ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

discovering voices

Job Description & Person Specification

Job Title	ESU Freelance Competition Lead
Supporting	ESU Education Team
Commitment Requirement	Working hours are ad hoc and based on business needs. Mostly weekday evening work between 16:00-20:30
Salary fee or Rate of pay	Online heat fee £70, In-person heat fee £120 plus reasonable travel expenses
Location	Various locations throughout England and Wales. Regular travel within your area will be required
DBS Requirement	Contractor will be required to undergo a Basic DBS check (cost covered by the ESU)

About the ESU

The English-Speaking Union delivers high-quality oracy education programmes and projects across England and Wales. We believe every child should be able to make their voice heard and that oracy – speaking and listening – skills play a key part in this.

Our debating, public speaking and performing Shakespeare programmes aim to embed sustainable cultures of oracy in schools and empower young people to engage with the world, speak more confidently and listen to and understand different points of view.

Role Overview

ESU Competition Leads host our domestic ESU competitions, including the ESU Schools' Mace Debating Competition, the ESU Public Speaking Competition and the ESU Performing Shakespeare Competition. The ESU Competition Lead is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of events (heats) throughout the competitions, with duties including Zoom hosting and in-person MCing. If required, Competition Leads may sit on the judging panel and provide constructive feedback to students and teachers participating. They also support and provide guidance for our volunteer judges, ensuring they have a positive experience while volunteering with the ESU.

NB The ESU is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Therefore, we expect all contractors to share this commitment. All contractor appointments are subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks, including a satisfactory Basic DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) Disclosure.

Responsibilities

For all competitions you will:

- Support and promote the charitable objectives of the ESU, acting as an ambassador for the organisation
- Assist the ESU Competitions Team in ensuring competition heats run smoothly and act as point of contact for schools and volunteers on the day of heats
- MC or compère Zoom and in-person heats, engaging both students and audience whilst following ESU scripts

- Be the technical host for Zoom ESU competition heats, setting up and hosting Zoom meetings, creating break-out rooms and acting as tech support throughout heats
- Provide accurate heat results in a timely manner to the ESU Competitions Team
- Support volunteer judges and ensure they have a positive and rewarding experience
- If required, be part of judging panels at ESU competition heats (which may include acting as chair judge) offering fair, positive, constructive and unbiased feedback based on our judging criteria
- Follow the ESU's safeguarding policies and provide oversight of safeguarding and equity requirements, in line with ESU policies
- Signpost teachers and volunteers to resources, other ESU programmes and additional support, such as through the ESU website
- Undertake training sessions for continual professional development

Person Specification

Essential criteria:

- Be over 18 years of age and have the right to work in the UK
- Be confident in engaging with and motivating young people of different abilities and backgrounds
- A passion for education, social mobility and/or developing young people's oracy skills
- Fully proficient in the English language with excellent spoken language skills
- A confident and engaging public speaker with experience hosting events or judging
- Technically competent, with experience in using Zoom professionally, ideally as a meeting host
- The ability to engage with and motivate young people of different abilities and backgrounds
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to meet deadlines
- Commitment and ability to deliver a minimum of eight ESU events between November – June, and more if possible
- Able to participate in mandatory training sessions
- Have access to a vehicle or be willing to travel via public transport
- Commitment to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults

Desirable criteria:

- Experience in debate, public speaking or the performing arts
- Experience of teaching or professionally coaching groups of young people of any age
- Experience in teaching oracy, performance, public speaking and/or debating
- Experience of participating in ESU programmes and/or competitions
- Experience of judging ESU programmes and/or competitions
- Experience of working with UK schools (state or independent)

Application Process:

1. Following application reviews, suitable candidates will be invited to attend an online interview.
2. Following this, you will then be invited to attend an in-person training day. This will be a skill-enriching, interactive session on the ESU, competitions, judging and day-of management.
3. The ESU takes safeguarding very seriously. Following a successful and complete interview process, all applicants will be expected to complete a Basic DBS check and ESU safeguarding training.
4. Once you receive your DBS certificate, you will be fully onboarded as an ESU Competition Lead.
5. You will be sent our competition diary so that you can sign up and start judging, MCing and leading competition heats!

Note

This Job Description is not a contract but is provided for a contractor's guidance on the way in which the duties of the post are to be carried out. The content of the Job Description may change from time to time, and the contractors will be consulted over any substantial changes. Other services, in line with the general scope of this role, may be requested as necessary."