



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
discovering voices

Volunteer Competition Judge Opportunity Description

Opportunity Title	ESU Competition Volunteer Judge (online and in-person) The ESU's Performing Shakespeare Competition (in-person opportunities only) brings the joy of interpreting and performing Shakespeare together with the development of acting and oracy skills in young people (age 11-14/Years 7-9). The prestigious ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition allows students to practise and excel in different skills, and the competition's unique format, which pairs the speaker from one school with the chair and questioner of another, encourages quick thinking and relationship building (age 13-16/Years 9-11).
Supporting	ESU Education Team and Branch Chairperson and/or Branch education lead, if applicable.
Commitment Requirements	The Performing Shakespeare Competition heats take place each year between April and May. Heats typically take place in schools 4pm - 7pm. The Public Speaking Competition takes place each year between November and the end of March. Heats typically take place in schools 4pm - 7pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-hour training session (online)• Three-four hours per heat (plus travelling time) For Public Speaking we ask you to commit to a minimum of two heats, but there is no upper limit
Expenses	Payable as per policy
Where You'll Be Based	The competition takes place in 13 regions across England and Wales. The application form will ask you how far you are happy to travel for a competition heat, or if you are willing to judge Public Speaking online outside of your geographic location.
DBS Requirement	N/A

Opportunity Description

To be an ESU Competition Volunteer Judge you will need great oral communication skills, an ability to summarise objectively and the capacity to put young people at ease. Through constructive feedback, you will help to develop young people's confidence, knowledge, and skills in speaking and listening, performance and oracy.

You will be equally at ease working independently or as part of a larger judging team, not least with Branch Chairs (if applicable). Your attention to detail will ensure you can also capture and return results in writing via the competition matrix in a timely fashion to aid the smooth running of further heats.

In return you will be part of a wide network of volunteers and get to see first-hand the power of voice and the positive impact it can have on young people.

Opportunity Summary

You will:

- Judge (in-person and where relevant on Zoom) the ESU Performing Shakespeare Regional Finals and/or the ESU Public Speaking Competition heats
- Provide positive, constructive, and high-quality oral feedback to participants
- Record competition results using the ESU guidelines and marking criteria
- Work collaboratively and professionally with other volunteers
- Actively promote other ESU programmes and membership to the teachers you meet
- Promote the English-Speaking Union's aims and objectives and following safeguarding and equity policies

To Take Part, We Need You To:

- Have a keen interest in Shakespeare and performance (if applying to be a Performing Shakespeare judge)
- Have good oral communication and listening skills
- Be comfortable speaking to an audience
- Have a friendly personality
- Have access to a computer. This is both so you can access the Zoom training and support events and so we can share details of current opportunities with you.

Whilst some experience of performing arts, literature, public speaking or competitions would be advantageous, full training will be provided.

Our Commitment to You

Throughout your time volunteering with us you will receive support from the ESU, including full training for your specific role. Keeping you updated is important to us, and so we'll send you regular bulletins. There will be social opportunities to meet with other volunteers, including an annual recognition event, as well as Branch activities (as applicable).

You won't be out of pocket and can reclaim your approved travel expenses (car mileage, bus or train) in line with the ESU's travel expenses policy.

If you have any questions, please contact us by emailing volunteering@esu.org