Application pack: Student Coordinator (Association for Quality Economics)

SOS UK is looking for a new Student Coordinator to support SOS UK and the New Economics Foundation to develop the Association for Quality Economics, a new student-led professional body to ensure economics education prepares graduates to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Please note, this role is an organised 6-month internship available to current University of Edinburgh students only. Your application **will not be considered** if you are not currently attending the University of Edinburgh.

Role specifics

Location: Home-based

Working patterns: 7 hours a week (0.2FTE), with typical working times between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. The position may require occasional in-person attendance at high-profile events with UK-wide travel, evening calls, and weekend commitments. We can support flexible working patterns where needed.

Pay: UK Real Living Wage, currently £14.10 per hour for staff outside London

Closing date for applications: 23:59 on 17th November 2026

Introducing SOS UK

SOS UK is a student-led education charity focusing on sustainability. We know environmental sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation, so our work spans across issues of climate justice and wellbeing as well. We believe in lifelong learning and work on sustainability across all forms of education from early years to workplace learning. We act as a support crew - facilitating, encouraging and mentoring people wherever they are on their journey in sustainability.

We see the power and potential in students and young people to be at the forefront of change. We work alongside them as equal partners in their sustainability leadership journeys. We believe that when students lead on sustainability, they learn about it, picking up the vital knowledge, skills and competencies they will need to help transform society into a more just and sustainable place.

Our vision is to see an education system repurposed around the climate emergency and nature crisis. We're doing this by changing the way we teach, what we learn and how that's assessed so climate and nature a priority; making sure the places where we learn show us what's possible, helping us to help nature and the climate; and ensuring students from every background can play their role in protecting and building a better world.

About the role

The role will support SOS UK and the New Economics Foundation (NEF) to develop the Association for Quality Economics (AQE), a new student-led professional body to ensure economics education prepares graduates to meet the needs of the 21st century.

You will work with SOS UK, NEF and other students to support the creation of AQE, including the development of the first ever economics course and module accreditation that ensures all economics graduates understand how to contribute to a better world. You will use your experiences and insight as a student in economics (or a related discipline) to platform student voice in informing, shaping and influencing the development of this work.

The role may also include but is not limited to: writing blogs and newsletters, conducting research and scoping exercises, meeting with organisational partners and interested stakeholders, networking with like-minded organisations, and speaking at key events and conferences.

Key responsibilities include:

- Working with SOS UK alongside NEF to develop the Association for Quality Economics - a new professional regulatory body for Economics within UK universities.
- Providing a key student voice to influence conversations around the adaptation of new and existing frameworks to ensure quality economics education, for example the QAA benchmark standard for Economics, and provide challenge and accountability for how we develop an economics course accreditation.

Please read a full description of the role's responsibilities and person specification (knowledge, skills, attributes, qualifications and experience) at the bottom of this application pack.

How to apply

Please apply by completing our application form via Microsoft Forms.

The deadline to apply is 23:59 on Tuesday 17 November 2026. The interviews will take place online on the 25 November 2026, with the successful candidate expected to begin in post on the 1 December 2026.

Equal opportunities

We're committed to equality of opportunity for all. We are striving to be an organisation where all staff are able to thrive and be their whole-selves. As part of our action on inclusion, diversity and equality, we encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented backgrounds and groups, including but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

At SOS UK, our staff team is currently under-representative of people of colour, LGBTQIA+ people and disabled people. We are committed to ensuring we are representative and inclusive, so we particularly encourage you to apply if you represent these characteristics. **If you meet all the essential criteria for this role and identify as a person of colour or as someone with a disability, you may qualify for a guaranteed interview under our Guaranteed Interview Scheme.**

To participate in this scheme, **please indicate so in the application form**. This guarantees an interview for applicants our recruitment panel score as meeting all essential criteria and who opt into the scheme. However, the final hiring decision will be based solely on the suitability of each candidate, irrespective of any protected characteristic.

Participation in this scheme is entirely voluntary. Please also note that while the scheme is called the Guaranteed Interview Scheme, it does not guarantee an interview if essential criteria are not met.

