



Siân Anya McLaughlin - Fundraising Officer

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

I've received so many opportunities to grow and develop as an individual because of EYPUK. I want to support and give back to the organisation that has given myself and so many others a safe environment to learn, grow and develop, and I feel working on the Alumni Executive Board is the perfect way for me to support EYPUK further.

Funding is such an integral piece for sustaining, developing and expanding the events, work and opportunities we are able to offer. Funding is the starting point for our sessions and events; I want to support the development and constant improvement of our organisation and I feel I could do this best as a Fundraising Officer.

Being a Fundraising Officer would allow me to support event organisers and trustees as we strive to improve EYPUK further while continuing to open our community to young people across the UK.

What would your aims and priorities be in this role? How would you pursue them?

(250 words)

As one of the Fundraising Officers my aim would be to ensure that after this unprecedented period of time, we are able to continue producing more amazing events.

After the cancellation of our first extended regional forum, I want to ensure the event is carried on into next year and fundraising is such an essential part of that. Finding the right sponsors and partners to support the extended regional is very important to me, as after showing the success of the event the right sponsors would continue their support in coming years. This would also show that, when looking to implement more extended regionals in years to come, it's a safe and worthwhile investment that makes a truly positive impact.

As well as this, I wish to continue finding funding for EurVoice so we can extend our outreach further and make the sessions even more incredible than they already are. Reaching young people from disadvantaged areas is essential and there are so many grants available that, if successfully applied for, would help us as an organisation educate and encourage more young people to actively involve themselves in politics and world events.

EYPUK has done so many incredible things and I'm so eager to continue and expand on the work we, as an organisation, have done thus far. Working to find more grants and partners to support us and the important work we're doing is essential, and I would carry that job with pride.



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)

As an actor, my line of work requires a lot of fundraising, grant applications and securing of sponsors. For these reasons I've had extensive lessons on how to fundraise and secure sponsorships within the acting industry. However, all of the skills I've been taught and put into practice over the last year are applicable for any industry or need

I've had to use these skills while applying for scholarships and looking for sponsors for example. While not all applications have been successful, some have. Just like scholarships, grants have a high demand and rejection is likely, however I've learnt a lot about what creates a successful application over the last year.

Being concise and articulate while truly selling your organisation is key. Having had a range of practice, I know I'd be able to represent EYPUK very well through a written application. I've learnt a lot about sponsorships too and feel comfortable in my ability to find the right people/organisations and present EYPUK to them to ensure continual support for EYPUK.

I also have a lot of experience with applying for grants. I'm an assistant director for a theatre company and this requires a lot of time being spent on finding a wide range of grants. I've been able to find many that are often overlooked or have many specific requirements. These skills would allow me to find a range of grants that would be suitable for EYPUK as well as increasing the chance of applications succeeding.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Funding should never be a barrier for us to reach people from a range of backgrounds and I feel that with there being two fundraising officers we would be able to find the money to reach further than we have before. Having originally grown up in an area that EYPUK didn't reach, I want to ensure we have the budget to begin accessing an even wider range of students from lower socio economic backgrounds.

I would love to further my involvement and impact on EYPUK by sitting on the Alumni Executive Board, It's something I've wanted to do since my EYP journey started but only now feel that there is a role appropriate for me. I've always been very interested in the behind the scenes running of organisations like EYP and believe the basic skills I already have combined with support from our trustees, a second fundraising officer and training will help me develop into a very effective and able fundraising officer.