

## **Code of Conduct**

Your Societies Code of Conduct directs the behaviours that all societies; their leaders and members, must adhere to if they belong to a society.

All behaviours and requirements are in line with the vision and values of Sunderland Students' Union (SU) and disregard for these could impact your membership.

It's important that all societies are inclusive, welcoming and safe. They should provide their members with positive opportunities to participate and should reflect the values of:

Innovation and energy | Fairness and equality | Empowerment and accountability

### **Our society, and our members, will:**

- Be open to all Sunderland students to join.
- Operate with a minimum of 4 society members including a basic committee of President and Treasurer.
- Be managed by a society committee made up of Your SU Members (no Associate Members or Staff of either the Uni or the SU).
- Participate in all compulsory training to ensure that societies are compliant with SU policies and the law.
- Not permit initiations as a membership requirement.
- Not enter any contracts, sponsorship agreements or orders without the appropriate SU agreement.
- Ensure that all society activities and events are risk assessed and delivered safely in line with 'Your Societies Handbook', which can be viewed on our website.
- Use membership data only for its intended purpose and do not share this without agreement or consent.
- Ensure that all media, including digital and print, is free from material that could be deemed offensive or in breach of the law.
- Ensure all social media is managed efficiently and that all content is in line with the Equality Act 2010 and does not breach any GDPR laws in relation to personal data. This includes making sure your society has a trusted member to manage your social media and does not have any third parties managing content. More details on social media management in 'Your Societies Handbook'.
- Act honestly about activities, beliefs and allegiances; providing the SU with relevant details of any affiliations with other organisations that the society has.
- Act respectfully regarding the taking and using of photographs and filming and ensure our members have the option to opt out and to not have photos/films published in any format if requested.

- Contribute to the ongoing development of societies by participating in network activities and in a reasonable amount of development and evaluation activity.
- Ensure that the wellbeing of your members is at the forefront of everything you do and that if there is any concern to wellbeing, either through activity or on an individual basis, that the SU is informed. For more detail on managing wellbeing, please see 'Your Societies Handbook'.
- Treat facilities, staff and students at the University, and other individuals and organisations, with respect, abiding by any rules that might apply and any agreements that have been made with them.
- Follow the SU's financial and administrative processes and accept liability for any losses incurred as a result of our not following the correct financial procedures of the SU.
- Be respectful and inclusive to students' beliefs and characteristics in relation to the Equality Act 2010, which include being; free from racism, classism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, body shaming, xenophobia and religious discrimination.
- Respect the rights of others to express, within the law, their beliefs and convictions.
- Understand that all societies must comply with the Freedom of Speech policies of the SU and the University.
- Be positive ambassadors for the SU and the University and will uphold, and not bring into question or disrepute, the reputation of the SU, University or any society.
- COVID-19 Your society will respond appropriately to government guidelines and guidelines from Your SU and the University of Sunderland.

**Your SU will take action if Societies and/or their members do not comply with our Code of Conduct and the law. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, including the deactivation of the Society.**

**For more resources, including the 'Your Societies Handbook', please visit our societies section on our website.**