

**Nomination form UNICollaboration Executive Board Elections 2018**

The candidate should submit this completed form to: **exec@unicollaboration.org** before Monday 2 April.

All the candidates’ biodata and election statements will be published on the organisation website before the 2018 conference.

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| Candidate’s Name | Sarah Guth |
| Candidate’s institution & country of employment | University of Padova, Italy |
| Candidate’s Email | sarah.guth@unipd.it |
| Please state the position you are a candidate for (simply delete the other positions from this list) | President [Only current board members can apply]  |
| Candidate’s bio data (200 words maximum)Sarah Guth is a lecturer in English as a Foreign Language at the University of Padova, Italy and a consultant in Virtual Exchange. She worked as Program Coordinator for the SUNY Center for Collaborative Online International Learning in 2013-2014 and continues to work as an independent contractor for COIL Consulting. She was the professional development lead for the SUNY COIL Stevens Initiative in 2015-2016. She carries out research on technology in foreign language teaching, COIL, telecollaboration, virtual exchange and intercultural communicative competence and has published widely in these fields. She is currently vice-president of UNICollaboration and is Project Manager for the sub-contract UNICollaboration has with the European Commission for the new Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Programme.  |
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| Candidate’s election statement (300 words maximum) - Please explain why you want to join the board and what you feel you would bring to the position.I have been practicing telecollaboration and virtual exchange for well over a decade. It is my passion as I have seen the benefits offered by connecting students with their peers in geographically and culturally distant places, especially in these times of geopolitical instability. In addition to engaging my own students in virtual exchange activities, I have been involved in helping grow the field through my publications, presentations and participation in EU-funded projects such as INTENT, which led to the community of practice that decided to launch UNICollaboraiton at the Second Conference on Telecollaboration in Higher Education at Trinity College, Dublin in April 2016. I have served as Vice-President of UNICollaboration since the organisation was launched and have played an active role, together with the members of the board and our growing community, in promoting and growing the Organisation. I played a key role in helping develop a proposal for UNICollaboration to be part of a Consortium that won a contract with the European Commission to pilot its newest programme: Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange. I also bring to the table my experience working with this type of activity outside of Europe and outside of foreign language teaching and learning. I have been working with the State University of New York’s Center for Collaborative Online International Learning as a consultant since 2006 and took a secondment in 2013-2014 to work as their Program Coordinator. I have extensive experience training university staff and educators in all disciplines across the globe. This has allowed me to understand the diverse complexities of collaborating with people in many different parts of the world. Because of this I think I am well positioned to help UNICollaboration grow into a truly inter-disciplinary international organisation that promotes the practice and research of virtual exchange and telecollaboration. |