AMS Advocacy

Volunteer Support and Accompaniment Services

What We Do:

AMS Advocacy is a service provided by the Alma Mater Society, designed to support students navigating formal conflicts with the University. This can range from housing, grades, parking, misconduct, and more.

Most of the students accessing our services are dealing with issues and allegations of academic misconduct. This includes allegations of plagiarism and cheating during exams or assignments. The academic misconduct process requires the student to attend meetings with various instructors to discuss the allegations. In more serious cases, the student will have to attend a hearing held by the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline (“PACSD”).

Oftentimes these meetings can be very intimidating and overwhelming experiences for the student, resulting in feelings of isolation and loneliness, increase anxiety, and a negative effect on the student’s mental health.

We hope that by offering accompaniment support, AMS Advocacy can alleviate some of the impact this process can have on the student.

What You’ll Do

As a volunteer, you will be providing accompaniment and support to the student. This includes:

- Accompanying the student to the hearing, whether in person or on Zoom
- Debriefing with the student on how the hearing went
- Taking notes during the hearing when appropriate

In order to be an effective support person, the volunteer will be expected to:

- Sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement and abide by the Confidentiality policies of the office
- Familiarizing themselves with the academic misconduct process at UBC
- Commit 2 hours weekly
- Participate in regular check-ins with the Advocacy Coordinator
- Attend at least one hearing/meeting with a student per term

What We’re Looking For

The volunteer must be responsible and exhibit patience, kindness, and empathy. The volunteer must be knowledgeable about mental health concerns and be informed about the various support and resources students have access to on campus. The volunteer must be a good listener and understand the relationship of trust between the student and the volunteer, and not violate that trust.

The volunteer must understand and abide by the confidentiality policy of the office, and not share outside of AMS Advocacy any communication between the volunteer and the student they are supporting and/or accompanying.

Preference for students in their 3rd or 4th year of studies at UBC.