

Haaris Qureshi Returning Officer Application

Description

Haaris Qureshi is an MComp Computing Science student at Newcastle University. He has been a crew member of NUTV for four years, and has been on the committee for three of those. Haaris is also the incumbent Secretary for NaSTA, following his duties as Deputy Returning Officer before the position's dissolution. This last year Haaris has co-written the current NaSTA constitution, as well as over the past few years written or added to the constitutions for several organisations and sat on scrutiny and disciplinary committees.

Manifesto

Experience

- Returning Officer for numerous NUSU societies, as well as for NUTV, supervising committee elections and AGMs (2015-2017)
- Numerous NUSU society committees (2014-2017)
- Founding Secretary of Newcastle University (2014-2016)
- NUSU Societies Executive Committee (committee overseeing how all society groups ran, dealing with disciplinary issues and enforcing the Societies Constitution) (2015-2017)
- NUSU Disciplinary Committee (2015-2017)
- NUTV committee (2015-)
- NUSU Media Executive Committee (committee overseeing how all media groups ran, dealing with disciplinary issues and enforcing the media related constitutions) (2016-2017, 2018)
- **NaSTA Deputy Returning Officer (2017)**
- **NaSTA Secretary (2018)**

I believe I have the experience and ability to best perform this position. I was appointed Deputy Returning Officer around three-quarters of a year ago, and over the following few months I worked closely with Ryan Andrews, the Returning Officer, and Chris Osborn, the Chair, in redrafting and rewriting the NaSTA constitution, in order for the organisation to have a charity-compliant constitution in preparation for our application. Having written sections of the constitution and some of the policy documents, and having read over and edited the rest, I feel I am naturally well versed in the Constitution and policies that make up the governance of the organisation, which will aid in performing my role.

During the rewrite of the Constitution, the role of Deputy Returning Officer was dissolved, and I was subsequently elected to the Exec as Secretary. Even though I have felt that the months that followed, focused as they were on the Conference and Awards, did not leave me with many duties to perform, I was still able to take part in and gain a closer awareness to the operation of the Association.

My time being a member of numerous committees at my Students' Union have given me the confidence to run and publicise elections and General Meetings. During the rewrite of NaSTA

documentation, I authored the policy document on Standing Orders for General Meetings, and as such am very familiar with the proceedings that should occur. I have also had experience handling matters of a disciplinary nature, and while the hope is obviously I will not have to have the displeasure of dealing with an incident during my tenure, should matters arise I feel I have exhibited fair judgement in the past in accordance with the respective organisation's protocol and I would continue to do so in this capacity.

Finally, as I have been actively involved with the Association's on-going charity application, a process which is still being actioned, I strongly believe my continued involvement in the role of Returning Officer will ensure continuity during this process and during NaSTA's first year as a registered charity, in particular as I am currently named as one of NaSTA's founding trustees due to my involvement in co-writing the constitution and assisting with the application.