



# NUS Democracy Involvement Guide

The essential guide to making the most of NUS



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The role of the Press Office is to promote NUS and its policies to constituent members, government, key decision- and policy-makers, and the public. The Press Office also liaises with and supports student media, providing stories, NEC quotes, facts and figures and images and training.

The Press Office sends out a very useful 'daily media digest' of education news - to subscribe, just email [pressoffice@nus.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nus.org.uk) and they'll add you to the circulation list.

To contact the NUS Press unit for information, advice or guidance, email us at [pressoffice@nus.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nus.org.uk) or call us on 0871 221 8221, or out-of-hours on 07866 695 010

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## Welcome



Welcome to the Democracy & Involvement Guide. This publication is intended to provide you with a resource that we hope will enable you to become involved with NUS and make a difference to the lives of students within your union and across the UK.

It's sometimes easy for us to think of NUS as a set of buildings- with officers, staff, budgets and filing cabinets. But in fact NUS is a powerful confederation of its members- students' unions. When you feel engaged and involved in our work we are much more likely to deliver results for students.

This guide provides an introduction to NUS' democracy and governance arrangements, this year's officer team and information on how you can get involved at every level.

We have also included information on other NUS activities, with details of resources available to you during your year as an officer and how you can utilise use to improve the services and representation at your union.

We would very much also encourage you to register with NUSConnect and visit regularly for the latest information about NUS events, training and campaigns over the year ahead.

Please use all of these resources and get involved.

We wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Aaron Porter  
NUS National President  
president@nus.org.uk



## NUS' Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs

Our vision is of NUS as a pioneering, innovative and powerful campaigning organisation: the definitive national voice of students.

We will fight barriers to education, empower students to shape both a quality learning experience and the world around them, supporting influential, democratic and well-resourced students' unions.

### NUS Mission

To make this vision a reality, NUS will:

- Promote, defend and extend the rights of students
- Develop and champion strong students' unions.

### NUS values

To achieve our vision and mission we believe three core values are crucial:

#### Equality

We believe there should be equality of opportunity for everyone to participate fully in a society that celebrates diversity.

#### Democracy

Our policies and priorities must be student-led and students' union-focused through building open, transparent and accessible democratic structures that increase performance and strengthen accountability.

#### Collectivism

Students and students' unions are more effective when they organise together locally, nationally and internationally: unity is our strength.

# NUS Democracy Involvement Guide

## online



### **NUS Connect is the brand new online hub for students' union officers and staff.**

Bringing all areas of NUS together, NUS Connect provides campaign information, events, news, trading and resources and links you to the student movement. You can access a rich variety of articles and resources to help you run effective campaigns, and keep in touch with the officers and staff from across the UK through blogs, forums and the SU Directory.

To register for NUS Connect, go to [www.nusconnect.co.uk](http://www.nusconnect.co.uk)

In addition to access to a rich variety of articles and resources to help you run effective campaigns on campus, keep in touch with officers and staff from all over the student movement through blogs, forums, and the SU directory.

- Stay connected with the latest news from your elected officers through NUS Officer Blogs
- Search the SU Directory for colleagues at other unions and build your own network of contacts
- Create and respond to new threads in the forums
- Upload documents and download resources from other unions

#### Campaigns support

NUS Connect's campaigning section provides you with everything you need to help you promote, defend and extend student rights, and covers the following areas:

- Funding Our Future
- Higher Education
- Further Education
- Union Development
- Welfare
- Society and Citizenship
- Women's
- LGBT
- Black Students
- Disabled Students
- International Students
- Postgraduate
- Mature/Part Time

### <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/networks>

NUS' e- networks provide a way for student officers and staff to share best practice and information on a number of different issues. The networks listed below each have a different theme which allows members to discuss and post questions on the latest topics.

Follow these instructions to join the networks. Once a member, you will be able to post questions and comments to the mailbase, which will appear directly in your inbox.

To join a network, open a new email and complete it as follows:

To:	LISTSERV@jiscmail.ac.uk
Subject:	
Message:	
JOIN <networkname>	

Active Political Leadership Network- for Presidents and senior officers  
networkname <active-political-leadership>  
send messages to  
[active-political-leadership@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:active-political-leadership@jiscmail.ac.uk)

Campaigns Network- does what it says on the tin  
networkname <campaigns>  
send messages to [campaigns@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:campaigns@jiscmail.ac.uk)

Ethical and Environmental Officers  
Networkname <NUS-EE-Officers>  
Send message to  
[NUS-EE-OFFICERS@JISCMAIL.AC.UK](mailto:NUS-EE-OFFICERS@JISCMAIL.AC.UK)

Finance and Governance Network- for officers with internal affairs responsibilities  
networkname <FINANCE-AND-GOVERNANCE>  
send messages to  
[finance-and-governance@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:finance-and-governance@jiscmail.ac.uk)

Representation and Democracy Network- for education, welfare and democracy officers  
networkname <representationanddemocracy>  
send messages to  
[representationanddemocracy@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:representationanddemocracy@jiscmail.ac.uk)

Student Activities Network  
networkname <student-activities>  
send messages to [student-activities@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:student-activities@jiscmail.ac.uk)

Student Media Network  
networkname <STUDENT-MEDIA>  
send messages to [STUDENT-MEDIA@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:STUDENT-MEDIA@jiscmail.ac.uk)



twitter

Follow NUS on twitter-

<http://www.twitter.com/nusuk>

## <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/events>

The Events Department organises a vast number of conferences, one day events and national training each year, which every students' union affiliated to NUS is welcome to participate in. NUS events provide the opportunity for students and their elected officers to get together.

Each year we organise a whole host of events including several one-day training events, Disabled Students' Conference, Women's Conference, Black Students' Conference, Anti-Racism, Anti Fascism Conference, Mature Students' Conference, International Students' Conference and, of course, our National Conference.

There is a lot more work involved in organising all constitutional conferences. Schedules/deadlines are worked out many months in advance of a conference; the constitution has to be regularly updated; motions typed, composited and retyped, documentation then has to be put together and proofed before going to print. In addition election materials including all ballot papers need preparing.

In the summer, we kick off the Officer Development Programme, which includes a variety of courses, facilitated by the Membership Development team, to which student officers can attend.

The department ensures NUS continually delivers high quality, cost-effective events by monitoring the work in the department, making improvements and raising professionalism where necessary.

The team researches and views all potential venues to ensure the facilities investigated are the best for the budget and timescale available. The events staff are also responsible for preparing mailings for each event, receiving and inputting registration forms, making provisions for access requirements and circulating joining instructions.

We take great time and effort to ensure that every event delivered by NUS is fully inclusive so that all participants can share in the experience.

## Zone conferences

The aim of Zone conferences is to increase the opportunities for students' union officers and staff to have informal formative debates on live issues, to gather opinions from experts and to learn from others.

The events will be held over 2 days and will feature:

- Big name keynote speakers
- Plenary – issues briefings
- A panel debate – of experts
- Workshops led by external experts
- Workshops of best practice led by other unions
- Student Representative Policy Forums
- Staff/Practitioner Discussion Forums

There will also be formal democratic processes– these sections will be totally free to attend

- Accountability sessions- VP and President
- Report from Convenor
- Zone Committee Elections

Make sure the dates for your Zone Conference are in the Diary now:

**Society and Citizenship**  
24th / 25th October

**Union Development**  
25th / 26th October

**Higher Education**  
26th / 27th October

**Welfare**  
27th / 28th October

**Further Education**  
28th / 29th October

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/conference> (coming soon)

Held in April, NUS National Conference is NUS' sovereign decision-making body. It lasts for three days and has the power to approve NUS' budget, elect and hold the leadership to account and set policy for the year ahead.

- It discusses, amends and approves policy reports from the Zones;
- It democratically debates motions from students' unions;
- It "ratifies" decisions made by Nations, Liberation and Social Policy campaigns – so these issues become "ours" not just "theirs;"
- It elects and appoint people to committees, boards; and student leadership positions ("officers");
- It also acts as the NUS "AGM", receiving the annual report and accounts and approving the out-line budget for the year ahead.

#### Democratic Procedures Committee

This committee is responsible for conference and supervises policy making and delegate issues. Contact [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk)

Every month from September it sends bulletins to all unions to ensure you are up to date with deadlines for our conferences and opportunities to feed in. To make sure you get that bulletin email [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk)

DPC Chair - Steven Findlay  
Staff Contact- Democratic Services Coordinator  
[Nick.smith@nus.org.uk](mailto:Nick.smith@nus.org.uk)

## Getting involved in... Zones

Inside NUS, there are five policy zones covering the five main broad areas of issues affecting students; welfare, further education, higher education, union development (student activities and union governance for example) and society and citizenship (issues not directly related to education that affect students' lives, such as the environment).

The role of each Zone is to lead a portfolio of work, enable in-depth and wide-ranging research and discussion on issues important to students, and deliver campaigns and work programmes relevant to that area.

Each Zone is led by a Vice President elected at the NUS National Conference and a committee elected at the Zone Conference held in late October. These conferences feature a mixture of educational sessions, panel debates and workshops and are an ideal opportunity to network, learn from experts and feed into the work of that Zone. The conferences are open to staff and officers.

#### How to get involved in Zones

- **volunteer** as a representative or organise to send a representative from your union to attend a particular zone conference
- **contact** the Vice President or committee to find out how you can feed into this year's programme of work
- **consider** standing for election at the Zone Conference in October
- **keep** up-to-date with activities on their pages on NUS Connect
- **find out** if there is a monthly e-newsletter and other email alerts that you can sign up to. Contact the relevant unit giving your name, email, position and students' union
- **order** materials. Put posters up in your union, distribute postcards and stickers and use toolkits and briefings to inform your local work



# <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/fundingourfuture>



Aaron Porter is the President for the National Union of Students (NUS) having previously served as their Vice-President (Higher Education) for two terms. In this post, Aaron is responsible for leading representation and campaigns for students in UK higher education, his term begins in July 2010.