Feedback

Please note, unfortunately we are unable to provide feedback to candidates who do not progress to the interview stage unless they have opted into the Guaranteed Interview Scheme. Candidates who opted into the scheme but did not meet all essential criteria may request feedback on their application.

Find out more about what it's like working for SOS UK. If you would like to speak to a member of SOS UK staff not involved in the interview process about how your experience might meet the requirements of the role, please get in touch.

Role profile

Key responsibilities
1. Working with SOS UK alongside NEF to develop the Association for Quality Economics - a new professional regulatory body for Economics within UK universities.
2. Providing a key student voice to influence conversations around the adaptation of new and existing frameworks to ensure quality economics education, for example the QAA benchmark standard for Economics, and provide challenge and accountability for how we develop an economics course accreditation.
Specific responsibilities
3. Work well independently and as part of the staff team. This will include online calls (including 1-2-1s) with core SOS UK staff during weekdays.
4. Supporting SOS UK staff with embedding economic knowledge and theory into the programme of work.
5. Maintaining regular communication with key stakeholders, including developing new networks and raising the project profile.
6. Confidently represent SOS UK and the project at high-profile sector events and meetings both in-person and online, raising awareness and enthusiasm for the work externally.
7. Confidently engage with and represent student voice to inform the strategic direction and programme of work.

8. Effectively and efficiently conduct tasks, including: developing and promoting high-quality formal resources; producing blog or social media content as required; organising internal and external meetings; drafting, and following-up on, formal correspondence; creating regular partner updates; supporting core staff with fundraising where relevant.
General responsibilities
9. Contribute to organisation-wide priorities such as major events, campaigns, and external communications.
10. Represent SOS UK across the sector, for example on judging panels, speaking at events, or writing for publications.
11. Act responsibly and in line with SOS UK policies in relation to data management and safeguarding. Adhere to SOS UK group policies and practices, and actively support and promote the SOS UK vision, mission and objectives.
12. Commit to ongoing personal and professional development and to ongoing learning about intersectionality and anti-racism.
13. Carry out any other duties that might be reasonably requested of you in the post.

Person specification

Essential elements should be demonstrated before appointment and maintained in post. Desirable elements should be developed and maintained once in post as needed.

Qualifications and Experience	Essential	Desirable
A current Economics (or related course) student at the University of Edinburgh	1	
Experience and/or demonstrate potential of researching and writing professional documents, reports and academic papers	1	

Experience and/or demonstrate potential of engaging key stakeholders, including: professional bodies, policymakers, academic staff, students, and other interested organisations		1
Experience and/or demonstrate potential of speaking at key sector-body events, such as conferences or roundtables		1
Knowledge	**Essential**	**Desirable**
A broad understanding of sustainability, including issues relating to social justice, ethics, and environment	1	
Knowledge and understanding of the higher education system and sustainability education	1	
A broad understanding of environmental and climate justice issues and solutions in the higher education sector	1	
A broad knowledge of the bodies and organisations relevant to higher education Economics teaching		1
IT literate, including knowledge of Microsoft Office programmes	1	
Skills	**Essential**	**Desirable**
Confident and effective presenter and public speaker	1	
Pro-active, confident and enthusiastic in engaging with others, specifically students and staff	1	
Organised with excellent time management skills and the ability to manage several tasks at the same time	1	
Strong communication skills, specifically the ability to produce high quality, concise and well-presented communications, which may include newsletters, articles, and social media posts	1	
Ability to work effectively and constructively with a wide range of stakeholders		1
Ability to tackle and solve problems through creativity and innovation		1
Ability to work independently with minimum supervision	1	

Ability to work confidently both in-person and through online platforms, including Microsoft Teams and Zoom	1	
Attributes		
Commitment to being an active part of an anti-racist organisation with intersectional climate justice as a core value	1	
Commitment to advocating for student voice and representation in academia and curriculum design		1
A positive and persuasive champion of sustainability issues	1	
Commitment to high quality delivery and excellent relationship management	1	

Last updated: 09/10/2026