Student Voice Researcher (Spring 2019)

Overview of role:
The OU Students Association’s Student Voice Team wishes to recruit volunteers to offer a student perspective to our research work. Our research explores different aspects of the student experience, and we want to ensure that students are involved at every stage of the research process.

The Student Voice Researcher role offers students the opportunity to volunteer with us for short periods of time and work on themed projects. As you contribute to the busy research strand in the Student Voice Team, you will gain valuable experience of working on a project, have lots of opportunities during the week to speak to your elected student representatives and the Association staff team, and hopefully have lots of fun along the way!

If you are a student with a genuine interest in the Association’s work and looking to get more involved whilst developing some research skills, then this is the opportunity for you. You won’t be expected to know about everything we do, but some knowledge of life as a distance learner and experience of studying with the Open University is essential.

To apply for this role:
Please ensure you have read the information regarding time commitment below before making your application. The March 2019 round runs for just over two weeks from Friday 1 March to Monday 18 March. It involves three stages:

- **Online training** will be provided during the week of 1-6 March. All participants are required to undertake this training. During this time, you will also have the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the topic and undertake any pre-reading. You will be able to access this training throughout your time with us.

- **The Induction event** will take place at the OU campus in Milton Keynes on Thursday 7 to Friday 8 March, offering you the opportunity to meet with your student representatives and the Association staff team. **Attending the Induction is mandatory.** We will provide accommodation and reimburse reasonable travel expenses.

- **Project work:** During the period of 9-18 March, you are expected to commit 35 hours of your time to the project you will be working on. You will be working from home and will have flexibility in terms of when you choose to work on this project (such as working in the evenings).
The online training and project work will be undertaken from home.

**The final output is expected to be a written submission of 1500 words (minimum) received by the office on Tuesday 19 March, 2019.**

**Supported by:**
You will be supported by:

- Research and Information Officer
- Research Assistant
- The Student Volunteering Team

Don’t forget you can talk to the Student Volunteering team at any point during your time as a volunteer, whether you want to find out more about other roles, find ways to get more involved or to write an article for our newsletter or website.

**Desired skills:**
Please note that the Student Voice Researcher role is specific to our research work, and the criteria/skills listed below are key to undertaking this role effectively. Please refer to these criteria in your application and give examples where possible.

- You must be a full member of the Association to apply (all current students are automatically members; if unsure, please ask).
- Enthusiasm for learning about the Association’s work and contributing to it.
- Prepared to commit the required time to work on your project, as well as attending the Induction in Milton Keynes.
- Enthusiasm for learning new skills, including completing the online training.
- Good understanding of the output expected from your project, and delivering this in a timely way to the specified standard.
- Experience of using data (whether quantitative or qualitative), for example in a report or presentation.
- Good communication and writing skills.
- Prepared to work in collaboration with fellow Student Voice Researchers.

**Application Process:**
Please complete the online application form. Alternative formats are available on request, please contact us on oustudents-volunteer@open.ac.uk.

Please note that the application process for this role involves blind shortlisting of applicants, after which an informal phone or online chat is requested. Applicants who successfully complete this process will be notified by Monday 18 February 2019.

**Applications close on Wednesday 6 February.**
What the OU Students Association expect from you in this role:

- It is important that volunteers respect our values by helping to create a sense of community and support wherever possible. We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and our volunteers should reflect this in their role with us.
- All volunteers are expected to follow the volunteer agreement given to them upon taking on a role with the Association, failure to abide by the agreement could result in you being unable to volunteer with us.

What you can expect from the OU Students Association:

- Support from the Volunteer team and Association staff team throughout your time with us.
- We will endeavour that all roles will be of real benefit to the student community and will make a difference to all those you engage with.
- Your volunteering will be appreciated and recognised for the value it brings.
- We aim to give you all the necessary information and training that you require to complete your role. If you feel you need additional support in your role please let us know and we will be happy to help.
- You will be volunteering for a non-discriminatory organisation that strives for equality and celebrates difference.

Closing date:

Wednesday 6 February 2019