Alongside this role, Aaron is also a Non-Executive Board Director for the Universities & Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS), the Higher Education Academy (HEA), the European Students' Union (ESU) and Foundation Degree Forward (fdf). He is also a member of the Burgess Implementation Steering Group, the HEFCE Online Learning Taskforce and the AimHigher National Advisory Board.

As Vice-President (HE) he served as a Non-Executive Board Director for the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), and as a member of the Academic Council of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), and the National Student Survey Steering Group.

Prior to this, Aaron graduated with a BA in English from the University of Leicester in 2006, and then spent 2 years as a sabbatical officer and trustee of the Students' Union. During this time he was the Deputy Chair and a Board Member for NUS Services Ltd, the commercial arm of NUS.

He also founded and was elected as the first Chair of Unions94 (the Student Unions of the 1994 Group of Universities) and chaired the Student Loans Company Student Consultative Group. As a student, Aaron was editor of 'The Ripple' the student newspaper for the University of Leicester.

This year will be an exciting but challenging one for the student movement. Over the last three years NUS has been developing and delivering its education funding campaign 'Funding Our Future', but the coming twelve months are going to be key in securing a fairer funding settlement for students.

Over the course of the next 12 months the student movement is going to have to be quick and nimble to respond to the pressures of the outside world. This autumn we are expecting the Browne Review into the future of Higher Education funding to report to the Government and we will need to ensure that together we respond appropriately to that Review and protect future generations of students from the removal of the fee cap that many Vice Chancellors are currently lobbying for.

We have planned the campaign in three time phases across the course of the year and below you will find a broad outline of the plans we have for the coming year. Due to the uniqueness of the current situation much of our work on the campaign will have to be fluid, and often reactive rather than proactive – however we are more committed to ensuring that we provide regular and timely updates to you, proper space for discussion and input and keeping you informed and involved with the campaign throughout the year is really important.

You will also see that in putting together this strategy, we have sought to devolve leadership away from just the President and the Vice-President (Higher Education), to develop a more sophisticated strategy which encourages more interaction and involvement. Specifically we will develop specific strands for **further education**, the **nations**, **membership involvement** and the **national demonstration**.

These will be constructed in discussion with relevant officers, and members of the NEC, Zone Committees and Liberation Committees that indicate their interest.

## The Three Phases:

### June 2010 – Autumn (Release of the Browne Review)

- Through this time we continue to build and deliver NUS' **clear policy agenda**, in this area we have:
- Submitted two rounds of written evidence to the review group
- Delivered oral evidence to the review panel, on the review questions broadly and specifically on the issue of post-graduate support, as mandated by National Conference

We will:

- Be preparing for a potential third round of evidence
- Analysing the responses to the review from across sector partners
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the announced

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- cuts to the HE sector and responding accordingly
- Targeted lobbying of MPs that are prepared to advocate our principles
- Establish areas of common ground between submissions into the review, and internally summarise dividing lines ready to react to these as the debates arise
- Strategy to put HE Funding onto the agenda for the Labour leadership

With regards to **building membership capacity** we will:

- Evaluate different methods deployed over the last twelve months
- Hold a membership campaigns event in the first week of September to ensure that you are fully abreast with the latest developments
- Be discussing wider funding issues with new student officers across the officer development programme in the summer

We will continue to **build alliances and influence** through:

- Securing meetings with relevant ministers in the Coalition government
- Attending all three political party conferences to influence political party members
- Attending the TUC Congress to ensure support from a wide coalition of trade unions with regards to a fairer, progressive HE funding model for the future
- Renewed dialogue between NUS and UCU, I have set up a meeting with Sally Hunt to take this forward
- Engagement with allies in the education sector

## Autumn (Brown Response) – Spring Government Response)

This will be a really important time for the student movement and a time when having a **clear policy agenda** will be crucial. We will need to ensure that we respond appropriately to the policy challenges laid out by the Browne Review when lobbying the Government. During this time we will:

- Host a 'Higher Education Funding Debate' event to ensure that students' unions are able to come together to debate the challenges ahead and have a direct impact
- Respond to the Browne outcomes to Browne, to the Government, to the opposition

With regards to **building membership capacity** we will:

- Intensive build up toward a National Demonstration looking to build up as much support from across the student movement and beyond
- Hold a National Demonstration
- Support students' unions to run local lobbying action in constituencies – especially in places where key government figures are MP. Local lobbying activity could range from surgery visits, direct mails and emails, campaigning stunts.
- Specific strand of FE work, to ensure we have engagement right across the membership
- Support local action on campus, schools, FE colleges and the local community to take our message out to an increasing audience
- Think about the use of technology such as a Petition on the Number 10 Downing Street website to sign up as

many students, academics and other supporters to protest against higher fees.

We will continue to **build alliances and influence** through:

- Secure meetings with the relevant HE Minister and the Secretary of State to discuss NUS response to the Browne outcomes
- Meeting with allies in the opposition to ensure HE funding can be a priority for lobbying of the Coalition Government
- Engage with a wide range of allies and stakeholders, including but not exclusively Million +, Compass, UCU to ensure that a range of progressive voices are engaged with fighting for a fair funding alternative

## Spring (Government Response) – Parliamentary Vote

NUS will ensure that it has a **clear policy agenda** that is responsive to situation at hand. Having evaluated the Government response to Browne, and develop options – NUS will develop a position that reflects this.

With regards to **building membership capacity** we will:

- Hold a National Lobby of Parliament
- Use online and digital media to ensure maximum pressure is applied to MPs around any vote in parliament
- Will support students' unions to use any connection with the House of Lords to lobby on this issue.

We will continue to **build alliances and influence** through:

- Work across political parties to advocate for any necessary amendments, votes against regressive policy or votes in favour of progressive solutions
- Specifically lobby Liberal Democrats to not vote in favour (or abstain) on any measures that see and increase in fees.
- Building on the outcome of the Labour leadership content, lobby to deliver a Labour line to vote against higher fees.

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Officer Contact | Vice President HE usman.ali@nus.org.uk

Staff Contact | Campaigns Organiser jean.mclean@nus.org.uk

Staff Contact | Political Officer graeme.wise@nus.org.uk

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/fe>



Shane Chown is the Vice President for Further Education (VPFE) at NUS, an elected position which he has held since July 2009. Shane's role is to protect, defend and extend the rights of students across the country, representing the views of FE students to the government and campaigning to protect their interests. Since being elected Shane has successfully campaigned against course and campus closures. He continues to defend student financial support in FE, and is currently campaigning for an independent complaints authority for FE, as well as access to lifelong learning for all.

Prior to being elected as NUS VPFE, Shane was President at City College Plymouth Students' Union. Elected in 2007 after completing his A-levels, he successfully campaigned to implement learner views in his college. His achievements included the introduction of fair trade products in the college, better disabled parking at satellite sites, and advanced notice of course related fees. He also worked to widen learner involvement in the college, particularly amongst part-time and distance learners.

#### **National Student Voice**

In April 2010, powers to commission and allocate funding for the education of 16-19 year olds went to local authorities, and funding for adult learning became the responsibility of the new Skills Funding Agency. The new coalition government is likely to bring about new planning and commissioning structures for Further Education. The Conservatives are likely to reintroduce the Further Education Funding Council, joining back together the funding for 16-19 and adult education. The Liberal Democrats had proposed to make the funding of adult FE a function of HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England). The FE Zone now needs to ensure that student involvement is at the heart of these new processes, whichever structure prevails, and that every student can have their say. The FE Zone will therefore focus on:

- Campaigning for FE funding and commissioning bodies to produce strategies for student involvement
- Lobbying FE commissioning and funding bodies to sign an NUS Student Voice Pledge, ensuring their commitment to effective engagement of all students in strategic planning of learning
- Working with Ofsted and other inspection bodies to ensure that student involvement is measured with specific focus on impact – not just implementation
- Producing a strategy for representation of work-based learners, working with learning providers, trade unions, and the wider FE sector
- Ensuring that students' unions can access and use findings of the Learner Views Survey when campaigning for better resources within their institutions
- Lobbying the Association of Colleges and providers themselves to place Student Involvement with their Quality departments, rather than Student Services, and promoting examples of institutions where Quality and Student Involvement are successfully interlinked
- Working with NIACE, ALP (Association of Learning Providers), Natspec, and other representative organizations to carry out consultation with students on a national scale

#### **Teaching & Learning**

2009 saw colleges and learning providers placed under increased scrutiny on Learner Involvement, with Ofsted paying particular attention to learner involvement practices under their new Common Inspection Framework for Further Education & Skills 2009. Whilst within some providers there are some shining examples of learner involvement in strategic decision-making processes, students are rarely given the opportunity to shape their experience of teaching and learning.

In 2010/11, the FE Zone will work to ensure that current learners can influence their teaching and learning experience, and enable learners to shape the future of FE teaching and learning. We will do this by:

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- Working alongside teaching unions to achieve the best possible learning experience for students
- Continuing to advocate for an independent complaints body for further education, similar to the Office of Independent Adjudicator which exists for higher education students
- Create and share a vision for future use of technology in FE teaching and learning
- Work with teaching unions in the fight to improve pay and conditions for FE teaching staff, particularly for parity and equality with teachers in schools and sixth forms
- Supporting the industrial action of college teaching staff on a case-by-case basis
- Opposing providers' use of student observers to monitor teaching standards, and instead to promote the effective use of class reps systems
- Lobbying colleges to include learners in the recruitment process for teaching staff, and allow learners to sit on recruitment panels for such staff

## Defending Adult Education & Lifelong Learning

The academic year 2010-11 will see huge cuts to the funding of adult education in FE. This year, the FE Zone will prioritise the fight against cuts to adult FE funding, whilst defending the right for equal access to education for all.

