## Student Senate Reference Group (SSRG)

### Purpose

The Open SU Student Senate Reference Group (SSRG) exists to support the student members of Senate by offering a wide range of student perspectives. Entirely student-led and chaired by the Vice President (VP) Student Representation, the group meets ahead of each Senate meeting to review the agenda and highlight any issues that may impact students.

### About SSRG Meetings

SSRG meets online **four times per academic year**, typically on the **Monday morning before each Senate meeting**, which takes place on the following Wednesday.

**Meeting time**: 10:00 – 12:00 (2 hours)

**Format:** Online via MS Teams

**Additional input:** Members can also contribute asynchronously via an online discussion space.

### Your Role as an SSRG Member

Before the Meeting

As an SSRG member, you are expected to:

* **Read the Senate papers** in advance. These will be shared online, and paper copies are available for those with accessibility needs.
  + *Note:* The papers can be lengthy, so please allow enough time to review them thoroughly.
* **Accept the meeting invite** or send your apologies if you’re unable to attend.
* **Share your thoughts** in the online discussion space.
* **Reach out to the Student Voice team** if you need support or have any concerns about your participation.

### During the Meeting

SSRG meetings are:

* **Chaired by the VP Student Representation**
* **Inclusive and respectful** spaces where all viewpoints are welcomed and valued.
  + While a diversity of opinions is encouraged, discussions should remain constructive and respectful.
* **Supported by the Student Voice team**, who provide administrative assistance and help ensure the group runs smoothly.

### What You’ll Gain

By being part of SSRG, you will:

* Build confidence and develop key skills such as **communication, collaboration, and critical thinking**.
* Join a **diverse and welcoming community** of fellow students.
* Help **empower the Student Members of Senate** to represent the wider student body effectively.
* Play a role in **shaping the future of academic policy** at the OU.

### Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about SSRG, please contact the Open SU Student Voice team at:  
📧 [**oustudents-voice@open.ac.uk**](mailto:oustudents-voice@open.ac.uk)