

Byelaw 1 – Membership Rights and Benefits

The Students' Union exists for its student members, and so we outline here the Rights and Benefits you can expect from being a part of UGSU. The best parts of the Union come from working together with other students to improve life at university and in our world.

Types of Membership

100 There will be the following three types of membership

- a) Student Members who shall be all current students of the University of Gloucestershire who have not opted-out in line with the 1994 Education Act. This will also include the Full Time Officers.
- b) Associate Members who shall be individuals approved by the Trustee Board for recognition of their work for the Union, University staff members and others as agreed by the Trustees of the Union.
- c) Company Law Members who shall be the Trustees of the Union as described in the Articles.

Membership Rights & Benefits

102 Student members shall have the following rights

- a) The right for representation from the Union within the University, including on academic, welfare and disciplinary issues.
- b) The right to vote in referenda and at Student Members Meetings.
- c) The right to vote in elections for all Full Time Officer positions.
- d) The right to vote in all other elections subject to these byelaws.
- e) The right to stand in elections subject to these byelaws.
- f) The right to attend student democratic events subject to these byelaws.

103 Student & Associate members shall have the following benefits:

- a) To join clubs and societies of the Union, subject to any membership conditions for those groups.
- b) To utilise the social facilities administered by the Union.

104 Student, Associate & Company Law Members shall all be subject to the Union's Code of Conduct.

105 The Trustee Board shall have the power to suspend or withdraw benefits of membership in the event of a member failing to comply with the Code of Conduct or other requirements of membership.

106 The Trustees may set additional fees for associate members for access to the Students' Union's services and student groups. These shall be used to further the Union's main charitable purposes for its principal beneficiaries, the student members.

Opting Out of Student Membership

107 Student members may opt-out of membership as allowed by the 1994 Education Act. To do so they should contact the Union or University with their intention to do so.

108 Opting out will mean the removal of the rights outlined in section 102. They may still have access to the benefits outlined under section 103 at the Trustee Board's discretion and may be subject to additional fees different from Student members.

109 For the avoidance of doubt, students who have opted out of Union membership may still be subject to the Union's Code of Conduct when accessing the services outlined in 103.

110 The University has an obligation to ensure that no student is disadvantaged in their dealings with the University if they have chosen not to be a member of the Students' Union.