This year, the FE Zone will:

- Produce guidance for students' unions on protecting the provision of Adult Education in the face of a 12% cut to the Adult Learning budget for 2010-11
- Campaign to protect Skills for Life provision, including ESOL and basic skills courses, from cuts to the Adult Learning budget
- Use the CALL campaign to ensure that informal adult learning opportunities do not hit the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Advocate for fully funded level 3 qualifications for over 25s
- Campaign to ensure that support for over 25 apprentices such as access to basic skills provision is not put at risk
- Produce guidance for Education Officers and Student Governors on further education funding streams
- NUS to work with the SFA or the new commissioning and funding body for FE and the AACS (Adult Advancement and Careers Service) or equivalent to ensure that the needs of students and potential students will still be met, regardless of the strategic importance of the economy
- Use the CALL campaign and work with NIACE to ensure that adults continue to have a voice about what they want to learn

## Defending and extending student financial support in FE

EMA has proven to be an essential maintenance allowance, rather than merely an incentive to study. When the education and training leaving age rises to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015, there will be a need for additional and more flexible forms of maintenance support to accommodate greater take-up of various forms of learning.

It is crucial that young people should not feel pressured into employment to fund their way through FE. Supporting and enabling the poorer students from our communities to access FE should always be a priority.

This year, the NUS EMA Satisfaction Survey was completed by more students than ever before, giving the FE Zone the evidence needed to defend the case for EMA. Given the new government's proposal to review EMA, this year FE Zone will:

- Reinforce the case for EMA as an essential maintenance grant for 16-18 year olds
- Defend the £10 and £20 rates of EMA as an essential maintenance subsidy for those students who do not qualify for the full amount, citing evidence from the EMA Satisfaction Survey 2010 that students who are in receipt of these amounts use them towards essential costs such as travel to college
- Support an increase in the amount of students eligible for EMA
- Campaign for a differentiation of entitlement if you have more than one dependent in your household
- Campaign for an increase in the money available for Learner Support Funds

## Information, Advice & Guidance

Vocational education is still not treated as a respected route for young people to pursue post-16. The FE sector desperately needs an independent Careers and Advice Service for young people and adults, focused on the needs of students, rather than educational institutions

This year, the FE Zone will:

- Write to the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, outlining why NUS believes investment in IAG for adults should not be cut
- Campaign for greater clarity over the national launch of the Adult Advancement and Careers Service
- Produce its own IAG Guarantee for young people, highlighting the responsibility of providers, local authority services and business, to make clear the student perspective on what IAG should look like
- Ensure that IAG advice for parents remains independent of any FE or HE institution

## Partnership work with other zones, sections and campaigns

- Working with other NUS zones, the FE zone will also contribute to the following campaigns and projects:
- HE in FE and FE in HE – working with the HE Zone
- FE International Students – working with the International Students' Campaign to engage with and enhance the learning experience of FE international students
- Equality & Diversity – working with the NUS Liberation Campaigns to improve education on E&D in colleges and learning providers
- Healthy FE – to work with the Welfare Zone to encourage student involvement in the Healthy FE initiative
- Representation of work-based learners – working with the Union Development Zone

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/fe>

Officer Contact | VP Further Education  
[shane.chowen@nus.org.uk](mailto:shane.chowen@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | FE Policy Officer [gemma.painter@nus.org.uk](mailto:gemma.painter@nus.org.uk)

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/>  
he



I still can not believe I am your Vice President Higher Education and I can not thank you enough for electing me in to this position.

The next two years will bring the biggest challenges we've faced as a movement for a decade on Higher Education issues: the outcome of the fees review will likely to lead to a major battle against higher fees and a higher education market; campuses and courses closing at an alarming rate (as we have already been witnessing); students being asked to pay more, while receiving less.

This year I hope to shift the work of the Higher Education Zone by putting our policies in to practice and by connecting students with their education and representation through creating an involvement and engagement culture in the movement. I want students not just to feel part of the process by telling us their views on Higher Education issues, but to actively be part of the solution and take a proactive role in fighting for and delivering these changes.

For all those involved in Higher Education it is going to be a busy year with many uncertainties that will be difficult to prepare or plan for. Going forward I am more than confident that by working together with a united front, involving, engaging and representing students effectively from all backgrounds we can take the NUS Higher Education Zone and policies forward.

I look forward to representing you and working with you to enhance students' lives. It is going to be a difficult year, but I look forward to the challenge ahead.

Usman Ali | Vice President Higher Education 2010/11

#### Primary priorities

- Supporting student engagement
- Improving the student learning experience
- Widening Participation
- Part-time students
- Course closures

#### Supporting student engagement

##### Academic representation and student feedback

- We will produce a toolkit of materials surrounding student engagement for students' unions and run a two national student engagement events
- NUS will develop the Course Rep hub into a student engagement hub of materials to support students' unions including students feeding back to their institution and shaping their curriculum
- We will organise a series of events for course reps on a regional basis to provide reps with the knowledge and tools to effectively drive change in their institution

##### Evidence informed engagement

- NUS will support students' unions interpret and promote the National Student Survey through a series of publications, events and consultancy including for all officers not just Education Officers
- We will lobby to develop a National Taught Postgraduate Student Survey and a first year student experience survey
- NUS will produce a Student Experience Report based on research conducted by GfK to help identify areas of student concern to identify further campaign priorities
- NUS will develop and build on the research guide to support students' unions use research to strengthen their campaigns and lobbying activities

#### Improving the student learning experience

##### Feedback and assessment

- Produce a Charter on Feedback and Assessment of a set of minimum student expectations relating to assessment and feedback
- Develop a campaign toolkit to support change at an institutional level including exam feedback, innovative forms of assessment, anonymous marking and plagiarism

##### ICT

- NUS will produce a research report into student demands, perceptions and training needs in relation to the use of ICT in teaching and learning
- Produce a briefing for students' unions on developments in ICT and case studies of effective practice including campaigning around electronic submission of assessments, training for students and academics and lobby for open access to online academic journals

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## Quality and complaints

- NUS will organise a Quality Matters Conference in September to support students' unions develop effective SWS's and increased student engagement in internal quality procedures
- NUS will engage in the development of the new Quality Assurance system in England and Northern Ireland, review of external examiners, public information and the Academic Infrastructure to ensure that student views are at the heart of new procedures
- We will use the Charter on Institutional Complaints and Appeals Procedures to improve institutional procedures including introducing a three-month time limit for dealing with complaints and appeals
- Lobby for the extension of the OIA to Northern Irish institutions

## Widening Participation

### Supporting students' unions engage in WP

- We will consult students' unions on Project: Participation consultation and identify key areas of priority including the development of a sabbatical officers strand of the AimHigher Ambassador scheme

## Admissions

- We will campaign for the introduction of a post-qualifications applications process and the greater use of contextual data in admissions
- Ensure that potential students have access to accurate, transparent and comparable information and improved advice and guidance.

## Part-time students

- Campaign for an equitable student support package for part-time students
- Organise a part-time students' forum to identify the issues facing part-time students to identify areas for campaigning
- Produce a briefing for students' union, jointly with the VP Welfare and VP Union Development on the issues facing part-time students including funding and benefits, academic support, teaching and learning, employment and engagement in unions

## Course closures

- Devise a campaign pack to support Student Unions wishing to campaign against Course Closures and have an active presence on campuses
- Monitor and scope out course closures across the UK, and work with Universities UK to campaign for additional funding for the HE sector

Postgraduate students and international students will also remain of primary importance but will have a separate plans of work overseen by the Postgraduate Committee and International Students' Committee

## Additional areas of work:

### Mission Groups

- NUS will support the work of the students' union mission groups the Aldwych Group, Unions94, University Alliance, GuildHE and the Arts Group and help support the establishment of equivalent groups for Million+

### HE in FE

- Research paper into issues facing HE in FE including NSS results
- Working group of further and higher education representatives
- Briefing for students' unions on collaboration
- European HE and Student mobility
- NUS will build on 2009 briefing for students' union to support students' unions to promote student mobility
- NUS will organise an European Coordination Group and campaign on European issues affecting students including PhD student status as students, retaining one-year Masters and the recognition of integrated Masters courses especially in engineering and ensuring that students receive the Diploma Supplement

### Providing Information for Students' Unions

- NUS will provide information to students' unions on national policy issues through:
- Weekly Education Information briefings, including pod/vod casts
- Develop the new intranet section as a policy and campaigning hub
- National Higher Education Zone Conference
- Briefings on a range of issues
- Summer training for new officers

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/he>

Officer Contact | Vice President HE  
[usman.ali@nus.org.uk](mailto:usman.ali@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | Head of Education & Quality  
[alex.bols@nus.org.uk](mailto:alex.bols@nus.org.uk)

Follow the higher education zone on twitter  
<http://www.twitter.com/nusHigherEdZone>

# <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/society>



It is an honour to have been re-elected as the Vice President of Society and Citizenship for 2010-11. I will be working hard this year to ensure that the zone remains an active and effective part of NUS, successfully organising and empowering student activists.

Our work will demonstrate that our members are active and engaged citizens, and through our activities we will shape our local and international communities. Society and Citizenship includes a range of different areas including citizenship, community issues, ethical and environmental and global justice.

Society and Citizenship is crucial in building students' unions into truly dynamic, member led organisations. Campaigns that you run on your campuses can shape a generation of students to become more aware of the world in which we live, and the problems we face.

By engaging in this zone you can win real changes for your members whilst also shaping the communities in which we live and work. It's our job to ensure Unions and Universities are leading the way, responding and taking action on broader issues.

But this zone doesn't just work with full time offices. Working directly with your students I will foster a greater involvement of your members in our national campaigns.

There are many challenges ahead of us and we can only face these together. We have a new Government and parliament, global economic problems and the continuing ecological challenges of climate change. Please make sure that your union is involved with Society and Citizenship this year, that your members are given the chance to campaign with NUS, and together let's make our voices heard.

Susan Nash | Vice President Society and Citizenship 2010/11

## Amplifying the student voice

Students play an invaluable role within society. NUS, together with students' unions, will work to break down barriers to participation, pressuring our elected bodies to protect and preserve our interests.

## Electoral Process Reform

Students want to engage in the electoral system, but are often prevented by barriers that exist. We saw in the 2010 General Election how students were prevented from casting their vote and having their say in the democratic system. NUS will work to secure reform of voter registration and polling procedures for local, national and European elections across the UK.

### Activity

- Investigate and feed into the Electoral Commission review of the General Election 2010.
- Produce a report looking at the problems with the electoral system, and provide a series of recommendations for local authorities as well as the national co-ordinators.
- Work to develop a coalition of partners to seek to reform the voting system, to make it more accessible to register and cast your vote.

