

Welcome to Access Academia

Home of the Journal of Intersectional Social Justice (JISJ)



Our Story

When Avery Benton created the [Journal of Intersectional Social Justice](#) (JISJ), there were not any expectations for the project to be any more than that: a student-led academic publication. However, as it rolled on, attention for the project widened and it began to cover other topics and get involved in other realms of knowledge sharing, activism, and content creation. The creation of the seminal [Access Series](#) on the *Intersections* blog springboarded the idea for the JISJ to turn into something much more than a simple academic publication. Now as we have restructured the JISJ into Access Academia, we are finalising our official registration as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in the UK.

What We Do

Even though the JISJ has expanded to become Access Academia, all of our core tenets are the same! You can learn more about our team on our [website](#). Our core purpose is to Make Academia More Accessible. We plan to accomplish this by many different avenues, as obviously it is a very wide-ranging goal! The main ways we plan to do this are through encouraging Open Access academia and knowledge sharing through the Access Series, expanding the themes covered on *Intersections* with additions such as Mental Health Mondays and Colonialism in Subject, creating accessible content across our social media platforms which encourages truthful and accurate knowledge sharing and activism, running research events to encourage students to publish and interact with academia, covering inside stories of academia, running student engagement programmes to try and make academia less of an Ivory Tower, and much more!

Our Teams

Outreach & Marketing - Outreach and Engagement, Programmes & Partnerships Researcher, Marketing, Events, Student Rep

Online Operations - Social Media, Web Development, Brand Management

Financial & Legal - Grants, HR, Accountancy

Editorial - Undergraduate Co-editor, Postgraduate Co-editor, Junior Editor, Senior Editor

Content Creation - Content Researcher, Content Creator, *Intersections* Researcher and/or Writer, *Intersections* Editor, Content Designer

Volunteer Guidelines

All volunteers enter into Access Academia understanding that this is an unpaid, voluntary role. Access Academia couldn't exist without the help of volunteers like yourself, and for that we are eternally grateful! This project is meant to be run by students, for students and even a wider audience, and it's been fantastic to be able to facilitate that. There are simple agreements that a volunteer enters into, and as a (soon-to-be) registered charity, we have drawn up a Volunteer Agreement to be signed by all volunteers which is circulated in your onboarding email. Volunteers may receive a LinkedIn endorsement and reference from their respective Director/Head Editor and our Founder upon completion of performance and request.

Volunteer Guidelines

You can find full expectations and guidelines for your particular role in the team guidelines or in your onboarding call. Some apply to all volunteers:

- Communicate clearly and effectively, and abide by the strike system
- Use Slack and Google Workspace effectively to manage tasks
- Attend team meetings and fill out feedback forms (where applicable)
- Complete tasks by the due date assigned (unless rearranged in advance with senior staff)
- Give reasonable attention to the project, with suggested commitment of 3-5 hours per week
- Be respectful of all team members, the work they put into the project, and the mission of the project overall

Volunteer Guidelines

The transformation from JISJ to Access Academia has been an exciting journey and seen a lot of volunteers come and work with us on this fantastic project. However, some things have been noted and adjusted for in the team management process and in hiring. An important note is that even though this is a voluntary role, **it is in no way professional or acceptable to 'ghost' on a role.** The fact that this has happened more than once has led the management to implement a strike system: '3 strikes and you're out'. Failing to communicate and complete tasks as assigned may result in a strike. If an individual receives 3 strikes, they may be asked to leave the project. If an individual fails to reply to a message in 3 weeks, they may be removed from the project and all internal systems. This organisation relies on solid communication and time management. All roles are formulated for success, specifically *student* success, so if you are facing any time management issues or need an extension, please contact your senior staff and they would be more than happy to rearrange your due date.

Volunteer Guidelines

Our main communication is not by email. The teams are based globally and work in an integrated way. We need a platform which accommodates a wide range of time zones, so Slack is our main communication platform. You are required to join Slack and have notifications turned on. Response time for messages is expected to be within 3 business days. After this period, you will be messaged a second time as a reminder. Further 3 days with no response will result in a strike. Clear communication and time management are important to our work. As a student-led organisation, we understand academic commitment is always the primary priority. However, it is not professional to be accepted to an organisation and not committing to your role. Sending a simple message to tell senior staff that you will be late on a task is 100% ok and always encouraged! If you ever have any questions, comments, concerns, etc. you are welcome to reach out to our senior staff or Founder on Slack.

Getting Started

Access Academia has some high ambitions for this year. In addition to achieving legal charity registration in the UK, we also plan on running more programmes and events, while expanding our content creation. There're lots of ways to get involved! All of our teams work together to facilitate a smooth process, and we can't wait to have you on board with us! As a team member, we also want to hear your feedback on content ideas and internal workflows.

Overall, we can't wait for what the 2024-25 academic year holds, including the fourth edition of the JISJ. Thank you all so much for being on this project. It couldn't exist without you!