

## AGD: Social Mobility and Class Officer

### What would you like to change in the Bye-Laws?

Add a new Social Mobility & Class Officer

Defined as – “Work closely with societies related to social mobility and supporting students from a low socioeconomic background. Represent the collective interests and needs of these students to decision-making bodies within the Union. Working alongside and supported by the Equity & Inclusion Officer and the Welfare & Community Officer, represent these collective interests to UCL and beyond. The Social Mobility & Class Officer will work with all officers on projects that affect those from these backgrounds.”

### Why would you like to do this?

Students from widening participation backgrounds are often not represented in any meetings at UCL or the union. Although everyone makes a small effort to provide value for money and think about prices, a student officer dedicated to knowing the intricacies of the problems students from WP backgrounds may face will be much more effective. There have been some initiatives like the participation fund which have been extremely successful, but there could be more in different areas of the union and UCL.

There has been an increase with the number of student societies that are related to this, and they are extremely popular which shows a high demand. (upReach social mobility society, first gen society, 93% club etc.). It is often the case that students attending lots of union activities feel out of place because they are the only person from a state school or the only person that has to think twice before spending money on an event etc.

There is also a high demand for students from WP backgrounds to engage in volunteering initiatives in state-schools like in the societies, so there is more scope for engagement and partnership with the Volunteering Service.

There is also an awarding gap, much like the BME gap.

### How will this affect students?

Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds have more support to feel part of the UCL community, and more represented within the union and UCL.