## Votes at 16

Over 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in the United Kingdom. For years there has been a consistent demand from young people for Votes at 16, and a clear case for change. That case is now overwhelming. NUS will work hard to ensure 16 and 17 year olds are given a voice in the democratic system.

### Activity

- Continue to be a key part of the Votes at 16 Coalition steering group.
- Encourage students' unions to take part in a Votes at 16 day of action.
- Lobby MPs and increase our supporters in Parliament and the devolved bodies.
- Work to get a Private Members Bill introduced in order to draw attention within parliament to the issue.

## Community

Students and students' unions are at the centre of communities, working hard to ensure that all residents live together and work together. NUS will encourage the sharing of best practice and showcase the positive projects that the student movement is doing in this area.

### Activity

- Showcase community best practice across the student

# NUS Democracy Involvement Guide

movement.

- Work together with Universities UK to promote Living Together, Working Together.

## Ethical and environmental

NUS are committed to strengthening the ethical and environmental agenda amongst our members. Our work involves supporting individual students to take action on climate change through changing behaviours, working with educational institutions to make positive changes to their practices, and joining with other organisations to fight climate change and lobby the government to take tough action. Finally, and importantly, NUS will continue to monitor and change our own practices within our organisation.

### Greening students

Educating and informing students to make changes to their behaviour is an important part of our green agenda. We will recruit students to participate in our programs, and educate our members to make more sustainable choices as consumers, residents and wider citizens.

#### Activity

- Provide information to students on ethical banking and explore partnerships to encourage more unions to invest in ethical companies.
- Utilise the findings from our research with DEFRA to encourage more students to save energy in their halls through incentivising good behaviour.
- Encourage wider participation in the 10:10 campaign, and People and Planets Go Green Week.

#### Tackling climate change

Empowering our members to play a vital role in national and international campaigns to fight climate change is crucial. NUS, and students' unions, will lobby members of the new parliament and pressure them into tackling the growing threat of climate change.

#### Activity

- Continue to be an active member of Stop Climate Chaos.
- Support the mass lobby of Parliament on 20 October 2010.

### Building a green education sector

We will be working with students' unions to ensure they have the tools to lobby and campaign to change institutional practices, improving the environmental records of institutions.

#### Activity

- Expand student involvement in the Degrees Cooler program, continue to influence and change the behaviour of 90,000 students and staff.
- Working with the HEA to expand opportunities for students to learn about sustainable development through their formal curriculum, as well as through extra curriculum activities.
- Encourage more officers to look into their institutions investments, sharing best practice on ethical investment policies and procurement.

### Our global bond

NUS has a long tradition of showing solidarity with students across the world, and this has been an important part of the work that we have done. In this area of work NUS will continue to develop alliances with student groups across the globe and also raise awareness among our members on the rights of students internationally.

### Educating our members

Showing solidarity with students globally and defending the right to education is important for NUS to be leading on. This is why NUS will work to educate our members on student rights globally.

#### Activity

- In partnership with Oxfam, initiate a long term partnership to expand development education into further education.
- Provide a series of resources to inform members of the importance of defending the right to education globally.

### Building partnerships globally

NUS will build our partnerships with students' unions internationally and support them where possible.

#### Activity

- We will be building partnerships with student groups globally and inviting student leaders to produce blogs.
- Creating a hub of case studies looking at the experiences of students internationally.

### Supporting students rights globally

NUS offer solidarity for students abroad, but in particular work with partner organisations to campaign for change in Burma, Swaziland and Colombia.

#### Activity

- Working together with Amnesty International we will run a series of activities locally and nationally to draw attention to the persecution faced by students in Burma, and seek their release from prison.
- Support Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) in highlighting persecution in Swaziland by pressuring the Commonwealth and European Union to act.
- Supporting Justice for Colombia by encouraging unions to participate in a ½ day of action against the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union (EU) and Colombia.

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/society>

Officer Contact | Vice President Soc/Cit [susan.nash@nus.org.uk](mailto:susan.nash@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | Campaign Partnerships Officer [andrew.henry@nus.org.uk](mailto:andrew.henry@nus.org.uk)

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/uniondevelopment>



Ed Marsh is the NUS Vice President Union Development after being first elected in April 2010. His role is to champion and develop strong and active students' unions across the UK and to ensure that NUS is delivering for its members. Ed is also Company Chair of NUS Services which is the purchasing consortium for student unions, this is a role he has held since June 2009. Before being elected as Vice President Ed was President of Hull University Union, and he is currently completing a distance learning degree in British Politics and Legislative Studies at the University of Hull.

#### **Activism & Campaigning**

During the last three years, NUS has developed a programme of work around building groups of activists in students' unions to campaign on issues locally and nationally. Through partnerships with the Trade Union Congress (TUC), we have developed some accredited training to build capacity of staff and officers to create a campaigning culture in their organization. The next step is to focus on grass roots activists such as course reps, activity leaders and student volunteers.

In 2009/10 the Union Development Zone will:

- Build an activist base of thousands to underpin the priority campaign and national demonstration
- NUS will hold a National Seminar for Student officers and staff. The national seminar will have train the trainer elements to encourage unions to imbibe the principles throughout their own training for course reps, activity leaders and other activists.
- Run a series of regional training days across all areas of the UK and develop an in-house strand to be adapted by local unions.
- Work with the TUC to identify students' unions to set up trade union membership schemes amongst their student staff.

#### **Volunteer accreditation**

During the last year, a number of students' unions in partnership with their parent institutions have developed accreditation schemes for all areas of participation. This has been driven by the employability agenda in Higher Education specifically, the advent of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) as well as the need for students' unions to evidence the impact of their activities. The volunteer experience adds real value to students' lives and a majority of that work takes place in the union through membership and leadership of sports clubs, societies, volunteering programmes, course reps, student media and many more.

In 2009/10 the Union Development Zone will:

- Work with unions and universities who have already developed accreditation frameworks and identify themes of best practice
- Research different types of volunteer experiences within SUs and link them to skills gained.
- Produce a toolkit for use by member unions when developing a scheme.
- Work with partners such as the council of graduate recruiters and the CBI to badge the scheme.

# NUS Democracy Involvement Guide

## Work Based learners and apprentices in membership of SUs and NUS

As part of the ongoing review of the affiliation process, we will look to develop and support representative structures for umbrella organisations looking after work based learners and apprentices. The traditional hard and fast rules about SU structures in these scenarios is not appropriate. There has been a level of ambiguity as to which policy zone this fits into. However, the Union Development zone would like to develop these new structures and routes into NUS membership as well as a set of minimum standards for representation alongside the VP FE. This forms part of wider work into making NUS relevant and accessible to an increasingly diverse student/learner body. We will also link with trade unions to encourage membership.

In 2009/10 the Union Development Zone will:

- Undertake a mapping exercise of learners who fit in to the categories of work based learners and apprentices.
- Work with umbrella bodies to develop formal representative structures
- Develop a set of resources for use by

## Future of Students' unions

Students' unions are facing massive threats and challenges over the coming years. Threats to block grant funding and questions of legitimacy posed by parent institutions could create a tough operating environment. Unions will also need to be able to demonstrate their impact on students and wider society. Many unions have been taking part in the Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI) over the last few years and this needs to be expanded further.

In 2009/10 the Union Development Zone Will:

- Produce key briefings and resources relating to securing block grants in tough financial circumstances.
- Explore the possibility of creating formulas to calculate these grants with sector partners and SUs themselves.
- Issue the NUS code of good governance and relationship charter following a two year development programme.
- Encourage more unions to take part in SUEI
- Undertake a piece of research to help SUs demonstrate their value and Impact
- Continue work around governance and charity registration, producing further briefings on the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) when it is available

## Student Activities

Participation in all areas of student activities eg. Sports, societies, media and volunteering provides great opportunities for personal development. NUS would like to support these activities by providing hubs of best practice. There are lots of other national organisations involved in supporting these activities such as BUCS, the SRA and NASTA.

In 2009/10 the Union Development Zone Will:

- Use the new student movement extranet to build an online resource hub relating to support for student activities.
- Create a brand new summer training course specifically for student activities officers.
- Identify and meet with all other national umbrella organisations to share areas of common interest to properly support unions at a national level.
- Undertake research into part time and post graduate engagement in student activities

## Other areas of work

Other work committed to over the course of 2009/10

- Olympic engagement project – work with 100 students' unions to get thousands of students inspired by and engaged with the London 2012 Olympic games
- Supporting 2<sup>nd</sup> year officers – Help sabbatical officers who have been re-elected by providing resources and training to push them to achieve more on behalf of their members
- Supporting council chairs – hold a training course specifically for independent council chairs to support them in their role of holding officers accountable and creating real policy debates in their unions.
- Build a non-affiliates strategy to engage and support those not in NUS membership to hold referenda.
- Conduct a review into all NUS training, making sure it is fit for purpose.

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/uniondevelopment>

Officer Contact | VP Union Development  
[ed.marsh@nus.org.uk](mailto:ed.marsh@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | HE Union Development Officer  
[lewis.coakley@nus.org.uk@nus.org.uk](mailto:lewis.coakley@nus.org.uk@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | FE Learner Voice Coordinator  
[steve.coole@nus.org.uk@nus.org.uk](mailto:steve.coole@nus.org.uk@nus.org.uk)

Students' union evaluation initiative  
<http://www.suei.co.uk/>

# <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/welfare>



It is great to be reflecting on a very successful year for the welfare zone and after my successful re-election I am looking forward to another year of campaigning, not only winning on welfare but winning for students. I am very excited about the challenges ahead, the way in which we respond to these challenges we be key not only in terms of our impact but ultimately our success.

This year the welfare zone has continued to be a dynamic policy area housing, access to healthcare, sexual and mental health, students at work and the minimum wage, supporting students of faith, responsible drinking, tackling discrimination and pastoral care in both higher and further education.

The welfare zone also continues to support a range of partnership work with other nations, zones and sections; examples include initiations, student's parents, community and neighbourhood relations, as well as meeting the needs of non traditional students.

