

Bye Law 1: Membership

Overview (purpose of Bye Law)

This Bye Law outlines the different types of membership of the Students' Union, the benefits associated with membership, and the process of opting out of membership.

If you have any difficulty in understanding or interpreting this Bye Law, please contact the Students' Union President.

Key Terms

Representative Post	Any of the following positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Time Officer Trustee • Student Network, Society, Sports Club or Student Led Service Committee Member • Course or School Rep • Member of Student Council or it's sub-committees • Student Trustee.
Trustee	A person on the Union's Board of Trustees who is responsible for ensuring good governance of the Union.
Officer Trustee	One of the elected Full Time Officers of the Union – they are also Trustees of the Union (also see Trustee definition).
Executive Committee	The three Full Time Officer Trustees of the Union. It oversees the representation and campaigning work of the Union, as well as the implementation of Policy passed by Student Council and the Ideas Forum process.
Student Network	A student group that represents a particular group of students (e.g. LGBTQ+) or an issue (e.g. Sustainability) within the Union.
Student-led service	A student led group that is supported by the Union to provide a service to students (e.g. RAG). Committee Members are appointed by the Union rather than elected.
General Meeting	A meeting open to all members of the Union.
Union Constitution	The legal document that sets out the Union's activities and provides a framework for the operations of the Union, defining what it can and cannot do.

Types of Membership

1. There shall be the following types of membership:
 - a. Full Membership (referred to in the Constitution as Members)
 - b. Associate Membership
 - c. Honorary Membership

Full Membership

2. As outlined in Clause 12 of Worcester Students' Union's Constitution all enrolled students registered at the University of Worcester shall be full members of the Union, unless they choose to opt out of their membership, as is their right as stated in the Education Act 1994.
3. Full members shall be entitled to:
 - a. Participate in the activities of the Union
 - b. Use the services and facilities of the Union
 - c. Hold one or more representative post in the Union
 - d. Vote and stand for office in the Union's Officer and (Student Network?) elections.
 - e. Attend and vote at a Union General Meeting or All Student Meeting.
4. Full membership shall be valid for the period of time the student is enrolled at the University.
5. The membership status of students studying at partner institutions will depend on the type of partnership with the University. Those partner students who do not have University of Worcester status will be able to apply and pay for associate membership of the Union. The Union will provide its independent Help and Advice service to all students studying courses subject to University of Worcester regulations, regardless of the students' status.

Opting Out

6. Every student shall be able to exercise their right to opt out of membership of the Union by writing to the President or the University Academic Registrar in accordance with Clause 13.3 of the Constitution.
7. This must be completed within 28 days of the Students' enrolment or the commencement of the academic year, whichever is later.

8. A student who has opted out of Union membership will remain opted out for the duration of their enrolment at the University, or until they request to re-join the Union in writing to the President/University Academic Registrar.
 - a. If a student requests to re-join the Union during, or within 20 days of the opening of nominations for Union elections then they will not be entitled to stand in those elections.
9. A student who opts out of the Union shall continue to be able to:
 - a. Attend Union Events.
 - b. Participate in the activities of, Union affiliated, societies, sports clubs, volunteering groups and student-led services.
 - c. Access Union premises, services and facilities e.g. the Advice Service.
10. A student who has opted out of Union membership shall not be able to:
 - a. Participate in the democratic and decision-making function of the Union
 - b. Vote in any Union meetings, Union elections or referenda.
 - c. Stand for any elected or appointed representative role as defined in the Constitution or Bye Laws including society, sports club, student-led service or student network committees.
 - d. Serve as a Student Trustee

Associate and Honorary Membership

11. Associate Membership may be granted to:
 - students who are not enrolled University of Worcester students but who are studying an accredited University of Worcester course at a partner institution.
 - Carers of Full Members of the Union.
 - Students visiting the University for a short period of time e.g exchange students.
12. In addition, the following may be granted Associate Membership if they can provide a significant benefit to the Union or one of its affiliated societies, sports clubs or student led services.
 - University alumni
 - Staff members of the Union
 - University of Worcester staff

13. The Executive Committee shall have delegated responsibility from the Trustees to approve all applications for Associate Membership.
- a. On an annual basis the Executive Committee will set the fee for Associate Membership.
 - b. Associate Membership shall be granted until the end of the current academic year.
 - c. The Executive Committee reserves the right to set variable fees for each category of Associate Membership
 - d. The Executive Committee reserves the right to reject an application for Associate Membership. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.
14. Honorary Life Membership of the Union may only be conferred by Student Council, subject to approval by the Trustee Board.
- a. Any full member may nominate someone for Honorary Life Membership. Outgoing Officer Trustees will automatically be nominated.
 - b. Honorary Life Membership will normally be given to people or students who have done great work of given exceptional commitment to the Union.
 - c. The maximum number of Honorary Life Memberships available each year will be four, in addition to the Officer Trustees at the end of their term of office. Student Council must consider the merits of each nomination based on the nominees' contribution to the Union.
15. Associate and Honorary members are entitled to:
- a. Access the Union's premises, services and facilities
 - b. Hold membership of Union affiliated societies, sports clubs and student-led services. Note that Associate or Honorary members may not make up more than 15% of any affiliated society, sports club or student-led service.
 - c. Attend general and all student meetings as observers
 - d. Access other services at the discretion of the Executive Committee
16. Associate and Honorary members are not entitled to:
- a. Vote in any Union meetings, Union elections or referenda.

- b. Stand in the Union's elections, or for any appointed representative role as defined in the Constitution or Bye Laws
 - c. Participate in any other democratic processes including taking up a committee position in any society, club, student-led service or network.
 - d. Compete, take part in performances by or represent externally any affiliated society, sports club or student-led service of which they are a member.
 - e. Attend, unless specifically invited, any Welcome Week events or activities.
 - f. In addition, Associate and Honorary membership does not provide access to student only events held by our commercial partners.
 - g. Associate and Honorary members cannot join clubs, societies or student led services for the purpose of attending organised social events.
17. In addition, with the exception of Associate members who are students who are not enrolled at the University of Worcester students but who are studying an accredited University of Worcester course at a partner institution or students visiting the University, Associate and Honorary Members are not entitled to hold membership of Student Networks.
18. Associate and Honorary Life Memberships shall terminate:
- a. If the Associate or Honorary Member opts out by giving written notice to the President.
 - b. If it is resolved by the Board of Trustees that, for good reason, it is in the best interests of the Union that their membership is terminated. In this case, the Trustee Board must give at least 14 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Trustees at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is being proposed. The Member (or their representative who does not need to be a member) will be allowed to make representations to the meeting.
 - c. Upon death
 - d. In the case of Associate Members, at the end of the academic year that the membership is granted, unless a further application is made and granted as per Point 11 above.