

JCR President role description:

The role of President is very broad and is perfect for anyone who is passionate about this College, wants to understand how it works and would like to be able to influence how it evolves. It also puts you in a great position for getting to know everyone, both staff and students.

Overall you act as the main liaison between students and college.

I'd say it splits (roughly) into 3 parts (+a final part on benefits):

### 1. College Committees/Meetings

Here you get a chance to have a say on all Fitz matters, whether it's the long term plan of Fitz over the next 50 years, contingency plans for late running staircase renovations, the ban on frying in kitchens or introducing recycling into the café. Fitz is special in involving student representation in all of these decisions.

Below are the committees I sit on/meetings I attend throughout the year,

- Fortnightly meeting with the Domestic Bursar and Bursar (this is where you bring up any issues that have been brought to you by students/JCR e.g. need for freezers, unanswered maintenance tickets, dodgy wifi, cover for cycle racks etc.) Between the Bursars, yourself and the MCR Pres you work out a solution - whether it is taking it to another committee to be discussed or seeing if it can be resolved directly)
- General Purposes Committee
- Governing Body
- Estates Committee
- Investment Advisory Committee
- JMA Exec Trustees
- Occasional meetings with Paul C

(others you could attend, but can delegate)

- Health and Safety Committee (delegate to VP)
- Communications (either go myself, or delegate to an exec)
- Food and Beverage (delegate to VP and/or ethical affairs/green officer)
- Accommodation and Housekeeping (delegate to VP)
- Gym Committee (delegate to VP/gym officers)

Sitting on these committees allows you to get a really good insight into the different aspects of college and their functioning, raise any issues people are having with college as well as represent student views in particular discussions. Some committees will be very much focused upon student matters and you will contribute a lot, others you will be there mainly as a representative so contribution will vary depending on the nature of the debate. I personally really enjoy the committee meetings, although they can take up a few hours in a day – they are probably one of my favourite parts of the job.

If you want to know the rough schedule this link here shows all of the ones for this year: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/events/college-committees>

## 2. Running the JCR Committee

This involves chairing committee meetings and helping to make sure everyone fulfils their roles and represents students' issues and opinions as well as they can. This can be as much/as little commitment as you want. In Lent term I chose to have weekly JCR meetings with a full committee once a week and execs every other week. This term I've only held one meeting as there has not been too great a need.. The amount of time you put in depends on what you want to get out/how proactive members of the committee are.

## 3. CUSU

Here you get a say in University-side issues (literally, you and the VP get a physical vote). There are fortnightly P&E meetings (Presidents & Externals) and CUSU Council meetings. They are both on the same night, one after another. The first is basically a forum for cross-college discussion where you can share any issues, discuss things that have happened, share advice/tips etc. The second is where anyone can come to propose a motion to CUSU - issues like the NUS referendum, class list abolition referendum motions come through there. If you are really busy you can send a proxy to CUSU council to vote on your behalf (as long as you've agreed beforehand what to vote).

## 4. Benefits of the job

Whilst wanting to make College better is a pre-requisite and you really shouldn't do it for any other reason, there are a few benefits that come with the role.

- Feeling really involved in college life, you honestly end up knowing the college inside out and its a really good way to make some positive changes/have your say in all matters (especially as Fitz do really care and listen to student input in comparison to many other colleges)
- Avoid housing ballot drama, you get to pick your room first
- Various free dinners throughout the year, these are all top quality formals where they pull out all the stops, including:
  - o Commemoration dinner (usually just if you get a 1st)
  - o Matriculation dinner (again)
  - o Reunion weekend dinner (it's fancy)
  - o London dinner (free coach to/from London, enough said)
- Opportunity to meet influential alumni (e.g. Ken O of the Ken O libe, Lord Lamont – former chancellor and Simon Arora - on the Sunday Times rich list)
- Most College staff will know you, make of that what you will.
- You'll also get to know many more undergraduates/MCR students, which has been a personal highlight
- Employment opportunities, not only does it look really good on your CV but you'll also receive an excessive number of invites from employers 'wanting to take you out to dinner'.

- Being Pres provides great hands on work experience including management, team work etc whatever future career you are considering taking on this role will benefit you
- You'll get a free hoodie with 'President' on the back – pretty exciting
- Guaranteed tickets to 3 superhalls of your choosing

If you have any more questions/want to know more about how I've found it personally definitely get in touch, more than happy to chat more informally in person too!