Annual conference this year had another exciting and lively debate on many issues affecting students' welfare as well as the broader student experience. However the external environment which we work in has changed considerable since we met in Newcastle Gateshead. With a new coalition government, global economic uncertainty and huge pressure on public finances it is clear that NUS and the welfare campaign needs to be stronger than ever.

I look forward to seeing what your unions are doing at a local level and looking forward to working with you over the next year. I hope that your unions are actively engaged with the NUS welfare zone and together I know we can really make students life's better

**Ben Whittaker** | Vice President Welfare

## Protecting our homes and Communities

It is the right for every student to live in safe, affordable housing and play and active role as well as seen to be an integral part of the community.

## Accommodation cost

The cost of accommodation can often be a major barrier to accessing education. This year the welfare campaign conducted the accommodation cost survey which showed that the average rent price in halls of residence is now over £96 a week and that the number of affordable rooms has fallen. NUS will work to ensure that student unions can secure rent freezes and increase the range of affordable housing

### This year's activity

- Produce a range of briefings – providing SU with localised accommodation cost survey data
- Support Student Unions calling for rent freezes and look at additional support packages for Halls such as housing bursaries
- Create a 'future housing report' that looks at how institutions can source and create affordable housing without losing profit
- Campaign for the introduction of recommendations from the accommodation cost survey

## No to HMO Quotas

This year saw the government change the law to licence more student homes as part of the housing act. However the government also passed regulations that allow local authorities to use powers to restrict the number of students living in certain areas. NUS has and will continue to oppose these plans, firmly believing that student are a valuable part of our society and should have the same rights to live as any other members of the community.

### This year's activity

- Oppose any attempts to enforce local quotas
- Support student to engage and influence local authorities & local planning process.
- Lobby to sit on the National task force group for a national landlord register,

# NUS Democracy Involvement Guide

## Putting health at the heart of our unions

Health and wellbeing is becoming a key driver not only for our unions, institutions as well as the government. Last year NUS saw that this was a growing area of work with our active engagement in campaigns such as healthy FE, Sex worth talking about, and time for change but to name a few. Student Unions have the potential to make real impact on preventing ill health and poor wellbeing. NUS will be scoping how unions are best to lobby for better health a wellbeing services, facilities and campaigns on campuses.

This year's activity

- Create a range of briefings and campaign packs for health and wellbeing campaigns on campus.
- Continue to support the healthy FE program, Sex worth talking about , national Chlamydia screening and mental health campaigns
- To campaign for minimum levels of pastoral care
- Working with NUSSL this year to look at the issue of minimum pricing, how this could work in students' unions and practical issues around alcohol and night-time events in SUs.

## Championing diversity

Are Students Unions should be beacons of diversity; we have a proud history of supporting and promoting liberation and a strong commitment to anti fascism work, as well as reaching out to those that do not normally engage in our institutions and unions . NUS and student unions should be strong advocates for equality and diversity and should always ensure that it is at the heart of our unions

This year's activity

- Create a opportunities for student unions to come together and share best practice and develop knowledge on equality and diversity issues
- Continue to campaign for the equalisation of the minimum wage and working with the trade unions calling for a living wage for all and better right for student workers
- Extend the work of student parents to those with caring responsibilities

## Defending cuts, building strong Unions

This year government spending will be dramatically cut as deficit reduction plans are introduced. As a result many of the vital services that students' need in their non academic life could be under threat. Additionally we know that student unions are having to make some very difficult decisions about their future services, Students Unions' welfare and advice services are key to our success as campaigning organisations.

This year's activity

- Work with AMOSSHE and NAMSS to campaign against cuts to student services
- Create a range of resources that identify opportunities for collaborations, new enterprises and partnerships in welfare services
- Work to secure national data collection in students unions to enhance campaigning effectiveness
- Run a range welfare activist training days for part time officers, student activists and campaigners

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/welfare>

Officer Contact | Vice President Welfare  
[ben.whitaker@nus.org.uk](mailto:ben.whitaker@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | Research/Policy Officer  
[sarah.wayman@nus.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wayman@nus.org.uk)

**Faith on campus project**  
[faith@nus.org.uk](mailto:faith@nus.org.uk)

**Student Crime project**  
[crime@nus.org.uk](mailto:crime@nus.org.uk)

## student sections

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/international>  
<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/matureandparttime>  
<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/postgraduate>

The student sections of NUS work specifically on issues of concern to a particular section of the student community. They each have an annual conference, an elected committee and a programme of work and campaigns.

### International Students

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/international>  
Officer Contact- International Students' Officer  
Christina.yan-zhang@nus.org.uk  
Staff Contact- Research & Policy Officer Liz.williams@nus.org.uk  
Rep: Joy Elliott

### Mature and Part Time Students

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/matureandparttime>  
Email [matureandparttime@nus.org.uk](mailto:matureandparttime@nus.org.uk)  
Reps- Trevor Dallimore-Wright  
Sean Rillo-Rackza  
Staff Contact- Head of Social Policy [david.malcolm@nus.org.uk](mailto:david.malcolm@nus.org.uk)

### Postgraduate Students

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/postgraduate>  
Email [postgraduate@nus.org.uk](mailto:postgraduate@nus.org.uk)  
Reps: Dante Micheaux and Tobin Webb  
Staff Contact- [alex.bols@nus.org.uk](mailto:alex.bols@nus.org.uk)



Christina Yan - Zhang  
International Students Officer



Joy Elliott  
International Students  
Representative



Trevor Dallimore-Wright :  
Mature & part Time  
member



Sean Rillo-Raczka :  
Mature & part Time  
member



Paul Tobin  
Postgraduate  
Member



Dante Micheaux  
Postgraduate  
Member

## regions

NUS in England is divided into four regions and these are organised operationally to provide the best possible service to CMs. Across the country, this network of local staff teams, in four 'super-regions', providing direct, on the ground, support to unions. These consist of a manager who develops and maintains a regional organising strategy; regional officers/organisers and development workers, who provide and co-ordinate networks, training, coaching, visits, briefings and advice; learning and development advisors who lead on training, coaching and learning opportunities and events and membership officers who focus on maintaining our membership database and information, and organising regional events.

These staff teams:

- deliver on the ground support for your and NUS' campaigns
- organise and deliver training events to unions in the regions. Regional staff can provide in-house and regional training events tailored to the needs of your union or the region as a whole;
- encourage the development of students' unions and officers within each region;
- run training for FE colleges on a regional basis;
- assist with union elections;
- maintain and build links with other local organisations, eg trade unions and Learning and Skills Councils;
- promote NUS within the regions.

You can expect to have regular contact with your regional staff through phone calls, emails and visits, as well as regular mailings and newsletters.

You will also be allocated a "first point of contact" staff member for direct liaison purposes.

However, you don't have to wait for regional staff to contact you – we're always glad to hear from you to find out what your union is up to or provide any support required.

Details of your regional team can be found on [www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/regions](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/about/regions)

[nusmidlandsandeast@nus.org.uk](mailto:nusmidlandsandeast@nus.org.uk)

Covers government regions of East midlands, west midlands and east of England

[nuslondon@nus.org.uk](mailto:nuslondon@nus.org.uk)

Covers the government region of London

[nusnorth@nus.org.uk](mailto:nusnorth@nus.org.uk)

Covers government regions of north east, north west, and yorks and humber

[nussouth@nus.org.uk](mailto:nussouth@nus.org.uk)

Covers government regions of south west and south east

## pro-

### Projects to get involved with...

NUS hosts and runs a number of externally funded or partnership national projects that are designed to assist unions in various ways. Further details of those run by NUS UK are detailed below- in addition there are additional projects in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland details of which are available from the relevant national office.

**SUEI** is a unique quality assessment model that assists in improving the services and activities delivered to members of Students' Unions by indicating areas for continuous improvement.

<http://www.suei.co.uk/>

**Technology in Learner Voice**- Helping you to reach hard to reach learners to get their voice heard in FE

**Greener Living**- helping unions roll out environmental projects that deliver behaviour change.  
[olivia.knight-adams@nus.org.uk](mailto:olivia.knight-adams@nus.org.uk)

**Internationalising Students' Unions**- helping unions to become more focussed on international students  
[joanna.purkis@nus.org.uk](mailto:joanna.purkis@nus.org.uk)

**Faith on campus**- helping unions handle faith issues and ensuring unions become more inclusive  
[kat.luckcock@nus.org.uk](mailto:kat.luckcock@nus.org.uk)

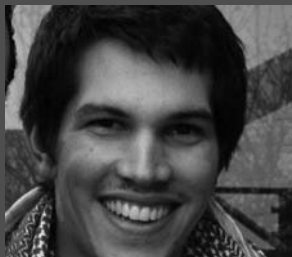
**Student Crime**- helping unions ensure that students don't become victims of crime whilst at college or university  
[crime@nus.org.uk](mailto:crime@nus.org.uk)

**Good Governance Project** - helping students' unions improve their governance and institutional relationship  
[karen.edwards@nus.org.uk](mailto:karen.edwards@nus.org.uk)



"Photographs by Three Faiths Forum, 2009"

## your representatives



The “Block of 15” are a set of non-portfolio representatives on the National Executive Council.

It’s their job to get out and about into colleges representing your views on the National Executive Council. They take on various duties throughout the year.

You can contact any of them on [firstname.surname@nus.org.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@nus.org.uk)

**From Top (L-R)** Mark Bergfeld, Lynne Brown, Thea Graham, Thomas Graham, Dannie Grufferty, Sophia James, Fatima Junaid, Joshua McKenzie, Pete Mercer, John Peart, James Lee Pickin, Liam Preston, Javed Anjum Sheikh, Ryain Wain, Rachel Wenstone.

## nus staff

Many unions have staff- but your affiliation fee gives you access to approximately 50 staff based at NUS central office and more based in regional and special region offices, many of whom have significant knowledge in key areas that will be helpful to you throughout your year in office.

To reach any staff member contact NUS on 0871 221 8221 or email [nusuk@nus.org.uk](mailto:nusuk@nus.org.uk)

Alternatively you can visit nus connect for detailed information about particular resources and the appropriate staff contact.

