



British Youth Council
byc

UK Young Ambassador: Commonwealth Youth Forum Application Pack



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About the British Youth Council

The British Youth Council is the National Youth Council of the UK. A youth-led charity, we empower young people aged 25 and under to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. We support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.

We are young people - and our charity aims to help other young people, whatever their background or barriers they face, to make the world a better place for us all.

Our vision

A world in which every young person is empowered to create social and political change.

Our mission

As the national youth council of the UK, the British Youth Council brings young people together to find their voice and use it to improve the lives of young people. We work with others to amplify young people's voices to create an environment in which young people's views are valued, sought and acted upon.

Our values

Youth led – young people are agents of change and will always be at the forefront of our work. As a youth-led charity, young people are our leadership through our governance structures. They lead and shape our work, and we support them to define their own action for change. We champion youth leadership across all sections of society, evidencing the benefits of engaging young people in decision making and delivery and supporting that to happen.



Collaborative – we actively seek to collaborate with others to make positive change happen. We seek to work with relevant partners to add value to our campaigns and activity, and to be more creative in our approach to making change happen with and for young people. And we recognise the skills, knowledge and experience of young people, volunteers, staff and partners, and strive to achieve more by maximising the opportunities that collaboration provides.

Inclusive – we respect and value diversity and act in a way that includes all. We ensure that all our activities are inclusive, recognising the needs of young people across different communities, and bring young people and partners together to learn from each other.

Serving our membership

The British Youth Council is made up of almost 200 member organisations who support our common vision for young people. Member organisations elect Officers and some trustees, determine our policies and prioritise our campaigns. They also act as the link between the British Youth Council and millions of young people. www.byc.org.uk/members

Youth-led networks

The British Youth Council runs a number of youth-led networks and programmes - including the UK Youth Parliament, NHS Youth Forum, and Future Voices Group - which encourage young people to get involved in democracy and campaign to bring about change. www.byc.org.uk/programmes

Campaigning and consulting

The British Youth Council seeks to represent the views of young people and our members to stakeholders and decision makers at a local, national and international level. This work is based on our manifesto, which outlines our beliefs and aspirations. www.byc.org.uk/campaigns

Training and recognition

Our training programmes empower young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to bring about change. We also recognise young people who have made a significant contribution to their community through our high-profile award schemes. www.byc.org.uk/training

International

Through our international youth participation young people learn about global issues and connect and share with other young people around the world. They are able to take part in discussions and influence decisions made at an international level. www.byc.org.uk/international



About the UK Young Ambassadors

UK Young Ambassadors is a programme in place to give young people from the UK a voice and influence in international decision-making and to campaign for change on local, national and international levels. The Young Ambassador programme is open to any young person (18-25) from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). The UKYA programme is divided in two main strands:

- Two UK Young Ambassadors overseeing our work within the Commonwealth Youth Forum
- Two UK Young Ambassadors overseeing our work within the European Youth Forum

The UK Young Ambassadors for the European Youth Forum and the Commonwealth Youth Council are elected by our member organisations. From time to time the British Youth Council nominates young people to sit on international bodies like the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth. These people also form part of the UKYA network.

In this election we are recruiting one male or non-binary UKYA to the Commonwealth Youth Forum and one male or non-binary UKYA to the European Youth Forum.



About the Commonwealth Youth Forum



The Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) is organised as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It aims to promote cross-cultural connections and to achieve consensus among youth leaders on the policies required to address the challenges and opportunities facing young people.

The Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) is the official representative voice of the more than 1.2 billion young people in the Commonwealth. The CYC was first established in 2013 with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Commonwealth Youth Programme. It was endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their biennial summit in Sri Lanka as an "autonomous, youth-led" organisation.

Led by a nine-member executive, the CYC acts as a coalition of national youth councils and other youth-led civil society and private sector bodies from across the 54 member countries of the Commonwealth.

It aims to further advance the youth development agenda by integrating young people into the development work of the Commonwealth at national, regional, and Pan-Commonwealth levels. It also provides a sustainable platform for unified engagement with decision makers and youth-led development initiatives.

More info about the Commonwealth Youth Council responsible for organising the Commonwealth Youth Forum can be found [here](#).

The Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) is organised as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It aims to promote cross-cultural connections and to achieve consensus among youth leaders on the policies required to address the challenges and opportunities facing young people.



About the role

We are now looking for one UK Young Ambassador, who identifies as male or non-binary to join the UK Young Ambassador team, to specifically lead on representation to the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

The term is for three years and runs from September 2021 - September 2024.

Who can stand?

