TRANS OFFICER

ELIGIBILITY TO STAND

To stand for the position of Trans Officer within PLEXUS you must satisfy all the following criteria:

1. Be a Full Member of PLEXUS prior to the announcement of nominations
2. Self-define as a member of the Trans or Non-Binary community, it is important that this position is not held by someone who identifies their gender as cisgender.
3. Be a registered student of the Open University

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 Trans Officer is responsible for leading the representative voice for our transgender and non-binary community activity for PLEXUS. This is achieved by collating ideas from the membership and presenting them to the Committee. The Trans Officer works closely with the OU Students Association Student Support and Community Teams to ensure campaigns are organised and communicated to all students.

ESSENTIAL FOR ROLE

The Trans Officer should be passionate about representing OU Students whether this be online or face-to-face. The Trans Officer should have knowledge of the LGBT+ community and campaigns that are organised throughout the year. For example, LGBT History Month and Transgender Day of Awareness.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trans Officer will deliver in the following areas:

1. Represent the Trans and Non-Binary members of the Group
2. Be the elected voice within the OU Students Association and Open University in relation to gender identities
3. In collaboration with the Campaigns Officer organise engagement in relation to the Trans and Non-binary communities. E.g. Transgender Day of Remembrance and Non-Binary Awareness Day
4. Co-ordinate virtual meet-ups working alongside the OU Students Association Community Team
5. Engage with the membership and wider followers through Social Media Platforms
6. Support the Committee in ensuring there is appropriate access to support and campaigns for the membership

DESIRED SKILLS

- Good communication skills

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
• 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 Trans Officer works co-creatively and collaboratively with their fellow committee members and 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 meetings and face-to-face 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 CAMPAIGNS OFFICER CAN EXPECT
• Support from the Chair of PLEXUS
• 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
• A handbook detailing the services available within the Association, policies, support structures and general information
• Develop transferable skills and confidence
• Network opportunities, internally and externally
• Meet other students and have fun

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