Outlined below is a summary of NUS activities where NUS staff are available to provide support, resources and advice. This is not an exhaustive list of staff functions and you can contact NUS if you have a query around any area not covered here.

### **Membership Development**

The Membership Development Directorate is responsible for supporting NUS' 600 member students' unions across the UK; aiming to develop and strengthen students' unions. Support comes in the form of training to elected officers and campaigners in students' unions, such as the officer development programme, to advice and development in key areas such as charity law, participation, democracy and governance.

Director: Emma Cox [emma.cox@nus.org.uk](mailto:emma.cox@nus.org.uk)

The Directorate is divided into three units - NUS North, Midlands and East; South and London and the Membership Development Unit.

Located in NUS' London headquarters, the Membership Development unit works closely with regional teams to assess needs in NUS' member unions and tailor solutions to the relevant issues. This could include anything from specialised training to analysis of student election trends across the UK or to legal work on governance and compliance. The unit includes NUS' further education voice coordinator, higher education development officer, students' union evaluation initiative staff, some project staff, a learning and development advisor and a projects officer.

Membership Development Manager [ben.ward@nus.org.uk](mailto:ben.ward@nus.org.uk)

### **Campaigns and Strategy**

The Campaigns and Strategy Directorate provides the research, evidence and strategy to deliver NUS' campaigning goals as directed by NUS' elected leadership and which concern all students. NUS has priority campaigns in education funding and health and housing as well as campaigning work in areas such as equality, women's rights, representation of students with disabilities, black students and the environment. It is broadly divided into three units in addition to NUS Scotland, which also forms part of the directorate.

Director: Jim Dickinson- [jim.dickinson@nus.org.uk](mailto:jim.dickinson@nus.org.uk)

The Education and Quality Team includes a student feedback coordinator and assistant who drive NUS' policy on the National Student Survey (NSS), a head of education and quality, policy officer for further education and an education research assistant. The team's aim is to develop and further FE and HE education policy with students and student officers while working with NUS' partners in both sectors, and the government, to implement them.  
Head of Education and Quality [alex.bols@nus.org.uk](mailto:alex.bols@nus.org.uk)

The Social Policy Unit provides staff support for NUS' Liberation Campaigns as well as research on student welfare. It includes a head of unit, policy officer (welfare), as well as liberation, research and development officers for the Women's, LGBT, Disabled Students' and Black Students campaigns.  
Head of Social Policy [david.malcolm@nus.org.uk](mailto:david.malcolm@nus.org.uk)

The Political Strategy Unit focuses on campaigning, media, public relations and lobbying. Managed by the head of political strategy, the Unit includes a national campaigns organiser, a political officer, a political strategy support officer, trade union partnerships officer, a press officer and a public affairs officer.  
Head of Political Strategy [vic.langer@nus.org.uk](mailto:vic.langer@nus.org.uk)

The Campaigns and Strategy Directorate also includes a democratic services coordinator who ensures the fair and smooth running of the many democratic events in the NUS calendar.  
Democratic Services Coordinator [nick.smith@nus.org.uk](mailto:nick.smith@nus.org.uk)

### **Communications & Marketing**

The Communications & Marketing team work across all NUS directorates providing the tools and expertise to successfully communicate NUS' work and messages to members, students and other stakeholders.

The unit includes web and publications staff, design, marketing and works closely with both NUS and NUS Services.  
Director- [simon.rayner@nus.org.uk](mailto:simon.rayner@nus.org.uk)

## liberation

One of the ways in which NUS works to promote equality and diversity is via the four liberation campaigns – Disabled Students; Women; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans; and Black Students. These campaigns are for the rights of students who belong to, or are perceived as belonging to, a particular social group.

The four campaigns are convened by officers elected at autonomous conferences, who work throughout the year to provide support to officers in individual students' unions and campaign at a national level on behalf of their members.

### How to get involved

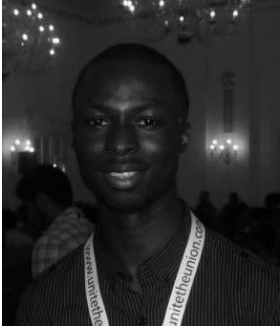
Direct involvement in liberation is open to anyone represented by that particular campaign. Those involved with the LGBT, Disabled Students' or Black Students' Campaigns self-define as an individual within these groups in order to participate. Women's Campaign activities are only open to women.

Here are a few ideas as to how to get involved in these campaigns:

- volunteer as a representative or organise to send a representative from your union to attend a particular liberation campaign conference to debate and vote on NUS policy in that area
- keep up-to-date with liberation campaign activities at [www.nusconnect.org.uk](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk)
- handbooks and other support publications are published regularly. Download your copy from [www.nusconnect.org.uk](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk) or find out whether you can order a hard copy from NUS
- find out if there is a monthly e-newsletter and other email alerts that you can sign up to. Contact the relevant liberation unit giving your name, email, position and students' union
- order campaign materials. Put the posters up in your union, distribute the postcards and stickers to local students and use the campaign toolkits and briefings to inform your local campaigns (see [www.nusconnect.org.uk](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk) for more information)
- attend one of the networking and campaign events (see [www.nusconnect.org.uk](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk) for upcoming events)



## Black Students



The NUS Black Students' Campaign is the largest organisation of Black students in Europe representing students of African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean descent. We campaign to raise awareness of issues affecting Black students at a local and national level.

### **The need for black representation**

In a climate of so-called 'war on terror', escalating racist stop and search, concerted media racism and the growing fascist BNP, having Black representation means that the issues affecting our communities are more likely to be put on the agenda. This allows us to be instrumental in advocating change. Black students make up over 20% of NUS' membership, yet we are amongst the least represented in its democratic structures.

The NUS Black Students' Campaign facilitates an increased engagement of Black students inside their own union's structures. Unless students' unions redress the under-representation, Black students will continue to experience disadvantage, missing out on vital academic and welfare support, instead remaining on the fringe of union activities and failing to realise the full benefits of having a union that can support them.

### **How do we work ?**

Our work-plan is set out in a Priority Campaigns document (available on-line). There are four key areas and for each we have measurable goals that we expect to achieve in partnership with students and union officers. These areas are:

#### Increasing black representation

The campaign works to address the chronic under-representation of Black students in students' unions and NUS. The priority campaign of the year calls for a Black Students' Officer in every union and aims to achieve increased representation throughout the student movements' decision making structures to reflect the number of Black students. Anecdotal evidence shows that where Black Students' Officer posts have been created, participation of Black students increases and issues like fighting racism and campaigns for anonymous marking; for a prayer room; voter registration, and recognising Black history are prioritised. The campaign also supports Black students standing for sabbatical positions and NUS delegate elections

#### One campus many cultures & rise against racism

We are building a strong anti-racist movement on campuses with Rise Against Racism activities and work with Unite Against Fascism (UAF) to counter the rise of the British National Party (BNP), who demonise Muslims and asylum seekers and call for an all-white Britain. We campaign to implement No Platform Policies at student unions. We work to set the correct framework on how

to fight terrorism whilst defending civil liberties, tackle gun and knife crime whilst not scapegoating entire communities, and support immigrants and international students and not isolating them. We also lobby for the full implementation of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act and other equality legislation.

#### Challenging inequality in education

As students get into more debt with the burden of rising fees, Black students face additional barriers in education: research shows that Black students are less likely to get a first in their degree and have lower grades when anonymous marking is not in place, have higher drop-out rates and more exclusion and are less satisfied about their overall university experience according to the National Student Survey. As graduates, Black people are less likely to have job than white peers within 6 months of graduating, and then expect to earn up to 9% less for the same work within five years. We partner with key organisations like the Equality Challenge Unit, University College Union and the trade unions because strong alliances are essential to our strategy for challenging inequality. The NUS Black Student Campaign, has begun its own research into Black Students experience and the findings will be launched in the new year.

#### International peace and justice

The need for an ethical and responsible world — free from illegal occupations and war — is acutely understood by Black students. We continue to build links with student groups across the world to show solidarity and raise awareness amongst students. Some organisations we work with: development charity Action Aid; the Jubilee Debt Campaign for fair trade rules and ending illegal debt; the Stop the War Coalition; the Palestine Solidarity Campaign to defend the right of all students to education, ending the illegal siege of Gaza and peace in the Middle East based on international law; the Anti-Slavery Movement for justice in Africa and the Venezuela Information Centre. With Black countries feeling the brunt of climate change, we work to campaign against climate chaos and fair-trade provision.

#### How you can get involved

To get involved in the Campaign you can attend the winter (training) and summer (policy) conferences, campaign ideas, resources and advice on activating your students. You can also attend the clubs and societies training days, or Black Women's, Black LGBT and Black Disabled students days. Individual students and all union officers can contact the Campaign for help in developing your Black groups, for diversity training, or campaign materials, advice and speakers. We also produce a monthly e-newsletter which you can sign up to on NUS Connect.

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/black>

Officer Contact | Black Students officer kan-ja.sesay@nus.org.uk

Staff Contact | Liberation Research & Development Officer - Black Students mandeep.rupra@nus.org.uk

## Disabled Students



The NUS Disabled Students' Campaign is the largest single organisation in the UK run by disabled students, for disabled students. We have only just celebrated our tenth anniversary as a liberation campaign within the NUS, but we fulfil a crucial role. We exist to challenge disablism wherever it rears its head on campuses and beyond. We fight for the rights of all disabled people and raise awareness about the issues they face in everyday life. By all disabled people, we mean anyone who defines as disabled, whether they be physically disabled or have some hidden disability, such as mental health issues.

We work on the social model of disability. The social model works on the idea that a person is disabled by society because of a particular physical or hidden impairment they may have. This is because society fails to understand this condition, and put measures in place to allow the independence and dignity of a disabled person on a par with their non-disabled peers.

What have we done? We have had many successes, but there are some notable ones. We've raised mental health awareness and had significant influence in the writing of the Mental Health Act. We've campaigned tirelessly to get the amount of money disabled students receive to ease their passage through education increased. We have a place on Disabled Students' Allowance Quality and Assurance Group and are right up to date with all the latest developments.

