



Mark Alvares – Regional Forum Coordinator

Why are you applying for the Alumni Association Executive? (150 words)

This year's Committee have been fantastic, and I aim to follow in their footsteps and continue enacting positive change in EYPUK. I am an incredibly focused worker and I am passionate about EYP, so to have the opportunity to coordinate the next UK regionals and have a say in the general direction of EYPUK would be a dream come true.

This role has attracted me in particular because regionals are usually students' very first experience of EYP. Therefore, it is vital that these events are run in a way that attracts a wide range of students and engages them with the issues affecting Europeans. This is no mean feat, but with my fierce ambition and diverse skills I know that I can rise to this challenge and ensure that our Regional Forums are as impactful and inclusive as they can be.

What would your aims and priorities be in this role? How would you pursue them? (250 words)

- Broaden EYPUK alumni base
 - I would like to offer more opportunities to delegates who showed keen interest at regionals but whose school delegations were not selected. A major pitfall of the UK system is that these delegates' EYP careers often finish at regionals. I will work with the Alumni Development Officer, along with the rest of the Committee and Trustees, to try to allow individuals to be selected for a National Session, or at the very least, to keep them involved in the organisation.
 - Having seen EurVoice's ability to engage those from less advantaged backgrounds, I would like to work more closely with the EurVoice Coordinator to ensure that attending schools are passed on to the local regionals team and encouraged to attend the next Regional Forum.
- Experiment with the format of UK Regional Forums
 - Currently, UK regionals are only one day of General Assembly, which is very different to the majority of countries across the EYP network.
 - This unfortunately stifles opportunities for alumni development. Since there are no chairs, UK alumni can be disadvantaged in gaining chairing experience - while in other countries alumni can comfortably apply to chair at their NC's regionals, here alumni either have to apply to UK Nationals or foreign sessions (which can be daunting and expensive). Thus, I believe that it is possible to run a trial with a few regions that have been well attended in previous years (e.g. South Wales), with an event over multiple days, with chairs, teambuilding, committee work etc.



What skills and experience (within or without EYP) do you have that will help you in this role?
How will you use these skills for the benefit of EYPUK? (250 words)

First, my experience head organising the North East Regional Forum for 2019 will prove invaluable in this role. Since I had to organise the event without the help of a co-HO, I have been able to understand the intricacies of all the different factors that go into organising a Regional Forum. Moreover, my rigorous record keeping aided all those who worked with me, and I will continue to use this skill so that my work is transparent and efficient. I aim to pass on my experiences to the next generation of HOs, and to be easily reachable whenever they need assistance.

Also, I was recently a journalist at a Swiss Regional Session. This behind the scenes glimpse at how regionals are run by other NCs has really sparked my interest in trying new ideas at UK forums.

Finally, I have had a lot of experience working in different teams outside of EYP. I have volunteered at my fencing club, developing my skills in engaging with young people and fostering their passion for the sport. I have also captained Scotland's fencing team, where I made sure that everyone's skills were used effectively. Even when there was tension between teammates, I worked hard to ensure that the friction was resolved calmly. While I hope that HO pairings can all work together comfortably, I know that my experience will help me to dispel problems or miscommunication between partners.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your day to read my manifesto. If you have anything you'd like to ask or comment on, please feel free to email me at mark.alvarez2@gmail.com.