferable skills and confidence
- Networking opportunities, internally and externally
- At the end of their term will be made an Honorary Life Member of PLEXUS
- Meet other students and have fun

**TIMESCALES**

- This role will run from 1st January 2018 until 31st December 2019.