



Meera Kaiser – Regional Coordinator

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

Working on the official's teams of several EYPUK regionals – particularly Head Organising – has shown me how much I value this part of the organisation and what it gives people. It is with that in mind that I wish to be a part of the team who can enact positive change for EYPUK. With COVID-19 posing new challenges to the world and the organisation, I believe I can help to continue the work of the outgoing Executive Board to sustain EYPUK's incredible learning environment.

A regional session is normally a delegate's first encounter with EYP, and they are also usually a new alumni's first position as an official. Thus, they provide a unique opportunity to engage individuals in EYPUK on two levels. I would love to be able to facilitate positive and engaging experiences for both delegates and officials within the regional sessions, extending EYPUK's alumni base.

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

Bearing in mind COVID-19, which cancelled a couple regionals, it is important to have preparations in place for a second spike. This involves ensuring HOs have the tools and training to hold their regionals online. This would make sure EYPUK continues to select delegates for national sessions, while allowing HOs to see their work through. Increasing pre-session training and adding a digital section to the HO handbook would allow for this.

Additionally, I would love to be able to resume the work of the previous RFCs by continuing to introduce extended regionals to EYPUK. Continuing to trial extended regionals in popular regions will provide greater opportunities for EYPUK alumni to develop their skills close to home, while also offering more delegates the full EYP experience.

Lastly, I would create a more social atmosphere within the pre-session work for the HOs. Digital sessions have demonstrated the huge degree of teamwork possible without ever meeting, which can be translated into a community between all the regional sessions. Joint trainings, buddy groups and social calls can start to create a wider network for HOs as they go through their EYP career, hopefully keeping them involved. On top of this, I would invite previous HOs to talk with the current ones to discuss the specific challenges that a particular regional poses. This creates a dual benefit in new HOs finding their footing, and also allowing for the continued involvement of past HOs within the organisation, encouraging them to stay involved.



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 naturally someone who values communication and openness above all, giving me the capability to create a healthy working environment for the HOs, translating to their future involvement within the organisation. This will allow me to support them well in creating their events and encouraging delegates to continue their EYP journey.

The 2020 regionals taught me the value they hold in introducing people to the organisation. Head Organising the East Scotland session allowed me to realise the dedication and organisational skills required to run a regional session. I was able to explore my own capabilities, and my organised and diligent nature allowed the session to be successful. On top of that I was able to participate in two other regionals, including the extended regional. This allowed me insight into the running of an extended regional, which will assist me in continuing the work of the previous RFCs.

Additionally, I have been able to work on the official's team of two of the online International Forums. This, firstly, provided me with greater experience of organising within EYP, and, secondly, gave me the chance to understand the unique processes behind digital sessions.

Lastly, I have been able to develop my organisational skills through volunteering at my local sailing club as an instructor. This has cultivated my communication and coaching abilities, which will translate well into providing the HOs with a comfortable experience where they feel they can come to me for help wherever they need it.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at meerakaiser@icloud.com