

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON STUDENTS' UNION

BYE LAW 1 (Membership of the Union)

May 2010

Membership of the Union

1. General

There are two categories of membership to the University of Brighton Students' Union, being Ordinary Membership (referred to throughout the constitution as Members) and Associate Membership. There are three classes of Associate Membership, they shall be:

- Individual Associate Membership;
- Reciprocal Membership; and
- Honorary Life Membership.

2. Ordinary Membership

All full-time, part-time and sandwich students enrolled on a University of Brighton course are automatically Ordinary Members of the University of Brighton Students' Union unless they have opted out in accordance with the 1994 Education Act.

All ordinary members shall be eligible to:

- join clubs and societies affiliated to the Union if consistent with the clubs or societies regulations as approved by a Federation Meeting;
- attend and take part in all Union functions, subject to regulations approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time;
- use all Union facilities and premises subject to regulations approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time;
- attend, speak and vote at Union Meetings;
- participate in the governance of the Union and hold office in it;
- attend and speak at Union Council meetings, except private and confidential sessions;
- hold elected positions in clubs and societies, as laid out in the respective Federation constitutions.

3. Associate Membership

Union Council must approve all applications for associate membership. For the avoidance of doubt, membership shall not take effect until Union Council has approved it.

There are three classes of Associate Membership, they shall be:

- Individual Associate Membership;
- Reciprocal Membership; and
- Honorary Life Membership.

All Associate Members shall be eligible to:

- join clubs and societies affiliated to the Union if consistent with the clubs or societies regulations as approved by a Federation Meeting;
- attend and take part in all Union functions, subject to regulations approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time; and
- use all Union facilities and premises subject to regulations approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

3.1 Individual Associate Membership

Open by application on an annual basis to any persons employed at the University and to members of the Brighton Graduate Association (BGA).

Union Council may remove Associate Membership from any Individual Associate Member, on receipt of a valid petition, which is considered to have just cause for removal by a majority vote.

3.2 Reciprocal Membership

The Union may enter into reciprocal membership arrangements with the students' unions of other educational institutions, both within the United Kingdom and overseas.

3.3 Honorary Life Membership

This shall be awarded to all past student officer trustees (sabbatical officers) and student trustees and such persons as Union Council may, from time to time propose. Honorary life membership can be revoked by the Board of Trustees on application from the Chair of the Union Council of Representatives.

4. **Opted-out Students**

In accordance with the Education Act 1994, students have the right to opt out of membership of the Students' Union. Any student who wishes to exercise this right must inform the University's Registrar and Secretary in writing within 28 days of the commencement of the academic session or their enrolment at the University, whichever is later.

Students who have opted out of the Union shall not be disenfranchised in their access to Union services and shall be entitled to:

- join clubs and societies affiliated to the Union if consistent with the clubs or societies regulations as approved by a Federation Meeting;
- attend and take part in all Union functions, subject to regulations approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time; and
- use all Union facilities and premises subject to regulations approved by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

However, such students shall not be eligible to:

- attend, speak and vote at Union Meetings;
- participate in the governance of the Union or hold office in it;
- attend and speak at Union Council meetings;
- hold elected positions in clubs and societies, as laid out in the respective Federation constitutions.