

A photograph of a classroom or lecture hall. In the foreground, a student wearing a black hijab and a floral patterned long-sleeved shirt is seen from the back, with their right arm raised high. In the background, several other students are seated at long wooden tables, some with laptops open, and several of them also have their hands raised. The room has large windows on the right side, showing a dark night outside. The text "skills you develop as a representative" is overlaid in two green boxes with white text.

**skills you develop
as a representative**



leadership

As a representative you will need to make yourself known to your course, school or the student body to collect and take forward their issues. Taking on a leadership role will show future employers that you can be responsible and have the ability to make decisions.

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a conference table, engaged in a conversation. The man is on the left, gesturing with his hands while speaking. The woman is on the right, smiling and looking at him. A laptop with a '40 SCHOOLS' sticker is open in front of her. The entire image has a magenta/pink color overlay.

communication

This role requires you to constantly be communicating with both staff and students. This can be from face to face communication, presenting ideas, talking in meetings, emails and more. Future employers look for individuals with strong interpersonal skills and so developing your ability to be open, approachable and able to resolve issues in a professional manner will benefit you in the future.



time management

It is essential for you to be able to fit your role around your degree as well as other important parts of your life such as a job, family or hobby. Having this role will teach you to prioritise your time and set objectives to ensure you get everything you need done and use your time to the best of your ability.

A man and a woman are standing in front of a whiteboard, drawing a diagram. The man is on the left, wearing a dark shirt, and the woman is on the right, with long dark hair. The whiteboard has a hand-drawn diagram with several labels: 'url' at the top, 'Bio' with an arrow pointing to a box, 'EVENT' with an arrow pointing to a box, 'content' with an arrow pointing to a box, and 'Input Box' with an arrow pointing to a box. There are also some scribbles and other markings on the board.

problem solving

One of your main responsibilities as part of this role is to be collecting student opinions and presenting to staff and then working with them to come to a solution for these issues. Analytical skills are something employers love to see in a potential employee and so this role will set you apart from other students.



meeting etiquette

Many professional jobs will require you to attend meetings. This role will give you valuable experience of how to act in a formal meeting.

A photograph of two women in an office environment. The woman on the right is standing, wearing a light-colored blazer over a dark top, and is gesturing with her right hand while speaking. The woman on the left is seated, wearing a light-colored shirt, and is looking towards the standing woman. The background shows office shelves with various items and a window. The entire image has a purple tint.

public speaking

As a representative you will be required to speak in lectures to make students aware of who you are and to gather their opinions. You will also be required to speak in meetings to present student feedback. Developing your public speaking skills will hugely benefit you in later employment, enabling you to feel confident when speaking in front of large audiences.



negotiation skills

Your ability to negotiate well will develop during your time as a representative through attending meetings, feeding back the student opinion and negotiating changes throughout the university.



research skills

One main responsibility of the role of a representative is to research into the student opinion and explore ways you can improve the student experience for your peers. This can be done through various methods including face to face conversations, surveys and questionnaires, or suggestion boxes to name a few. These skills will also help with the work you do in your degree.