Any young person who is **part of a BYC [membership organisation](#)**, and aged 18 to 25 on the 1st September 2021, is able to stand as a UK Young Ambassador to the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

You must be able to commit to the full three-year term be able to attend an induction in October (online or in person) and be able to commit to an average of 3 hours of work a week, including evenings and weekends. You must also fulfil the requirements below:

Requirements:

- Be part of a BYC member organisation.
- Aged 18 to 25 on 1st September 2020.
- Enthusiastic, motivated and committed to supporting UK young people's voices across the Commonwealth.
- Committed to design and deliver a campaigns, responding to young people's needs and concerns arising from the Commonwealth Youth Forum.
- Be/have been active in your local community.
- Have an interest in youth issues/current affairs.
- Have an interest in Commonwealth related decision-making and campaigns, and a willingness to learn more.
- Have good listening, communication and interpersonal skills.
- You do not need experience in similar projects but should be interested in learning about and getting experience in international participation.
- Able to commit to an average of 3 hours per week. The workload will vary and weekend and evening work will be necessary on occasion.
- Able to assist with social media and making sure young people hear about your work.
- Able to attend the induction meeting (date TBA) in October.
- Commitment to youth participation and the values of the BYC.
- Able to obtain a passport and travel internationally.
- Able to travel independently within the UK and overseas.
- Resident in the UK for the duration of the term.
- Not holding another officially elected BYC position, e.g. PG group, Trustee, etc.
- Willing to sign up to the BYC code of conduct.
- Willing to give consent for images and video to be used and shared.

What will I be expected to do?

UK Young Ambassadors to the Commonwealth Youth Forum will:

- Be involved in **research and consultation** with young people across the UK to gather their views, including workshops, focus groups and online research, whenever appropriate.
- **Inform and influence** Commonwealth policy making through attending the Commonwealth Youth Forum as well as representing the BYC through intermediary meetings wherever appropriate.
- Assist with the rest of the UKYA team on an 18 month campaign on local, national and European levels.
- **Raise awareness** of Commonwealth campaigns, policies and actions through reports, blogs, podcasts, websites and social networks.
- **Represent** UK young people at Commonwealth level events and to **UK decision makers**.

- Receive training on research, campaigning and advocacy, media and communications, influencing and Commonwealth decision-making.
- Be responsible for and take initiative with **communications and social media** for the project.
- **Feedback** to the BYC, their organisations and youth organisations and networks.
- **Work as a team** with other UK Young Ambassadors to lead the development and delivery of the project across the country and within your organisation.
- Be an active part of the **Commonwealth Youth Forum** network.
- Get **recognition** for your work.

The work will be UK based but there will be a requirement for international travel. The workload of the UK Young Ambassadors varies but it can be quite intensive at times. Please consider your other commitments and how much time you can realistically give to this before you can apply.

This is an unpaid, voluntary position but travel, food and other associated costs (including childcare and accommodation for overnight stays) and expenses will be covered by the project.



How to apply

We will be holding an info session on Zoom on the 13th of June. Keep an eye on the UKYA and BYC social media channels for the exact details. We will be promoting sign up for this on our social media channels and through our Member mailings. You can also drop us an email to international@byc.org.uk to register your interest in this session. Sign up for this session will be available shortly.

You can apply via this [typeform link](#) and fill out the diversity monitoring form [here](#).

The closing date for applications is Monday 28 June 2021 at 09:00. Please submit a completed application form online. The questions you will need to answer are set out below so you can prepare before starting the online form. We also encourage other methods of applying such as a video or audio application if you feel this would better suit your strengths, covering the areas outlined by the questions. You will also be asked some diversity monitoring information. Please be assured that this information will not be shared with the trustees who will be assessing the applications.

If you have any questions please send these international@byc.org.uk with the subject titled: "UKYA Recruitment Query".

Recruitment Timetable for UKYAs

09:00 Monday 28 June 2021	<i>Deadline for Applications</i>
Week commencing 12 July 2021	<i>Candidates informed whether they've proceeded to interview</i>
Week commencing 19 July 2021	<i>Interviews will take place by phone or Zoom</i>
Week commencing 26 July 2021	<i>Candidates informed whether they'll proceed to ACM</i>
9 August 2021	<i>Candidate statements for election need to be submitted. (More information will be released regarding this once interviews are completed)</i>
18 September 2021 (TBC)	<i>Annual Council Meeting</i>

Unfortunately, we are unable to give feedback to applicants not shortlisted for an interview. We do provide feedback upon request to candidates interviewed.

By submitting an application you are giving permission for your personal information to be stored and processed for the purpose of arriving at selection decisions, for it to be used as a basis for a personal record if you are successful, and for sensitive data to be anonymised and used for the purpose of equal opportunities monitoring.



Application Questions

Below are a series of questions to help us get to know your skills, experience and potential as a trustee. You have a maximum of 300 words to answer each question.

1. Why do you want to be a UKYA?
2. Tell us about a time when you have worked in a team. What role did you play in the team and how did you develop other leaders within the team?
3. How do your skills fit with the UKYA role?
4. Tell us about a time when you made a difference.
5. Tell us about your ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds and contexts.
6. What do you think is the greatest challenge facing the world today, and how do you see the Commonwealth Youth Forum helping to tackle it?
7. What does representing young people mean to you?
8. What support and development do you need as a UKYA?