We hold a Disabled Students' Conference every year, usually in the spring. This gives disabled students from all over the country a chance to take part in debates on the policy of our campaign and to elect and even stand for Disabled Students' Committee. There are places for 2 open representatives, for 2 womens' representative, for a black representative, for an international representative and for a LGBT representative. This committee makes sure the Disabled Students' Officer is keeping to what was decided at Conference throughout the year, and to help the campaign.

### What will the campaign be doing this year?

We'll be holding 2 Disabled Activist Academy Training Days. These are aimed at Disabled Students' and Welfare Officers in unions, helping them to create a more accessible union to allow disabled students to be active wherever they study. We'll also be running 2 Mental Health Awareness Days, again aimed at Disabled Students' and Welfare officers of individual unions. These will help these officers to be more aware about mental health issues faced by students, and to campaign effectively for support to be put in place should an individual want such support. We'll be continuing with our Personal Care Campaign, which campaigns for adequate personal care to be provided for all disabled students needing it as soon as they reach their place of study. We will aim to make sure that the NUS becomes a Two Ticks Employer, a scheme run by Jobcentre Plus which ensures non-disablist employment practices. We're going to be looking into studying abroad, and what support there is or what support there should be for disabled students wanting to study abroad. We're even going to get our NUS president, Aaron Porter, to use a wheelchair for a day – now it's in print here, he definitely can't get out of it!

These are just some of the things we want to do this year. Keep an eye on the website for further updates, and for video blogs from your Disabled Students' Committee and Officer. Here are some details of where to see what we're doing, and how to get in contact with us.

### Rupy Kaur, Disabled Students' Officer

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/disabled>

Officer Contact | Disabled Students officer  
rupy.kaur@nus.org.uk

Staff Contact | Liberation Research &  
Development Officer - Disabled Students  
kathleen.grehan@nus.org.uk

## LGBT Students



### WHO WE ARE

We are the largest democratic movement of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans students in Europe and exist to defend and promote the rights of all LGBT students in the UK. We combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia on campus and in wider society, and fight under-representation through empowerment and training of LGBT students.

### WHAT WE DO

As a Campaign we produce loads of materials, briefings and toolkits that are free for you to download or order, hold demonstrations and protests throughout the year, and run national campaigns against homophobic discrimination. Our main activities are listed below:

#### Donation Not Discrimination

Gay and bisexual men are banned from donating blood for life in the UK. We believe that basing blood donor selection criteria on sexual orientation rather than actual risk is discriminatory and perpetuates the myth that AIDS is a “gay disease”. We are campaigning against this ban by co-ordinating information pickets and petitions when the National Blood Service goes onto campuses, encouraging those who are allowed to give blood under the current rules to do so, and engaging in debate with the National Blood Service and their advisory committee.

#### Love Without Borders

LGBT people in the UK have won many rights over the past few years. But around the world, many LGBT people do not share our rights. The Love Without Borders campaign encourages LGBT societies to make links with international LGBT students, and play an important part in something much bigger – the international LGBT rights movement. We also fight for the rights of LGBT asylum seekers to escape deportation to homophobic countries.

#### Fighting Discrimination in Education and Healthcare

Estrangement is a devastating problem for some LGBT students and we are lobbying the Student Loans Company to implement the recommendations of our Estrangement Report. We fight against all fees and education cuts, and encourage LGBT societies to lobby their institutions to install anonymous marking systems and anti-bullying policies. Alongside Stonewall, Terrence Higgins Trust and Unison we have launched the LGBT Healthcare Manifesto, detailing 10 demands for a more LGBT-inclusive healthcare system. The manifesto calls for training on LGBT issues for junior doctors, better sexual health provision for LGBT women, a review of the treatment protocol for trans people under the age of 18 and much more.

### Anti-Fascism

The rise of fascism in this country threatens the diversity of our students' unions and the society we live in. Fascist groups like the British National Party (BNP) advocate race hatred and have described AIDS as a “friendly disease because blacks and gays have it”. NUS LGBT, alongside Unite Against Fascism (UAF), launched Love Music Hate Homophobia at NUS LGBT Conference 2009. This anti-fascist initiative seeks to promote fundraising music gigs and events across the UK with the proceeds going to UAF in the fight against fascism and the BNP. We also promote “No Platform” policies in students' unions and organise anti-fascist marches across the UK.

### Get involved in our “Reclaim Pride” Campaign this Summer

This Summer we will be having a presence at many Pride festivals across the UK. We stand for campaigning and representative Prides and stand against the increasing commercialisation and depoliticization of Pride festivals. Keep checking the website to see how you can get involved!

### Come along to an Activist Training Day with members of your LGBT Society

In November we will hold Activist Training Days in every English region, Scotland and Wales. They are free, and anyone can attend. The training days contain a variety of training sessions and workshops from how to run LGBT campaigns on campus, support your LGBT societies, and how to get involved with the campaigns of NUS LGBT.

### Send a delegation to NUS LGBT Conference 2011

Next Summer we will hold our annual conference which is attended by over 300 LGBT delegates from unions all over the country. There our national committee and officers are elected and conference debates and votes on policy for the campaign for the coming year.

### Keep in contact with us throughout the year

Make sure to frequently check our website and form your LGBT society and LGBT Officer of our activities. If you have a question about representing LGBT students on your campus, how to challenge homophobia in your college or university, or anything relating to the NUS LGBT Campaign, we want to hear from you!

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/LGBT>

Officer Contact | LGBT officer (Open Place)  
[alan.bailey@nus.org.uk](mailto:alan.bailey@nus.org.uk)

Officer Contact | LGBT officer (Womens Place)  
[vicki.baars@nus.org.uk](mailto:vicki.baars@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | Liberation Research & Development Officer - LGBT Students  
[geraldine.smith@nus.org.uk](mailto:geraldine.smith@nus.org.uk)

## Women Students



Hi everyone, I'm Liv Bailey, your National Women's Officer.

The NUS Women's Campaign exists to represent and empower women students, to combat sexism in all its forms and to ensure that women's voices are heard and valued. It is an autonomous campaign within the NUS. This means that its policy is debated and decided upon only by self defining women members and the campaign is led entirely by women.

I want to urge you all to consider getting involved in the women's campaign this year. For you to get involved don't have to be a women's officer in making the lives of your women students better. Please feel free to get in touch with me for advice, support, campaign materials, speakers, events and ideas throughout your year in office.

Liv xx

### STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STUDENTS

This year, the women's campaign will be prioritising our campaign against violence against women. The NUS Women's Campaign recently launched the Hidden Marks report in to women students experience of violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault. We will be using this research as the launch pad for a massive campaign against violence this year – and we'll need your help. Within that campaign, we will be focussing on the following five areas:

**Zero tolerance** to sexual harassment in unions. We will be asking unions to sign up to a zero tolerance policy – want to sign up? Just drop me an email.

**Fighting for cross institutional violence against women policies.** We will be producing an guide, and interactive CDrom, to help institutions develop their own policies.

**Ending objectification in our unions.** We will be continuing our campaign against beauty pageants, lads mags and sexist marketing in student unions. If you hear of a beauty pageant, or Want to ban lads mags in your union – or just have any questions, get in touch.

**Peer support.** Our Hidden Marks research showed that victims of violence are most likely to talk to their friends. We want to work with unions to develop a national peer support network.

**Awareness.** We don't think that enough people understand that violence against women is a serious problem for students. We want to run an awareness campaign to highlight the

problem, to show women that they are not alone, and to signpost where help is available.

### REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN YOUR UNION

The NUS Women's Campaign runs the 'I WILL' campaign to try and tackle the under-representation of women in student unions, and will also be focussing on this campaign this year. We want every union to have a women's officer, and we want to help unions achieve equal representation of men and women in their executive teams. Why don't you have a look at your union, identify the problems, and then make a plan to try and get more women involved? Why don't you also come along to our I WILL training day to find out more tips for how to tackle the issue?

### SUPPORT YOUR WOMEN'S GROUP

One of the best ways to support women students is to ensure that your union has an active women's group, and a well supported women's officer. The Women's Campaign provides a wide range of support and materials for women's officers and women's groups. Do you have a women's officer and a women's group in your union? If you don't, why don't you set one up?

### SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT PARENTS

The NUS Women's Campaign will continue to work to support student parents this year. Following on from our Meet the Parents report, we have produced a series of briefings and we have also launched the Save Our Nurseries campaign to fight closures of student nurseries.

Get in touch if you'd like to support the student parents campaign this year, and keep your eyes peeled for your institution trying to close your nursery – unfortunately they are often the first thing to go when cuts come knocking.

### OUR WORK DOESN'T STOP THERE...

I have highlighted just three of the campaigns that the women's campaign will be running this year – but our work does not stop there. We will also be running campaigns on equal pay, on rights for women immigrants and on prostitution and sex work amongst the student population.

The campaign can help you with any feminist campaign that you want to run – so do get in touch.

### SOME DATES TO REMEMBER... (see back page for more)

The National Reclaim the Night march 27 November 2010  
International Women's Day 8 March 2011

### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

The women's campaign mailing list is the best way to find out what we are up to. Join the list by adding your name to a sign up sheet, or by emailing [olivia.bailey@nus.org.uk](mailto:olivia.bailey@nus.org.uk) with the words 'mailing list' in the subject line.

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/women>

Officer Contact | national womens' officer [olivia.bailey@nus.org.uk](mailto:olivia.bailey@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact | Liberation Research & Development Officer - Women Students  
[minda.burgos-lukes@nus.org.uk](mailto:minda.burgos-lukes@nus.org.uk)

## Nations

Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are known as “nations” of NUS and have autonomous policy-making powers. They each hold a conference, where (one or more) sabbatical officers are elected and policy is set.

The Presidents of NUS Scotland, UCMC/NUS Wales and NUS-USI, in addition to their own responsibilities, also sit on the National Executive Council and are joined by an additional rep from every nation. These officers are accountable to the conferences that elected them.

More information on the activities of each nation is available from the relevant national office.



