

BYE LAW ONE: MEMBERSHIP AND PROVISION FOR OPTING OUT

1. There shall be the following categories of membership to the Union:
 - 1.1. Student Members;
 - 1.2. Associate Members;
 - 1.3. Honorary Life Members.
2. Student Members shall automatically include:
 - 2.1. All registered students currently on a course of study with the University;
(including all students attending courses provided by University of Staffordshire on collaborative provision or joint delivery basis);
 - 2.2. The Officer Trustees of the Union.
3. Student Members, shall have the right:
 - 3.1. To use all the services and facilities provided by the Union;
 - 3.2. To engage in all activities provided by the Union;
 - 3.3. To attend and speak at all Union meetings and to vote at all General Meetings;
 - 3.4. To stand and vote in Union elections, subject to the regulations laid down in the Bye Laws
 - 3.5. To become entitled to such other privileges as the Board of Trustees may decide.
4. Honorary Life Membership
 - 4.1. Individuals who have given exceptional service to the Union or its members may be nominated to receive Honorary Life Membership which will be granted subject to this passing by a two-thirds majority vote at a Students Representative Council.
5. Associate Members shall be:
 - 5.1. Members of staff of the Union;
 - 5.2. Staff members of the University, upon payment of such subscriptions as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.
 - 5.3. Carers of Ordinary Members, and ex-ordinary members of the Union, upon payment of such subscriptions as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.
 - 5.4. Associate Members and Honorary Life Members shall have the right to:
 - Use the commercial services and facilities provided by the Union
 - Engage in events & activities provided by the Union.
 - 5.5. They do not have the right to:
 - Access Union Welfare Services
 - Attend or speak at any Union Meeting, except where otherwise indicated in the byelaws
 - Vote at any Union Meeting, except where otherwise indicated in the byelaws;
 - Stand for office, or vote in an election
6. Provision for Opting Out
 - 6.1. Under the Education Act 1994, Students of University of Staffordshire have the right not to be members of the Students' Union.
 - 6.2. Students that have opted out of membership may not take part in the government, policy making or representation activities of the union.
 - 6.3. Students who opt out have:
 - The right to participate in club & societies events open to the public, however they have no right to be a member or hold any office or take part in the election of Committee Members to that club and society;

- The right to access Union welfare services;
- The right to use Union trading services, except for the venues which operate on a member only basis; (opted out students may be signed in as guests) ;
- They do not have the right to participate in the democratic activities of the Union (i.e. participate in any part of the election or referenda process.)

7. Provision for Removal of Membership

- 7.1. Membership of the Students' Union may be withdrawn from an individual, in accordance with the Unions Disciplinary Procedures and Code of Conduct

Union Board approved June 2025 v2