

School of Arts and Humanities

Statement on the Role of the Student Representatives

The School of Arts and Humanities comprises eight Faculties: Architecture and History of Art, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Classics, Divinity, English, Modern and Medieval Languages, Music, and Philosophy, and includes all the Departments that fall within the scope of these Faculty Boards. Also within the scope of the School are the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) and the Language Centre.

The School, with its constituent institutions, has a total spend in excess of £32m p.a. including in excess of £26m staff costs. Research grants and contracts are approximately £7m. There are over 170 Trust Funds in the School with an approximate turnover of £6m and a current value of £148m. There are approximately 500 FTE staff (all categories); Student Numbers are in the region of 2,700 FTE (undergraduates) and 750 FTE (postgraduate/research).

The governing body of the school is the Council of the School of Arts and Humanities. The Council of the School comprises a membership of 13, including representatives from each of the eight Faculties within the School and the Directors of the Language Centre and Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities. The membership of the Council of the School also includes two persons each elected from amongst their number by the undergraduate and graduate student members of the constituent institutions of the School.

The Council of the School agenda covers a wide range of topics and student representatives have the right to attend the unreserved business (which is the majority of the agenda) and have full speaking rights. The graduate student representative is also invited to become a member (on a similar basis) of the School's Graduate Education Committee, which reports to the Council of the School and deals in more detail with graduate education.

The types of issues discussed at the Council of the School include: Setting the overall strategy and plans for the School; Appointments to University Bodies; Responses to University consultations on matters that are not resource management; Fundraising; School Governance; and Education issues.

The Council is the primary forum for discussion on educational policy. It is also the forum for discussions on wider ranging University issues or developments that are not specifically to do with resource management, and often involve a speaker from outside the School.

Student representation provides an opportunity to influence the deliberations of the School and the decisions it makes. Our student representatives have been able to provide the student perspective during Council discussions and to raise queries and concerns about the matters under discussion, and their potential impact on students. This is an important role and provides a contrasting perspective from that of the academic or administrative.