

Join the IHE Student Advisory Board

Independent Higher Education (IHE) is seeking students to join our Student Advisory Board (SAB), the only board of its kind dedicated to amplifying the voices of students at independent higher education providers.

About IHE

IHE is the UK's membership organisation and representative body for independent higher education providers. We advocate for our members - specialist universities, colleges, schools, and academies - by representing their views and those of their students to government, regulators, and key stakeholders in the education sector.

We are excited to offer students the chance to join our Student Advisory Board (SAB) and help shape the future of higher education.

Your role on the SAB

We are looking for students who currently study at an [IHE member institution](#), are passionate about higher education, eager to represent their peers, and ready to engage in shaping national policy.

No previous experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and participate!

As a member of the SAB, you will:

- Participate in four online meetings a year (see **'Key dates'** on next page).
- Engage in ad-hoc opportunities to represent the student voice in IHE consultation responses and help shape policy developments.
- Provide feedback on a range of issues, such as those requested by IHE, the Office for Students (OfS), or the Department for Education (DfE).
- Co-create projects and initiatives that directly benefit students at IHE member institutions.

Benefits

In return, you will gain access to up to six free bespoke professional development and training workshops delivered by student representation experts, [Coole Insight Ltd](#), covering essential skills such as **leadership, communication, and advocacy**.

You will also have the opportunity to **influence national policies, build valuable networks, meet peers, and boost your career prospects** while acting as the voice of students at independent higher education providers.

- **Grow professionally:** Master essential skills like communication and lobbying through expert-led training.
- **Develop leadership:** Gain hands-on experience in leadership, governance, and advocacy, working alongside education professionals.
- **Enhance your CV:** Build valuable experience in decision-making to boost your career prospects.
- **Influence policy:** Shape national policies that directly impact students and the independent higher education sector.
- **Build your network:** Connect with education experts, professionals, and peers across the UK.
- **Amplify student voices:** Represent your peers and ensure student needs are heard at the highest levels.

Key dates

The first of the four online SAB meetings will take place online on: **Monday 4 November 2024, 5pm-6pm** (GMT).

Remaining dates for the year are **Monday 3 February 2025; Monday 28 April 2025; Monday 30 June 2025**. All meetings will start at 5pm.

How to apply

Please email info@ihe.ac.uk by **Monday 28 October 2024** with:

- Your name, and the name of the independent provider where you are studying.
- A few sentences outlining why you are interested in joining the SAB.

Applications are also accepted on a rolling basis beyond this date, though we strongly encourage early applications to make the most of the benefits available!

Development and training for SAB Members

2024-2025



“By elevating the student voice and driving transformative change, we are gradually reshaping the higher education landscape”

Peter Sharpe
Chair of the Student Advisory Board, IHE

Sessions

- Core sessions are to be delivered each year to SAB members.
- Optional sessions are recommended topics by IHE and [Coole Insight](#), with the opportunity to focus on other topics at the request of SAB members.

Dates

All sessions will take place online at 4pm – 5pm:

- Monday 2 December 2024 – Core session 1
- Monday 13 January 2025 – Core session 2
- Monday 3 February 2025 – Optional session 1
- Monday 3 March 2025 – Optional session 2
- Monday 28 April 2025 – Optional session 3
- Monday 30 June 2025 – Core session 3

Core 1: Communicating inside and outside your institution - with influence and authenticity

This session will equip you with a range of essential tricks and tips for talking to, and working with, important stakeholders. We will cover: how to identify targets and allies; networking; lobbying; building partnerships; being a critical friend; and how to build an effective argument.

Core 2: Looking after students, looking after you - where your role begins and ends

As a representative, students may tell you about their own difficult and traumatic experiences, and you may come across sensitive information. This session will help you to understand the parameters of your role and how to protect your own wellbeing, as well as how and when to signpost your fellow students to appropriate support.

Core 3: What else and what next? Leveraging your skills to optimise career outcomes

The skills you gain as a representative are very useful both inside and outside of the role. In this session, we will seek to articulate the ways in which those skills are important for creating educational change, and for lobbying and influencing on a national level - by engaging with MPs, ministers, and other government personnel. We will also focus on skills transferability, and how what you've learned as a representative can put you in a great position for future employment opportunities.

Option 1: Making meetings meaningful - a toolkit

A toolkit for how to make the most of your meetings as a representative; how to manage time, listen actively and remain action oriented. We will also get to grips with some chairing skills and explore the particular challenges and advantages of online meetings.

Option 2: Including all the voices

A necessary priority as a representative is to amplify the views and issues of students whose experience differs from your own. This session is a 'how to' guide for Diversity & Inclusion, and we will explore concepts such as equality, equity, and intersectionality. We will also cover the how and why of gathering peer feedback, the different communications channels available, and closing the feedback loop by communicating your actions and impact. Finally, we will discover how to overcome the barriers to collective voice which can occur in online, hybrid, and in-person learning environments.

Option 3: Degrees of student engagement – from consultation to co-production

In this session, we talk about the range of student engagement methods available to us - but how do we know which ones are the best to use? We can think of these methods as being on a ladder, or an axis, or a spectrum, and learn about their relative strengths and pitfalls.