



BRIGHTON
STUDENTS' UNION

Membership Policy

BYE LAW of UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON STUDENTS' UNION

Policy Control:

Policy Version Number	002
Changes since previous version	• Updated to reflect current student body including BIMM, WaterBear and University of Sussex students • restructured associate membership into two clear categories with explicit limits • added 50% cap on associate society membership • removed Bye Law references • updated opt-out process to email route only • simplified Honorary Life Membership description • added student employment clause.
Equality Impact Assessment	No negative equality impact identified. Associate membership provisions actively support inclusion of students from diverse faith and interest communities.
Date Passed By Trustee Board	June 2026
Date For Review	June 2029
Policy Owner	Director of Membership Services

1. Full Members

- 1.1. All registered students of the University of Brighton are automatically full members of Brighton Students' Union (BSU or the Union).
- 1.2. Full Time Officers shall automatically be full members of the Union.
- 1.3. There will be no fee for full membership, although individual fees may be applicable to join additional activities such as societies and events.
- 1.4. Full members are entitled to:
 - 1.4.1. gain advice, support and representation from the Union;
 - 1.4.2. participate in union training and development programmes;
 - 1.4.3. vote in union elections & referenda;
 - 1.4.4. hold elected office in the Union;
 - 1.4.5. attend and speak at Union meetings;
 - 1.4.6. join clubs, societies and groups affiliated to the Union;
 - 1.4.7. hold leadership positions in clubs and societies;
 - 1.4.8. make use of Union facilities and attend events provided by the Union;
 - 1.4.9. apply for student staff roles within the Union.
- 1.5. Members may opt out of Union membership at anytime – see section 4.

2. Associate Members

- 2.1. The Trustee Board may award Associate Membership status to a student, or group of students who are linked to the University of Brighton. This is likely to be (but not exclusively) students studying alongside University of Brighton students.
- 2.2. Associate Membership is automatically available for students at University of Sussex, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), University of Brighton International College (UBIC).
- 2.3. Associate members are entitled to:
 - 2.3.1. join clubs, societies and groups affiliated to the Union;
 - 2.3.2. make use of Union facilities and attend Union events.
- 2.4. In addition to the benefits outlined above, due to the location of the students and nature of contracts with the University, students from BSMS and UBIC are also entitled to:
 - 2.4.1. receive advice and support from the Union;
 - 2.4.2. participate in union training and development programmes;
 - 2.4.3. attend and speak at Union meetings.
- 2.5. University of Brighton staff, BSU staff, and alumni of the University of Brighton may join BSU societies in a non-voting, non-committee capacity. This is the only service or entitlement available to them under this policy.
- 2.6. All associate members are subject to the same conduct requirements and disciplinary procedures as full members when participating in society activities.
- 2.7. Limits that apply to all associate members;

- 2.7.1. Associate members may not hold any leadership or committee position within a BSU society or group.
- 2.7.2. No more than 50% of any BSU society's membership may be made up of associate members. Societies must be led by and primarily benefit Brighton Students' Union full members.
- 2.8. In addition to the benefits outlined above, from time to time, the Trustees may make individual time limit arrangements for specific groups of associate members.
- 2.9. Any fees for associate membership will be determined by the Trustee Board.
- 2.10. The cost of providing associate membership services may never exceed the income received.

3. Honorary Life Members

- 3.1. Honorary Life Membership can be awarded to any student, former external trustee or other individual who is deemed to have given continued time and service to the Union.
- 3.2. There will be no fee for honorary life membership.
- 3.3. Honorary life members are entitled to:
 - 3.3.1. join clubs, societies and groups affiliated to the Union in a non representational capacity;
 - 3.3.2. make use of Union facilities and attend Union events.
- 3.4. Honorary life membership may be revoked by the Trustee Board at any time.

4. Opting Out

- 4.1. In accordance with the Education Act 1994, students have the right to opt out of membership of the Students' Union.
- 4.2. Students wishing to opt out may do so at anytime by contacting the CEO, or opting out at the point of enrolment.
- 4.3. Students who opt out are entitled to:
 - 4.3.1. receive representational support from the Union;
 - 4.3.2. make use of Union facilities or attend Union events. When a limited amount of tickets are available to any Union premises or activity, members may be given priority.
- 4.4. Students who opt out will not be unfairly disadvantaged with regard to provision of representational services or otherwise, by reason of having done so.
- 4.5. The Union will endeavour to offer guidance to registered students who are non-members as appropriate. Where the issues are such that they cannot be dealt with in the Union, direction shall be given to the relevant University department or recognised organisation.
- 4.6. For the avoidance of doubt, non-members may not: vote in any union election, participate in any governance of the Union, join any Union activities.
- 4.7. When accessing any of the entitlements listed in 4.3, non members are still subject to the same code of conduct and disciplinary procedures as members.

- 4.8. Subject to any disciplinary sanction, a student may choose to opt back into membership at anytime whilst a registered student by HelloBSU@brighton.ac.uk for the attention of the CEO.

5. Membership Conduct

- 5.1. All members of the Union and opted out students when accessing BSU services or activities are required to conduct themselves according to the Union policies and procedures whilst engaging in any Union activities, including upholding the Member Code of Conduct.
- 5.2. Any breach of these provisions may be considered a disciplinary matter and may result in any or all privileges of membership being withdrawn. However BSU will never remove a member's right of collective representation and advocacy conferred by the Education Act 1994.
- 5.3. Details of any Associate Member disciplinary action may be passed onto the relevant body with whom that student studies.