

Why would I like to be considered for the role?

I've always wanted to be a journalist. My dream was only made possible because of the skills I learned while at *Concrete*, the University of East Anglia's student paper.

SPA's workshops and talks helped me hone and refine those skills.

As an SPA Trustee, I'd like to put my passion for student journalism into helping budding journalists, whether that be through providing advice, generating resources or setting up talks and workshops.

I'd also like to help the SPA grow, represent more and more publications and continue to be the best place for student journalists to showcase their talent and find support to develop their passion.

Most of all I want to make sure that anyone with a love for words, truth, media and entertainment can live their dream, regardless of their background or circumstance.

Who am I and what are my past experiences?

Chris Matthews is an award-winning News Reporter at MailOnline.

He previously worked at the *Irish Daily Mail* and freelanced for *The Times*, ITV News and Quicksilver Media/Channel 4, among others.

He is also a former London SPA Regional Officer, a role he held while studying for his NCTJ with News Associates.

He provided guidance and support to around 40 student publications in London and encouraged new papers and magazines to join SPA.

He helped foster relationships between publications with a monthly newsletter highlighting what the capital's student magazines and papers had been up to.

He also organised and chaired the SPA Regional Conference for London in February 2021, the only regional SPA conference to sell out.

Speakers he secured included Justin Webb, Jenny Kleeman, Ade Adepitan, Meehika Barua and Aniefiok Ekpoudom.

At the SPA National Conference 2021 he secured keynote speakers such as Huw Edwards and used his contacts to introduce other members of the SPA team to potential sponsors, such as News Associates.

Chris is a former Editor-in-Chief of *Concrete*, UEA's student newspaper.

He also founded *Concrete*'s successful Mental Health Crisis campaign, which Labour leadership candidate Clive Lewis MP called a 'groundbreaking initiative'.