<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/scotland>

NUS Scotland represents the interests of over 500,000 students in Scottish tertiary education. We have our own Scottish Executive Committee (SEC), including a full-time sabbatical President, Depute President and Women’s Officer, and our own staff, policy and events to specifically represent Scottish students and assist Scottish students’ associations.

NUS Scotland runs campaigns to target Members of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive (government) and has links with many national organisations in the tertiary education sector, such as the Scottish Funding Council and Association of Scotland’s Colleges and Universities Scotland. We also work with the media, trade unions and other campaigning organisations, run training and events for student officers, assist with students’ association development, provide information, briefings and campaign materials on many issues and ensure that the student voice is heard across Scotland.

More Information:

NUS Scotland, 29 Forth Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3LE

t: 0131 556 6598

f: 0131 557 5679

e: [mail@nus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:mail@nus-scotland.org.uk)

Officer Contacts:

President: [liam.burns@nus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:liam.burns@nus-scotland.org.uk) (pictured)

Womens Officer: [Kelley.temple@nus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:Kelley.temple@nus-scotland.org.uk)

Depute: [Jennifer.cadiz@nus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer.cadiz@nus-scotland.org.uk)

Staff Contacts:

Director [mike.day@nus.org.uk](mailto:mike.day@nus.org.uk)

Head of Membership Development:

[natalie.maver@nus.org.uk](mailto:natalie.maver@nus.org.uk)



<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/wales>

NUS Wales is the largest democratic organisation in Wales, representing 250,000 students in both the further and higher education sectors. We are an autonomous ‘special region’ of NUS UK, which means we set our own policy, elect our own Executive and can campaign on issues that affect students studying in Wales.

Over the coming year the agenda of NUS Wales promises to be both challenging and exciting. Throughout the year we will continue to uphold our reputation for high-quality training and campaigning. NUS Wales has a vital role in protecting the rights of Welsh students. Despite significant victories to date, we still have much to achieve. Devolution can deliver for students in Wales and we will continue to take our demands to the Assembly and Westminster.

The new Executive will pick up on mandates from Spring Conference and ensure the student agenda in Wales remains firmly in the public arena. The success of our work depends upon the commitment from every students’ union officer in Wales to take up the challenge of the year ahead.

More Information:

NUS Wales, 13 Lambourne Crescent, Cardiff Business Park, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5GF

t: 029 2068 0070

f: 029 2075 7083

e: [office@nus-wales.org.uk](mailto:office@nus-wales.org.uk)

mailto:[office@nus-wales.org.uk](mailto:office@nus-wales.org.uk)

Officer Contacts:

President: [katie.dalton@nus-wales.org.uk](mailto:katie.dalton@nus-wales.org.uk) (pictured)

Depute: [michaela.neild@nus-wales.org.uk](mailto:michaela.neild@nus-wales.org.uk)

Womens: [estelle.hart@nus-wales.org.uk](mailto:estelle.hart@nus-wales.org.uk)

Staff Contacts:

Director [gail.edwards@nus.org.uk](mailto:gail.edwards@nus.org.uk)

Development and Training Officer [rhus.dart@nus.org.uk](mailto:rhus.dart@nus.org.uk)



<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/nus-usi>

NUS-USI was formed in 1972 as a result of negotiations between NUS (National Union of Students UK) and USI (Union of Students in Ireland)

regarding students’ unions affiliating to either National Union depending on their political

affiliations. It was found that the best solution was to have all unions in the North of Ireland affiliated to both National Unions. Through a protocol agreement, NUS-USI was established to help combat particular problems of sectarianism encountered in the North of Ireland.

There are over 200,000 students in Northern Ireland and NUS-USI represents them at a number of levels. We campaign on their behalf on many issues, including student hardship, health, prejudice and accommodation. We also provide support to students’ unions across the North of Ireland in order for them to develop their own work through our research, training and development functions.

More Information:

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/nus-usi>

NUS-USI, 42 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7BY

t: 028 9024 4641

f: 028 9043 9659

e: [info@nistudents.org](mailto:info@nistudents.org)

Officer Contacts:

President: [ciarnan.helferty@nistudents.org](mailto:ciarnan.helferty@nistudents.org)

Staff Contacts:

Director [gail.ferguson@nistudents.org](mailto:gail.ferguson@nistudents.org)



<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/studentmedia>

Student media plays a fundamental role in student life today. Often they are the means by which students know what is going on in their union and so are able to feel part of it. Sometimes the media plays an important role in holding those who run the union to account.

Resources- NUS, with support from external partners, produce a number of key resources to aid and develop student media. We work continuously to improve their quality and quantity and encourage student media to submit resources that have aided their development so that others can share this knowledge.

Reception- In September NUS runs, in partnership with Amnesty International, a student media reception. This is your opportunity to meet editors, writers, presenters, managers and officers from across the UK.

Training- Every autumn NUS runs a one-day student media training event. As well as providing practical training in all media matters, the day will be an excellent networking opportunity where you will get a chance to meet journalists, editors, photographers, radio and TV station crews and managers from all over the country.

NUS Awards- These prestigious awards take place in June and encompass two student media awards; Student Journalist/Broadcaster of the Year and Best Student Media of the Year.

NUS/NUJ Cards- The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and NUS produce an identity card to accredited student journalists. Each student who applies must agree to abide by the NUJ Code of Conduct and must sign a declaration to this effect.

More Information:

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/studentmedia>

Officer Contact: Vice President Union Development:  
[ed.marsh@nus.org.uk](mailto:ed.marsh@nus.org.uk)

Staff Contact: Political Strategy Support Officer  
[lewis.cooper@nus.org.uk](mailto:lewis.cooper@nus.org.uk)

**NUS Press Office-** To contact the NUS Press unit for information, advice or guidance, email us at [pressoffice@nus.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nus.org.uk) or call us on 0871 221 8221, or out-of-hours on 07866 695 010



# NUS Democracy Involvement Guide



NUS Services is the commercial arm of NUS. NUS Services' primary role is to promote and protect the commercial interests of students' unions. NUS Services provides a range of services and structures designed to assist and augment local trading activity.

NUS Services' primary service is the Purchasing Consortium. Over 200 students' unions purchase collectively to achieve lower prices and attract higher promotional spends with major blue chip companies. Collectively unions have 386 bars and venues with 243 retail outlets.

**Mission-** To create, develop and sustain competitive advantages for member students' unions – reducing costs and maximising commercial revenues.

**Commerce with conscience-** In all of our dealings with stakeholders we drive forward market leading principles of corporate social responsibility and ethical transparency.

**Value for money-** Acting in a cost conscious and efficient manner while constantly increasing the value of our services to our stakeholders.

**For and by students-** A core belief in being student-led, democratic, equitable and being at the forefront of societal developments.

**Professional, receptive and knowledgeable-** Actively demonstrating our expertise in areas ranging from student knowledge to supply chain management, commercial development and customer and organisational support while being receptive to external initiatives.

**Contact details**  
NUS Services, Snape Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2NZ.  
Tel: 01625 413200 Fax: 01625 413400  
Email: [enquiries@nussl.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nussl.co.uk)



<http://www.endsleigh.co.uk>

Endsleigh Insurance Services Ltd was formed by NUS in 1965. Today Endsleigh operates as an independent company negotiating competitive insurance on behalf of students. NUS retains a stake in the company, and both the NUS President and Treasurer sit on the board, ensuring it remains fully accountable to the student movement.

Endsleigh is dedicated to servicing the diverse insurance needs of students unions. Its business to business arm, Endsleigh Business Insurance Services, arrange specially tailored schemes available exclusively to unions which are not only highly competitive in terms of premium, but also provide what they believe to be the widest and most relevant cover.

Their portfolio of products include: Block Halls of Residence insurance, combined insurance covering equipment, liabilities and money, Directors and Officers liability insurance and personal accident insurance for students involved in sport.

Although better known as the pre-eminent student insurance organisation in the UK, Endsleigh has expanded its expertise to provide for a broader market. Trading as 'independent insurance for career people', the formula of offering highly targeted niche products to the student community has been replicated with appropriate insurance products for graduates and professionals.

## Essential Dates for your Diary

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/events>

### Training

#### Understanding & Supporting Liberation

27th July 2010

Venue: De Montfort University, Leicester

#### Active Political Leadership 1 (ODP)

20th–23rd July 2010

Venue: University Lancaster

#### Delivering Change (ODP)

3rd–5th August 2010

Venue: Northumbria University

#### Driving Membership Participation (ODP)

4th - 6th August 2010

Venue: Loughborough University

#### Active Political Leadership 1 (ODP)

10th–13th August 2010

Venue: University of the West of England (UWE)

#### Building Better Students' Unions (ODP)

17th - 19th August 2010

Venue: University of Warwick

#### Delivering Change

18th - 20th August 2010

Venue: University of the West of England (UWE)

#### Trustees Academy

23rd and 24th August

Venue: Royal Holloway, Egham

#### Train the Trainer

1st - 3rd September 2009

Venue: Coventry University

#### Sister ACTivist activist training days

14 October 2010 (North)

18 October 2010 (South)

21 October 2010 (Midlands)

#### LGBT Activists Training

November 2009

Dates and venues: to be confirmed

#### I WILL Lead the Way training days

8 December 2010 (London)

25 January 2011 (Wales)

### Democratic Events & Deadlines

#### Zone Conferences

24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Venue: Liverpool

#### Black Students' Winter Conference

To be confirmed by Black Students' Committee

#### NUS Wales Winter Council

23rd November 2010

#### National Conference Zone Reports released

13th December 2010

#### NUS Wales Spring Conference

3rd - 4th March 2011

#### National Conference Close of Amendment and Motions

5pm 4th March 2011

#### Womens' Conference

15th - 17th March 2011

#### Students' Section Week

(Postgrad, Mature, International)

8th - 11th March 2011

#### Disabled Students' Conference

21st - 23rd March 2011

#### National Conference Close of Emergency Motion

5pm 1st April 2011

#### National Conference

12th–14th April 2011

#### LGBT Conference

29th April - 1st May 2011

#### Black Students' Summer Conference

May - to be confirmed by Black Students' Committee