

Bye-Law 1: Membership of the Students' Union

1.1. Purpose

- 1.2. This Bye-Law sets out the categories of membership of Roehampton Students' Union, the rights attached to each category, the process for opting out of Student Membership, and the circumstances in which membership ceases.

1.3. Membership Categories

- 1.4. The Union has the following categories of membership:

- 1.4.1. Student Members
- 1.4.2. Associate Members

1.5. Student Members

- 1.6. The Student Members of the Union are those persons who meet the definition of Student Member set out in Article 7.3 of the Articles of Association, read together with Article 2.1 of the University of Roehampton's Articles of Association.
- 1.7. For operational purposes, the University shall notify the Union of its current student population at the start of each academic year and promptly upon any material change, to enable the Union to maintain an accurate and up-to-date register of Student Members
- 1.8. The following are rights which membership of the Union confers on Student Members:
- 1.8.1. To have access to, and use of, facilities and services provided by the Union for its members.
 - 1.8.2. To become full members of student groups, and to hold elected office within such a group.
 - 1.8.3. To participate in Union affairs and democracy (i.e. participate in democratic meetings, vote in elections, referenda and other ballots, or stand as a candidate for or hold office in the Union including Programme or School Representatives).
 - 1.8.4. To represent Student Members at external conferences, such as the National Union of Students.
 - 1.8.5. To exercise the rights of a Company Law Member as set out in Article 8 of the Articles of Association.

- 1.9. Student Members cease to be members in the circumstances set out in Article 7.4 of the Articles of Association.

1.10. Withdrawing from Student Membership (Opting Out)

- 1.11. If a student wishes to exercise the right to opt-out from Student Membership, they shall inform the University or Students' Union through the defined process on the Union's website.
- 1.12. A student who has opted-out may re-join as a Student Member by notifying the Students' Union of their wish to do so through the defined process on the Union's website.
- 1.13. Opted-Out Student Members shall be entitled to use the services of the Union, subject to such Bye-Laws as may from time to time be in force, including access to Union

advisory and welfare services. To enable this, they will automatically be granted free Affiliate Membership of the Union.

1.14. Opted-Out Student Members shall not be entitled:

- 1.14.1. To participate in Union affairs and democracy (i.e. participate in democratic meetings, vote in elections, referenda and other ballots, or stand as a candidate for or hold office in the Union including Sabbatical Officers, Programme or School Representatives).
- 1.14.2. To hold elected committee positions in student groups, or on any Students' Union working group or committee.
- 1.14.3. To exercise the rights of a Company Law Member as set out in Article 8 of the Articles of Association, as opted-out students do not hold Company Law Membership of the Union.

1.15. Associate Members

1.16. The Trustees have established the following categories of associate membership in accordance with Article 8.5.2 of the Union's Articles of Association which may incur a fee:

- 1.16.1. Affiliate Membership – available to any persons employed by Roehampton University, Students' Union staff, any student that has opted out of membership to the Students' Union, members of the local public, and alumni.
- 1.16.2. Honorary Membership – this shall be awarded to individuals by the Board or a nominated subcommittee to any person or group who has made a significant positive contribution to the Students' Union, or to student life at Roehampton University.
- 1.16.3. Visiting Membership – available to any person with a temporary association with the University including but not limited to visiting students such as those on study abroad programmes, and exchange students such as those on Turing and Erasmus+ schemes.

1.17. The following are rights which membership of the Union confers on Associate Members:

- 1.17.1. To have access to, and use of, facilities and services provided by the Union for its members with possible restrictions or tariffs.
- 1.17.2. To hold associate membership of any Union student group.

1.18. Associate Members cease to be members upon:

- 1.18.1. Ceasing their association with the University.
- 1.18.2. Notifying the Students' Union in writing of their decision to resign their membership.
- 1.18.3. Non-payment or expiry of any set subscriptions.
- 1.18.4. A resolution of the Board.

1.19. Suspension and Termination of Rights

1.20. The Board may suspend or terminate any or all membership rights of any member on reasonable grounds, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and the Members' Disciplinary Policy. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the right to stand and vote in elections and to hold elected office. The Board may delegate

decisions under this clause in accordance with the Union's Scheme of Delegation, which shall set out the threshold above which matters must be escalated to the full Board. Any exercise of this power is subject to the rights of Student Members under company law and the Education Act 1994.

- 1.21. Membership rights under this Bye-Law do not override the regulations of Roehampton University. A member may not rely on their membership rights to circumvent action lawfully taken by the University. The statutory duties of officers and committees of the Union, and any requirements of the University's Code of Practice relating to the Students' Union, shall take precedence over the rights of all members, subject always to the requirements of company law and the Education Act 1994.

1.22. Membership Rights Matrix

Right	Student Member	Associate Member
To have access to, and use of, facilities and services provided by the Union for its members.	✓	✓
To become full members of student groups.	✓	
To become associate members of student groups.		✓
To hold elected office within student groups.	✓	
To participate in Union affairs and democracy (i.e. participate in democratic meetings, vote in elections, referenda and other ballots, or stand as a candidate for or hold office in the Union including Programme or School Representatives).	✓	
To represent the Union at external conferences, such as the National Union of Students.	✓	
To be a Company Law Member as defined in the Articles.	✓	