

Starting a Society

Before you get started:
Follow us at [@roehampton](#) and [@rsusocieties](#)

Introduction

We're thrilled that you want to start a Society with us.

We have supported over 100 students a year to lead and create activities at Roehampton, leading to amazing memories, friendships, and initiatives on campus.

At RSU our Societies have received recognition within the University and nationally, even winning **two National Societies and Volunteering awards** in recent years.

We can't wait to hear your ideas.

The Activities Team - Roehampton Students' Union



Exploring Your Idea

To make sure your proposal is thought out, you may want to consider the following questions:

- **What's my vision?** You will need to articulate who the Society is for, and why it benefits them.
- **What's the cost?** Consider the start-up costs, this may include equipment costs or hiring instructors.
- **What's my commitment?** Society Leadership is very flexible, but you'll need to remember your studies come first. How much time can you dedicate to the Society?
- **Is it sustainable?** Any knowledge you hold which is essential to the Society, like a qualification in the activity, will need to be passed down once you've left.

Collecting 20 Signatures, and Network Mapping

What is network mapping, and why is it useful?

Network mapping is usually used in fundraising, and helps you identify all the people who may be able to help you in your fundraising efforts. However, you can also use it to help you identify **where to collect signatures** and generate interested members for your Society proposal.

First Step:

Write yourself in the middle of a sheet of paper.

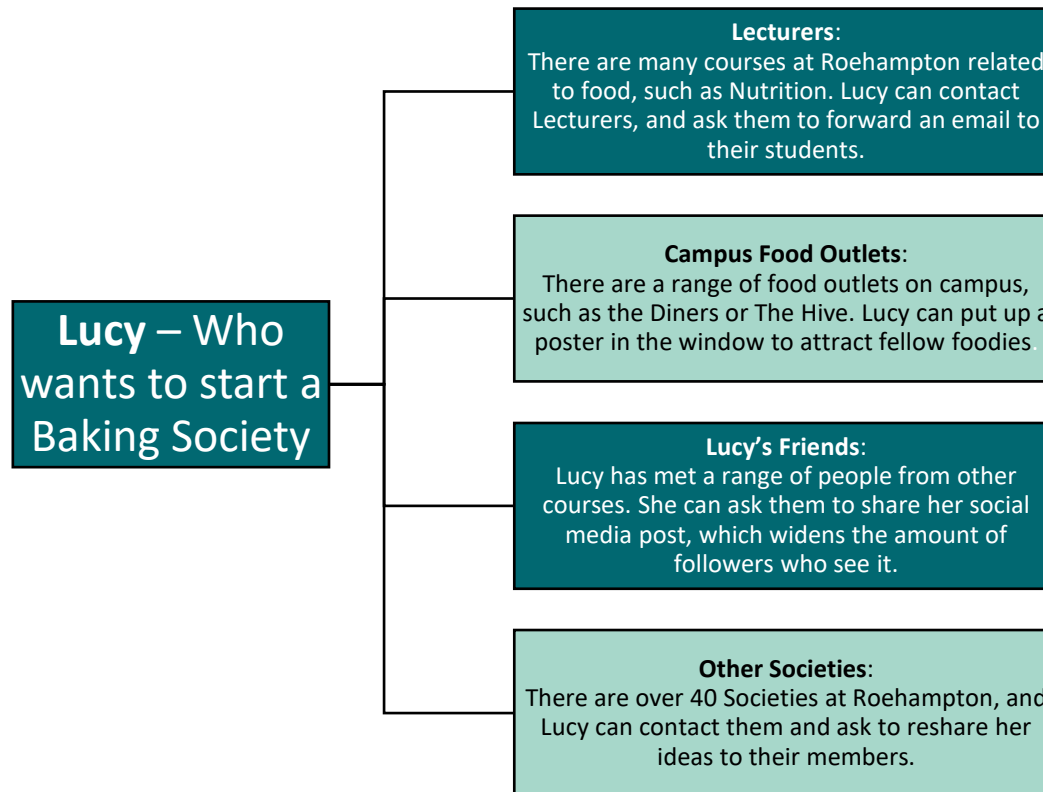
Second Step:

Ask yourself, who do you know at Roehampton? This could be another student, another Society, a member of staff, or a department - such as the Wellbeing Team, or your School. Once you've figured somebody out, write them down.

Third Step:

Make a list of all the ways this person could help you start a Society. For example: Can they reshare any advertisement you create? Do they have a physical space on campus to put advertisements? Can they help put you in touch with likeminded people?

Network Mapping: Finished Example



Submitting your Proposal

Once you have completed your Society proposal form, please return this to rsu@roehampton.ac.uk - or drop it in physically at RSU reception. This will be received by the Activities Team and responded to within **ten working days**.

Societies are not approved or denied on ideological grounds, but on the following 4 criteria:

- Are the signatures from students at Roehampton?
- Does it repeat the work of an existing Society or service?
- Is it feasible? If it is not, we'll usually invite you to rethink the idea rather than deny it outright
- Does it violate any RSU and Roehampton University policies, or UK Law?

If successful, we will invite you to a Volunteer Induction to kick-off your experience volunteering with us – and find out some more information about you and your goals!

Why not Adopt a Society?

We have a range of Societies that have become inactive. This can be for a few reasons, mainly students graduating or moving on.

You can check out a full list of Societies that are up for adoption on our RSU site by visiting the Start a Society page.

The key differences of adopting a Society rather than starting a new one include:

- **Money:** Adopting a Society that used to exist means the Society has money left over in its budget, this can range anywhere from £50 - £200 depending on the Society!
- **Ideas:** You'll benefit from the existing formula the Society may have had, such as regular events they may have done that proved successful. This means you don't need to create everything from scratch.
- **Logos and Admin:** The Society will already have logos, an old RSU page and email, and maybe social media for you to take over.

Please email your finished Society Proposals to rsu@roehampton.ac.uk, or drop them off at RSU reception (open Monday to Friday)