

Unite Foundation: Young Trustee Role Description

Remuneration: This role is offered on a voluntary basis. Reasonable expenses incurred in the course of carrying out the role will be reimbursed by the organisation.

Time commitment: This role requires around 1 day per quarter, including quarterly Board meetings, quarterly sub-committee meetings

Location: Board meetings currently take place in person at Unite Students' offices in central London, with Committee meetings held online

Term of office: Three years

About the Unite Foundation

The Unite Foundation is an independent registered charity offering a unique accommodation scholarship for care experienced and estranged young people at university. The scholarship takes care of students' accommodation and bills, covering up to 3 full years of study. The charity worked with over 20 universities across England and Scotland during 2025/26, and the team works closely with Unite Students, the charity's accommodation partner and principal corporate donor. The charity has awarded 883 scholarships since 2012, and 452 Unite Foundation graduates are pursuing their dreams.

The charity improves the access, progression and post-graduate outcomes for care experienced and estranged students in the UK. This goal is addressed by delivering direct benefit to relevant students through a national scholarship scheme, providing an online community space, raising awareness of the experience of such students, and supporting transformational research.

About the role

The duties of a trustee are as follows:

- + Ensuring that the Unite Foundation pursues its stated objects (purposes), as defined in its governing document, by developing and agreeing a long-term strategy.
- + Ensuring that the Unite Foundation complies with its governing document (i.e. its trust deed, constitution or memorandum and articles of association), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.

- + Ensuring that the Unite Foundation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects (i.e. the charity must not spend money on activities that are not included in its own objects, however worthwhile or charitable those activities are) for the benefit of the public.
- + Ensuring that the Unite Foundation defines its goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets.
- + Safeguarding the good name and principles of the Unite Foundation.
- + Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the Unite Foundation, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- + Ensuring that the Unite Foundation follows appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures
- + Ensuring the financial stability of the Unite Foundation.
- + Protecting and managing the assets of the Unite Foundation and ensuring the proper investment of funds.
- + Following proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal and remuneration of the Director.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

About you

- + A commitment to the Unite Foundation and its purpose.
- + A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.
- + Strategic vision.
- + Good, independent judgement.
- + An ability to think creatively.
- + A willingness to speak your mind.
- + An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- + An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- + A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.