

Role Description: Student Panel Member (Positive Digital Practices)

Positive Digital Practices: a holistic approach to wellbeing for part-time, commuter and distance learning students

About Student Minds

Student Minds is the UK's student mental health charity. We empower students and members of the university community to develop the knowledge, confidence and skills to look after their own mental health, support others and create change. We train students and staff in universities across the UK to deliver student-led peer support interventions as well as research-driven workshops and campaigns. By working collaboratively across sectors, we share best practice and ensure that the student voice influences decisions about student mental health.

About the Positive Digital Practices project

Over the next two years, Student Minds is partnering on a project led by the Open University which aims to scale-up, embed and sustain positive practices to support students' mental wellbeing. In particular, the project has a focus on improving the mental wellbeing of part-time, commuter and distance students. Through initiatives in three areas (learner identities, digital communities and pedagogies), the project will co-create resources and initiatives to achieve this change.

You can find more information about the project here:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/funding-for-providers/mental-health-funding-competition-using-innovation-and-intersectional-approaches/>

About the role

As part of this project, and to ensure that the outcomes of the project are co-produced with students, we are recruiting a panel of students to provide expert insight and feedback on the project's workstreams. Panel members will steer and guide the project by offering a student perspective, working with workstream leaders from multiple partner organisations to ensure the interventions developed by the project are relevant, useful and effective.

The panel will consist of 12-16 students who will ideally be from a range of backgrounds. We particularly encourage applications from part-time, commuter and distance learning students, due to the specific focus of the project. However, students from all backgrounds are eligible to apply.

Although this is a 2 year project, students in their final year, or only wishing to initially commit to participating in year 1 will still be considered.

Members' Commitment

Members of the student panel will be expected to commit to attending 5 meetings during the 2021/22 academic year. These meetings will be held online and are currently scheduled to take place on the following dates, though this is subject to change:

- Wednesday 8th December 2021 (PM)
- Wednesday 12th January 2022 (PM)
- Wednesday 16th February 2022 (PM)
- Wednesday 16th March 2022 (PM)
- Wednesday 20th April 2022 (PM)

We hope members will be able to fully commit to the role and engage with the project as much as possible, and we are committed to supporting volunteers to achieve this. We expect the following commitment from all members:

- To attend as many of the meetings over the year(s) as possible. We expect that meetings will take place online.
- To be prepared for all meetings. This includes reading any materials in advance of meetings.
- To give advance notice if unable to attend a meeting. Should a member be unable to attend a meeting, we ask that they still share any thoughts/feedback where possible via email.
- To treat discussions with discretion and confidentiality.
- To contribute to delivering the objectives of the project and the student panel. This includes sharing insights based on experience and having an understanding and awareness of current student wellbeing issues.
- To act in accordance with Student Minds' policies, where relevant.
- To bring attention to the Insight Manager any conflicts of interests that may arise.

Student Minds' Commitment

We recognise that partnership is essential for the group to be successful and impactful. As such, we commit to:

- Sharing relevant documents and materials, where possible, a week before each meeting to give all members time to prepare and engage fully.
- Supporting members in their role. Whilst involved in the project, members will be supported by the Insight Manager and/or the Student Voice and Equality Lead.
- Cover any expenses, in line with our Volunteer Expenses Policy.
- To provide remuneration for any additional pieces of work that will be offered to members as opportunities. While being an advisory group for the project is voluntary,

there is opportunity for paid work for conducting research, developing content, speaking at events, etc.

If you would like further information about this project or the role, please contact vacancies@studentminds.org.uk.

To apply, please complete this form by 08:00 Monday November 8th 2021.