

The Students Union

Officers of the Students' Union

President	Emily Harrison
Vice-President Education and Democracy	Joanne Lisney
Vice-President Activities	Fiona Sunderland
Vice-President Sports	Olivia Reed
Vice-President Welfare and Community	Laura Barr
Student Trustee	Nathaniel Ogunniyi
Student Trustee	Zakaria Al Shmaly
Student Trustee	Ned Williams
Student Trustee	VACANT
External Trustee	Jim Anderson
External Trustee	Andrew Barnes
External Trustee	Stuart Maister
External Trustee	Rebecca Self
Chief Executive	Scott McCarthy
Director of Union Services	David Murtagh
Director of Operations	Paul Davie
Director of Advice & Representation	Sonia Cottrell
Director of Student Activities	Chris Small
Director of People	Anthony Douglas

**Joanne Lisney is also Deputy President for 2019/20*

Membership

The **full members** of the Union shall be the following:

- a. The Sabbatical officers of the Union who are members for the whole of the term of office specified at the time of their election.
- b. All registered full-time students of the University on a credit bearing course, including all registered visiting and exchange students of the University but excluding those students who have exercised their right to opt out of membership. An undergraduate who is absent from the University in fulfilment of the year abroad requirement will continue to be a member of the Union.
- c. Those registered part-time students of the University defined in the Rules as full members of the Union, excluding those students who have exercised their right to opt out of membership (see below).

The Union also offers other forms of membership as follows:

- a. **Associate Membership**, which is available on payment of the appropriate fee, to:
 - all other registered part-time students of the University;

- all members of staff of the University;
- Students' Union Staff;
- any person who has at some time held full membership of the Union, but no longer holds this membership;
- such persons as the Union in accordance with its Laws may elect as honorary life members.
- Spouse/partner of current student (free);
- Members of public, who have significant input into Students' Union clubs or societies
- such persons who already members of Students' Unions in other institutions of higher or further education as the Union in accordance with its Laws may elect as external members.

Membership is not transferable.

Opting out of Membership

Under the terms of the Education Act 1994, any student may exercise their right **to opt out of membership** of the Students' Union. At its meeting on 28 March 1995 the University's Council agreed a code of practice which sets out how all the requirements of the Act will be met, including making provision for opting out. At the beginning of each session students will *automatically* be registered as members of the Students' Union unless they inform the Director of Student Services in writing *within four weeks of their initial enrolment or the start of their programme of study* of their wish to opt out of membership.

A student who exercises his/her right to opt out should not be unfairly disadvantaged with regard to the provision of services (or otherwise) by reason of having done so. If a student believes that he/she has been unfairly disadvantaged, he/she may invoke the complaints procedures, as set out in the Standing Orders of the Students' Union. Copies of the Code of Practice regarding the requirements of the Education Act 1994 are available for consultation in the Students' Union.

A student who opts out shall have no Union membership status whatsoever. However he/she shall be able to use the facilities provided by the Union **as if** he/she were an associate member, but will not be required to pay any fee.

These facilities shall include:

- licensed bars, shops, catering services, and other Union-run trading areas;
- sports facilities, common rooms and recreation areas, provided on Union premises;
- clubs, societies and sports (Athletic Union) clubs;
- the Advice Centre, and other welfare related services.

A student who decides to opt out of the Students' Union shall not be able to:

- be involved in the government or administration of the Union;
- stand for election to any Union office;
- vote on any issue decided by the Union or participate in any Union elections;
- be represented by the Union in any matter;
- have his/her interests represented by the Union to the University, other student bodies, other organisations and persons, or members of the general public;

- be a member of the National Union of Students (NUS) or any other body to which the Union may from time to time be affiliated and/or represent the Students' Union on any other national body or organisation to which the Students' Union affiliates.

Note: The Students' Union is currently not affiliated to the NUS and, therefore, none of its members is eligible for NUS cards or other NUS services.

Students requiring further information about opting out of membership of the Students' Union may telephone the Student Services Centre on 023 8059 9599. Requests to opt out should be made on the [attached form](#) and handed in to Student Services Centre within four weeks of the student's initial enrolment, or the start of the student's programme of study. The completed form **must** be accompanied by the student's **current ID card**; receipt of the form and card will be acknowledged and the student will be informed how to obtain a **replacement card**. **No** requests to opt out will be entertained until the existing ID card has been surrendered.