

**ROLE DESCRIPTION AND CRITERIA
FOR APPOINTMENT – STUDENT
GOVERNOR (January 2024)**



PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

1. As a member of the Governing Body of Morley College London (the 'Governing Body'), to play a full part in College governance, including:
 - setting the strategic direction of the College, evaluating progress and making adjustments as required;
 - assigning roles and responsibilities;
 - establishing and modelling the College's values and ethos;
 - ensuring that appropriate systems are in place to achieve the College's strategic aims and manage the concomitant risks;
 - developing leadership; and
 - ensuring that the College fulfills its charitable objectives and that it and its staff meet the expectations of those to whom we are accountable, including learners, employers, local communities and communities of practice.
2. To attend board and committee meetings and contribute to discussions from an individual perspective, informed by experience as a Morley student, but always with regard to the interests of the College as a whole
3. To ensure that other governors understand the likely impact of Governing Body decisions on students and on other stakeholders (such as staff or employers) of whom the student governor has direct knowledge.
4. To support the Principal and Director of Governance in improving student understanding of the role and activities of the Governing Body
5. To act as an ambassador for the College in the wider community

PRINCIPAL DUTIES

1. Preparing for, attending and participating in full meetings of the Governing Body ('board meetings'). There are currently four board meetings a year, each lasting between two and three hours, in addition to two half-day strategy development sessions.
2. Undertaking professional development as required. Training materials are provided regularly to enable governors to keep up to date with developments in the College and in the environment (including the regulatory environment) within which it operates, supplemented by occasional board development seminars in-centre or online. Governors also have access to training and other events run by the Association of Colleges (AoC) and the Education and Training Foundation (ETF).

Some of these events are specifically designed for student governors. Induction training is provided for all new governors.

3. Attending at least some of the public and private events at which important stakeholders are present.
4. Serving on the Governing Body's Curriculum and Quality Committee and one other committee – normally either the Finance, Resources and Sustainability Committee or the External Relations Committee. Committees generally meet up to four times a year.

We estimate that the time commitment required of a student governor is approximately ten hours a month. This includes preparation time but does not include the time spent travelling to and from meetings or events.

CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT

Student governors are appointed following nomination by the Student Council. Details of the selection criteria are available from the Chair of the Student Council.

By law, only students who are eligible for appointment as charity trustees can be appointed as student governors. This excludes anyone who:

- has been disqualified as a company director;
- has an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud);
- is an undischarged bankrupt or has a current composition or arrangement including an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) with their creditors; or
- has been removed as a trustee of any charity by the Charity Commission or a court because of misconduct or mismanagement.

Prospective student governors and those nominating them may also wish to bear in mind that successful student governors normally share the following characteristics:

1. They are able to attend at least 80 per cent of board and committee meetings, and to participate in other College events and undertake professional development as required.
2. They are passionate about education and the difference that it can make to individuals and communities
3. They are effective communicators, able to support, encourage, challenge and persuade colleagues and stakeholders
4. They are able to analyse and understand complex problems from a variety of different points of view
5. They are able to empathise with learners following different courses and at different levels across the College Centres
6. They are committed to Morley College London's vision and values

OTHER INFORMATION

An appointment as a governor of Morley College London is a public appointment. All governors are required to abide by the Governing Body's Code of Conduct, which is based on the seven principles of public life (the 'Nolan' principles): selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

All governors, including staff and student governors, work on a voluntary basis. The College meets reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (such as travel expenses) incurred by governors in the performance of their duties.

Student governors share in the collective responsibility of the Governing Body on an equal footing with all other governors. They participate in all discussions, except where these relate to a member or prospective member of College staff or the conduct of an individual student.

A student governor is appointed for a term of up to two years, and may be re-appointed for a second term if duly nominated.

Each governor is required to make an annual declaration of eligibility and to declare any interests that might be seen as potentially influencing their behaviour as a governor.

The performance and effectiveness of each governor is assessed on an ongoing basis by the Chair of Governors (supported by the Director of Governance), who undertakes an individual development interview with each governor as part of the Governing Body's cyclical programme of governance review.