



Where will it take you? - Student Union Elections



**Being a Dudley College Student Governor –
need to know information!**



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Thank you for your interest in the position of Student Governor, please find below some need to know information, please read this carefully.

Dudley College of Technology is a statutory Corporation whose members are also known as Governors.

The Corporation provides strategic leadership to the College and sets the mission and the framework of policies within which the College operates. While day to day management is the responsibility of the CEO and the Senior Leadership group, the Corporation has the key role of monitoring, challenging and supporting them.

The Corporation has eleven external Governors who are unpaid volunteers and are drawn from business, professional, public sector and community backgrounds. They bring a range of skills and experience to the Boardroom.

The Corporation also includes the CEO, two staff Governors and two student Governors.

The Corporation meets eight times a year (including development events). It also has a number of committees whose membership consists mainly of Governors but also includes co-opted members. These committees carry out detailed work and make recommendations to the Corporation in the key areas of Standards, estates, audit and employer engagement.

Catering for over 14,000 learners of various types each year drawn from all parts of the community, Dudley College plays an important part in the life of the community. With an annual turnover of over £41 million, it is also one of the area's largest employers and is an important part of the local economy.

The Corporation is comprised of people from all walks of life, who give freely of their time to undertake an important role in overseeing the work of the College. They bring to the Boardroom their skills, experience and knowledge of the community. In return, they find that being a Governor can be a



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rewarding role, which brings them into contact with others who have an interest in the many different aspects of education and training.

The following questions are typically asked by people who are interested in the role and the answers provide clarification of the position:

Do I need any specific skills to become a governor?

No. There are no particular rules about the skills or qualifications needed to become college governors. On the contrary, they are lay people who collectively bring to the Corporation a wide range of interests and expertise. When new appointments are made, account is taken of the experience and skills already present. **What is much more important is that Governors are enthusiastic people, capable of working as part of a team and who have an interest in helping the College to fulfil its mission.**

There are 16 Governors, in the following categories:

- 11 "external" Governors
- 2 elected members of staff
- 2 elected students
- The CEO of the College

Governors do not act as delegates. They do not represent any particular organisation or interest group although they may have affiliations with other organisations and may even be nominated by them. All governors are on the Corporation as individuals, representing the community at large



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What is the Corporation actually responsible for?

The main business of the Corporation is to determine the character of the College and to ensure its overall well-being and financial solvency.

In brief, the Corporation is responsible for:

- the determination of the educational character and mission of the College and for oversight of its activities
- the quality strategy
- the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the College and the Corporation and for safeguarding their assets
- approving annual estimates of income and expenditure
- the appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts and the Clerk to the Corporation
- setting a framework for the pay and conditions of service of all other staff.

How much of my time will it take?

The Corporation itself normally meets six times a year usually starting at 4.30 p.m. These meetings last about two hours. In addition the Corporation holds two or three development events a year usually in the afternoon.

There are also a number of Committees with particular responsibilities. Most Governors serve on one or two Committees. They each meet between three and four times a year. Almost all Committee meetings start at 4.30 p.m. and they usually last for about two hours.



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Student Governors need to prepare for meetings by reading the papers and thinking about the questions they may ask.

In addition, Governors play a part in the life of the College and may be invited to awards evenings, presentations, art shows and other events.

Will I get any training to help me?

Yes. New governors receive induction training to give them an insight into the work of the College and the Corporation.

An experienced governor can act as a mentor to provide advice and to help student governors settle into the role.

Student governors will be offered a 'Buddy' for their full term in office – this is someone who already sits on the corporation and can provide guidance and support.

The senior officer- corporate governance is the professional advisor to the corporation who can provide advice on any matters relating to the role of student governor.

The Student Governors will also receive support from the Students' Union and in particular the Student Development Officer, Sophia Daly. Sophia will meet with governors on a termly basis. There is also an optional National Union of Students training package that the SU would recommend.

Traditionally the student Governor and the SU have a close working relationship by the fact that they are invited to chair Student Council and SU Executive meetings if they wish to commit the time. However this is optional to the role and not mandatory.

An annual programme of training is provided for all Governors and there are opportunities to attend regional and national conferences and seminars on



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issues of particular interest – **The SU organise support for student governors to attend activities that are specifically related to the Student Governor role.**

Do governors have a job description?

Yes. The Corporation has agreed a role description for Governors and a copy is available from the Senior Officer-Corporation Governance please email Gill.Darwood@dudleycol.ac.uk

Are governors paid?

No. Governors at all colleges act in a voluntary capacity and expenses are not paid by the College for attendance at scheduled meetings. However, expenses relating to attendance at courses or conferences may be paid.

What if things go wrong – what are my liabilities?

In terms of personal liability, college governors have a similar legal liability and protection as for company directors, charitable trustees and school governors. That means that, if individuals have acted honestly and reasonably, they can be excused personal liability by a court.

Who can I contact for more information?

Sophia Daly
Student Development Officer
Dudley College
Students' Union | Room B4 | The Broadway | Dudley | DY1 4AS
T: 01384363412 | M: 07904680733
E: Sophia.daly@dudleycol.ac.uk



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Next steps:

If you have come to a firm decision that you would like to stand for the post of Student Governor you will be required to stand in an election and encourage students to vote for you.

Please see the nomination form at the end of this booklet and complete fully if you wish to nominate yourself.

Please write a clear statement of no more than 200 words as to what you could offer if elected to the role and why you would be the best student for the role.

Please note this statement may be published by Dudley College/Students' Union in order to promote the election candidates to the student body.

Nominations should be received no later than 4pm
10th May.

Your nomination can be hand written and handed in to your Campus reception – please ask for an envelope and address to Sophia Daly alternatively you can send your nomination via email to:

Sophia.daly@dudleycol.ac.uk



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What other student Governors have said:

Student governors' thoughts on the best things about being a student governor:

"Being listened to and being able to make a difference in the college."

"Finding out and understanding how things work in a college."

"It's Interesting meeting different people and finding out why they want to help the college, and seeing them putting the hard work in and making the decisions."

"Personal gain – brilliant experience, confidence booster."

"Understand politics and more about the education world from it."

"It's good how understanding the governors are."

"Job satisfaction – helping someone else."

"Greater input, making the college more worthwhile, doing extra things to make it more like college than school, making it the best college it can be."

"Out of all the students in the college and student executive, we have the most power to make a difference. If you get students behind a policy, then the college has to listen."

"Find out about all the people in high places, what they are doing and how they are trying to do it. Inspires me to know what they are doing."

"It's made me more interested in boards and committees than I would have been before."

"Bring freshness and new ideas."

"Looks really good on CV; employers are looking for this."

"It gives you experience and understanding of what will come after college – meetings, professional relationships with the SMT."

"I think that some things that don't seem to be relevant to students actually do benefit from a student's perspective."



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Student Governor Nomination Form

Name	ID

Course	Tutor

Email address	
Contact Tel/Text no.	

Statement – what I will offer if elected to the role/why I am the best person for the role of student governor (200 words max)

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Please sign below you agree with the following – *I would like to stand for the role of student Governor and wish to be entered into the election. I can confirm that I am not currently facing college disciplinary action. I am happy for my name and statement to be used in media by Dudley College/Dudley SU* (if sending electronically can be done when attending information meeting with S.Daly)

If you require this booklet in an alternative format please contact sophia.daly@dudleycol.ac.uk or visit <https://www.dudleysu.co.uk/elections>