

## BVU Student Representative – Job Description

### Why does the BVU want student reps?

We want to prepare vet and vet nursing students for the workplace, by equipping you with the knowledge and skills to understand and improve your rights at work.

We also want the veterinary sector to be better in general, and this starts with you, as the future of the profession. Many of the issues our sector faces start during education, such as inequality, discrimination, exploitation and burn out – we hope that by empowering you, we can empower the whole sector.

We want reps to act as a link between our organisation and the students at your university or college, so we can share knowledge about ways we can help students and graduates and get student feedback on the type of support you need.

### What would I be expected to do in this role?

- Help collect data from our members and your fellow students on issues affecting veterinary and veterinary nursing students
- Attend monthly branch committee and bi-monthly branch meetings ( **via zoom – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8pm**, must attend a minimum of 75% of branch and branch committee meetings)
- Keep abreast of current affairs that may affect our members
- Keep abreast of current Unite policies that may affect veterinary/ veterinary nursing students
- Discuss and debate issues affecting the veterinary industry
- Contribute to, and sometimes lead, smaller projects with the BVU to help better represent our veterinary/ veterinary nursing students
- Organise events at your university or nursing college to promote the BVU and to provide employment related advice and support to students
- Encourage students at your university or nursing college to join the BVU
- Contribute to the development of policy or position statements on behalf of the BVU, relating to veterinary/ veterinary nursing student affairs, in conjunction with the Branch Committee
- Feedback to the Branch committee on issues affecting the veterinary/ veterinary nursing students
- Be a first port of call for student members with workplace issues or concerns
- Assist with representation and support of student members where appropriate
- Ask for help when you need it, from senior representatives, or the Regional Officer, to ensure members are always given the best possible advice
- Maintain complete confidentiality regarding member issues

### What support would I receive?

You will be supported in this role by the Branch Executive, workplace/companion reps, and the Regional Officer. You will always have the full support of the BVU and the wider union in your role.

It is not mandatory, but will help with this role, if you attend some of the educational courses provided by Unite and the BVU to better understand the work we do, and the way we operate. (The cost of these courses is covered by Unite.)



## Who can apply?

Anyone who is a current student of veterinary medicine, veterinary science or veterinary nursing in the UK or Ireland, regardless of how far into their course they are.

You must be a BVU member to apply. You can join here: <https://bvu.org.uk/join-us/>, student memberships costs £2.38 per month (Sept 2022).

**The role is voluntary, but if you are successfully elected your BVU membership fees will be reimbursed by the BVU for your time as a student representative.** We offer this because we don't want financial hardship to be a barrier to union involvement.

## How long would my role last?

All BVU Branch Committee positions are elected on a 3 year basis, in line with Unite's election timetable (next elections will be in 2025). If you are elected mid-cycle, your term as a student rep would end in line with these elections, though you may stand for re-election if you are still a student.

If you graduate within your 3 year term, you will have the opportunity to stand down, or to continue on the Branch Committee as a workplace or companion representative (subject to completing the required educational course).

You can stand down from the role before 3 years if you no longer wish to continue in the role, and we expect our student reps to need to take breaks from their role around exam times.

## How do I apply or get more information?

Please send an email to [bvu@unitetheunion.org](mailto:bvu@unitetheunion.org) with the subject "Student representative" and let us know which university or college you attend and whether you are a vet or vet nursing student. One of our committee will then contact you with an application form, and answer any questions you have included in the email.

**The BVU committee look forward to hearing from you!**

