

## **Associate Membership of Your Societies**

...a guide to what it is and how it works.

### **Can I join a society if I'm not a student?**

If your chosen society offers an Associate membership option and you meet any of the following criteria then yes you can join a society:

- Alumni of the University of Sunderland.
- A staff member of the University of Sunderland.
- A Your SU staff member.

Your Societies are student-led groups, principally for current students, however Your SU appreciates the skills, and expertise that associate members can bring to societies and acknowledges the interest these members have in participating alongside students. To maintain balance in the membership numbers Your Societies should have a larger proportion of student to associate members. For 2020/21 a ratio of 70S:30AM will be the guidance used by the Activities and Opportunities Team.

### **What is an Associate Member?**

Associate members are alumni of the University of Sunderland, staff of the University of Sunderland and staff of Your Sunderland SU. They are subject to the same duties for all Members of the Union as set out in the Proposed Bye Laws of the University of Sunderland Students' Union (v4.1).<sup>1</sup>

An Associate Member has the right to:

- To use all services provided by the Union including commercial services,
- To engage in all activities (including those of Clubs and Societies) of the Union,
- To any other rights of membership status as specified within the Articles of Association and Byelaws.

An Associate Member does not however, have the right to:

- Attend or speak at any Union Meeting, with the exception of Union Staff, who may attend and speak in their official staff capacity, except where otherwise indicated in the Articles of Association,
- Vote at any Union Meeting, except where otherwise indicated in the Articles of Association,
- Stand for office, nominate another, or vote in an election,
- Access Your SU's advice, wellbeing and representation services.

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<sup>1</sup> To read the Bye Laws go to <https://www.sunderlandsu.co.uk/governancedocs>

### **How do I confirm that I am an Associate Member?**

First you need register on the Your SU website as a guest – you can do this [here](#). You will receive an email confirming your registration then you will be eligible to purchase Associate Membership of a society. During the joining process you will be asked to provide information that confirms your associate member status. Associate Memberships are likely to have a slightly higher membership fee than the student memberships to reflect that these members cannot be financially supported through Your SU.

### **What's different about Associate Membership?**

As an associate member you can get involved with the activities and events of the society but there are some things which **you can't do**, such as:

- Vote in society elections,
- Hold a society Committee position,
- Directly benefit from Your Societies Grant Funding (Associate members may be asked to make financial contributions to events and activities which are being funded using Your Societies Grant Funding).

Associate members taking part in trips or tours organised by a society may not be covered by Your SU's insurance policies and should make their own arrangements.

### **Questions?**

You can email [yoursocieties@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:yoursocieties@sunderland.ac.uk) with any questions about being an associate member.

**Please note:** Your Societies processes have been developed to be safe, legal and easy to follow but sometimes things happen that fall outside of standard procedure. Please contact the Activities and Opportunities Team for support and guidance when this occurs. We are here to help.