

Lincoln University Students' Association

Postgraduate Academic Representative

Position Description

Last Updated:	August 2025
Job Title:	Postgraduate Academic Representative
Approval Authority:	LUSA Executive
Reports To:	Lincoln University through the LUSA President

Organisational Purpose and Background

That LU students will have the best student experience possible

LUSA is the Lincoln University Students' Association and represents the common and collective concerns of students at Lincoln University. LUSA was established in 1919, it is made up of a democratically elected Executive of students, and staff. The Executive typically changes every year with a typical term being 1 December to 30 November.

The Executive is the voice of Lincoln University students and monitor and review the general direction and objectives of the Association, and the Staff working in LUSA put this into action by implementing a variety of student focused initiatives. LUSA provides a voice for Lincoln students; they are independent from Lincoln University and focus on getting the best outcomes of students whilst working in partnership with Lincoln University to ensure they do the same.

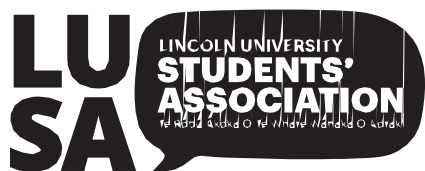
Position Purpose Statement

The Postgraduate Academic Representative is responsible for representing and advocating for postgraduate students on all matters that impact their university experiences. The academic role specifically means that they will serve on academic boards and committees to advocate for postgraduates on issues relating but not limited to the research environment, administration, policies and framework concerning PG learning and teaching, and any other issues arising in the learning and teaching component of postgraduate student life. They will work alongside the Postgraduate Engagement Representative to build and foster relationships with postgraduate students. Key roles include:

- Student representative at Academic Board
- Student representative at Research Committee
- Student representative at Postgraduate Research Subcommittee
- Postgraduate voice on Student Experience Board
- Postgraduate voice on the Campus Service Council (for Student Service Levy)
- Assisting the Postgraduate Engagement Representative with postgraduate events as required. Facilitating major LUSA events, including but not limited to: O-week, Re-O-week, Grad Ball, Winter ball, Garden Party, and free food events
- Liaising with the Postgraduate Research Director and other relevant staff
- Sitting on other committees where needed and help with operational tasks such as events

Term and Remuneration

The Postgraduate Academic Representative is a contractor with a total remuneration package of \$7816.50 per



annum (pursuant the Executive Remuneration Policy). The Postgraduate Representative's term is normally 1 December to 30 November of each year. The period of remuneration is determined by the President-elect and General Manager in consultation with the incoming Executive but will be no less than 28 weeks.

The payments will occur in accordance with the Executive Remuneration Policy. In summary 50% of the total remuneration shall be paid as a base rate irrespective of performance. The remainder of the total remuneration will be paid on the basis of performance against the expectations provided around portfolios and their roles on the Executive. Performance expectations will be defined before the commencement of the Executive's term. This will be determined by the President upon consultation with the Vice-President and General Manager in accordance with the relevant policy.

Executive members are required to be available on campus one week prior to the start of semester one for planning and training, during term time until their final examination in semester two.

Relationships

USA Staff and Executive; Lincoln University Students, Te Awhioraki President and Executive, Council, Senior Management and Staff; Other Students' Associations; Contractors, Suppliers and Advertisers; Other Education and Community Agencies; Media; and National Organisations such as Student Job Search (SJS) and the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA).

Qualifications and Experience Required for the Role

- Enrolled as a student at Lincoln University at the time of election and a current postgraduate student or have applied to study at the postgraduate level and enrolled during their term of office
- Knowledge and understanding of LUSA, namely its services, committees and the Constitution
- Understanding of the postgraduate student demographic and lifestyle and ability to relate to this
- Friendly and approachable with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Empathetic to the diverse range of students and their needs
- Ability to represent divergence of views constructively and ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to conduct themselves in a positive and professional manner at all times
- Committed to and confident in an acting in the best interest of students
- Self-motivated, proactive with excellent time management skills to prioritise, multitask and work under pressure
- Innovative to the extent of identifying issues and generating solutions to improve LUSA
- As the University is a multi-cultural environment there is a requirement for the successful candidate to have the ability to work with people from a wide variety of other cultures

Key Responsibilities and Outputs

Governance

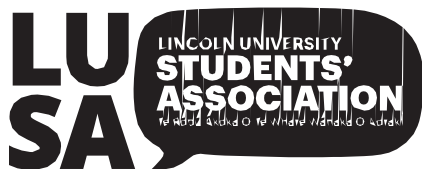
Responsible for maintaining a high level of governance within the Association.

- Monitoring and reviewing the strategic plan, priorities, annual plan, budget and policies
- Ensure the Association is operating in accordance with its Constitution and undertake any action required to maintain compliance, in collaboration with the General Manager as required
- Attend all LUSA Executive Committee meetings and any committees as appointed to by the LUSA Executive

Portfolios

Responsible for promoting and advocating for postgraduate students at all levels of the university structure.

- Establish goals and objectives at the beginning of the portfolio term in conjunction with the President and Vice-President and work to achieve those goals
- Regularly update the President regarding the progress made towards achieving the goals set at the beginning of the portfolio term



- Advocate for, and implement changes to postgraduate research, student life, and wellbeing that promote student viewpoint, or be of benefit to students in collaboration with all LUSA associates
- Ensure LUSA is providing adequate advocacy and support for all academic services for postgraduate students

Representation

Responsible for ensuring consistent promotion of the academic and personal wellbeing of students.

- To be involved in and advise the President on key issues relevant to LUSA
- Attend and report on committees, working-groups and boards as assigned by the President to ensure the student voice is heard
- Support the student rep system as required by the Student Engagement and Representation Coordinator
- Be visible and accessible to the student body as required
- Actively seek a range of student perspectives on range of issues and encourage debate on these issues
- Ensure feedback is captured and effectively reported through the appropriate fora

Administrative and Other Tasks

- Attend LUSA and affiliated club events during the year, some which may be outside normal business hours, in support of the LUSA Staff and Executive
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with key members of Lincoln University, students and student groups
- Train the incoming Postgraduate Academic Representative, as well as updating the Handover document to ensure a smooth transition period
- Take part in marketing activities that promote LUSA and/or its services
- Comply with all legal and LUSA requirements in respect of the administration and management of all records.
- Prepare any reports as required
- Other reasonable duties, that are aligned to your skills and experience as required

Health and Safety

- Take all practical steps to ensure their own and others health and safety at a governance level
- Become familiar, and comply, with all health and safety policies and procedures
- Comply with all legislative requirements in respect of health and safety in the workplace
- Take reasonable care of, and cooperate with actions taken to protect, the health and safety of both themselves and others
- Report all accidents, incidents and hazards to their supervisor as soon as is practicable
- Wear protective clothing/apparatus as required

This position description reflects the core activities of the position. As the company and the position holder develop, there will inevitably be some changes to the duties for which the position is responsible, and possibly to the emphasis of the position itself. LUSA expects that the position holder will recognize this and will adopt a flexible approach to work. This could include undertaking relevant training where necessary.

Should significant changes to the role purpose become necessary, the position-holder will be consulted and the changes reflected in a revised role purpose. This job description is linked to the employment contract and will be used to ensure objectives are being met.