



# Saifullah Shah - Regional Forum Coordinator

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

The most valuable lesson I have learnt during this amazing journey is that EYP provides an opportunity far beyond its academics and is not just a network but a family. It is a family that brings happiness to the lives of thousands of likeminded people, brings strangers together to make them friends, and transforms the citizens of today into the leaders of tomorrow. EYP is an opportunity I am grateful for, a community I want to give back to, and a family I hope to help shape for its next generation. This gratitude attracts me specifically to this role as our regionals are the gateway to this lovely experience. It is where I feel I will be most actively involved in shaping the future of EYPUK as a family is defined by its people and EYPUK's family is defined by its Regional Fora.

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

- Building on the innovation of the outgoing RFCs, I want extended regionals to play a prominent part in next year's regional fora. I advocate for the planning of at least 2-3 such events to obtain a wider range of lessons and to bring this enriching experience to members across the UK as long distances may make participation difficult.
- I support the introduction of individual participation. Currently, only schools with sufficient interest to form a delegation participate, disadvantaging people from schools without an established relationship with EYP. Like in sessions across Europe, I advocate the acceptance of individual delegates who may have the passion their schools lack.
- Similarly, I believe in individual selection. The focus on delegation selection benefits schools with established EYP programmes who have more experience with the selection process. This may negatively affect diversity at our National Sessions as a result. Furthermore, it is a shame that certain delegates who may be a perfect fit for EYP are barred from a future in the organisation if their teammates underperform on the day. By trialling such selection, we could select passionate delegates from a wider range of backgrounds and schools.
- Finally, I would like to facilitate further cooperation between our HOs in the organising process itself, to bond them as a team and a group of friends. From my digital EYP experience, I believe setting up a discord server for all HOs and hosting regular teambuilding calls would go a long way in improving innovation and fostering friendships.



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)

I am highly dedicated to EYPUK and the wider EYP network. Since starting my journey just over a year ago, I have been involved in 15 sessions and events thus far and have represented EYPUK both abroad and digitally. I have gained a wealth of valuable experience as a result through the role of delegate, organiser, and chair. Furthermore, I am passionate about innovating the network and am at the forefront of the EYP digital revolution having been involved in 7 digital sessions.

What would prove invaluable to the role of Regional Forum Coordinator is my experience and exposure to the process, having Head Organised two Regional Fora this year. Through this insightful experience, I worked closely with both my co-HOs and RFCs and as a result understand the logistics and tasks involved throughout the EYPUK regional selection process. This would ensure the smooth running of my own interaction with the next generation of HOs as I learn from the best practices of my own RFCs and innovate further.

Finally, the skills I have developed both through EYP and other extracurricular opportunities makes me well placed to fulfil the role of RFC. Through captaining the UK at the 2019 Mock Trial World Championships, I sharpened my abilities in leadership in addition to gaining experience with working on a singular goal over the course of several months. Through chairing in EYP and being a House Captain in school, I have further honed my skills in leadership and teamwork.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I want to thank the Alumni Executive for their dedication and innovation in a year that introduced me to EYP and set me off on this wonderful journey. I would also like to offer specific thanks to the outgoing Regional Forum Coordinators who did an amazing job in supporting me as a regional HO and making me feel at home among the wider EYPUK community.

In the words of John Lennon, "You may say I'm a dreamer but I'm not the only one". I sincerely hope you connect with my vision and that I will have my chance to give back to EYPUK and the next generation of leaders.

If you have any further questions related to my manifesto, feel free to email me at [syedsaifullahshah09@gmail.com](mailto:syedsaifullahshah09@gmail.com).