



**University of Plymouth Students' Union
Associate Membership Process**

UPSU Purpose and Memberships

UPSU is a charitable organisation with the purpose of the advancement of education of students at the University of Plymouth for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of students at the University of Plymouth during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students;
- Being the recognised representative channel between students and the University of Plymouth and any other external bodies, and
- Providing social, cultural sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students.

Full Membership

All students registered with the University of Plymouth, whether their study is based on the University of Plymouth campus, satellite campus, or at a further education Partner Institution in the UK that the SU works with, are full members of UPSU. Sabbatical Officers are also full members of UPSU.

Full membership will automatically cease when they cease to be a student or Sabbatical Officer, or when a student opts out of membership, this can be done by informing UPSU in writing.

Membership may also be revoked or limited, either temporarily or permanently as an outcome of UPSU or University disciplinary process.

Providing they meet eligibility rules for the specific activity, full members may;

- Stand as a candidate and vote in UPSU elections
- Participate fully in student groups and hold a Committee position
- Represent UPSU/the University in 'BUCS' or other inter university competitions
- Be elected or appointed as a student representative and represent the views of students
- Undertake paid work in a 'student staff role' at UPSU
- Access the UPSU Advice Centre service
- Get support from UPSU and use UPSU resources for student-led activity which falls within the remit of our purpose.
- Have access to events and activities that are only available to full members

Company Law Members

[As detailed in the UPSU Articles of Association](#) The Company Law Members are also members of UPSU, these members are the Trustees of UPSU and membership will cease when the term of office ends.

University of Plymouth International College (UPIC) students

UPIC students will be considered Associate Members, subject to completing an application. Associate membership will be granted free of charge for these students and student rates

will apply for any student group memberships or activities.

Associate Membership

Associate Membership of the Union exists in order to allow the Union some flexibility in offering benefits of the Union to people who would not otherwise be entitled to access events and activities and that can offer a mutual benefit. These memberships are approved at the discretion of UPSU and may be withdrawn or limited at any time. Associate members involvement in activities should never be at the expense of any full member.

Categories of Associate Membership are;

- Staff members
- Graduate Members
- Honorary Life Members
- Reciprocal Members

Applications for Associate Membership are available for the following people:

- Students registered with the University of Plymouth, other than those eligible for full membership
- Carers of members - where the member needs support to be able to fully participate
- UPSU staff
- University staff
- A person deemed to be providing benefit or support to UPSU or members that supports our purpose
- In the case of Honorary Life Members, someone who has demonstrated significant dedication and commitment to UPSU
- Student Members from another University that are undertaking a period of study at the University of Plymouth.

The membership fee for Associate Members, paid to UPSU will be £50, this amount will be decided annually and may be waived or reduced at the discretion of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and one Sabbatical Officer. Associate Memberships must be renewed annually.

In addition to the annual Associate Membership fee, the full cost of the activity may be charged to participate in student group activity. This reflects that full members enjoy a subsidised rate that is not available to Associate Members. However, dependant on the mutual benefit the individual brings to the student group, the fee may be reduced or waived.

Associate Membership of a student group must be jointly approved by the Student Communities Team and the group in question.

As Associate Members are not full members of UPSU they;

- Are prohibited from standing as a candidate and voting in UPSU elections
- Are unable to hold a Committee position or participate in voting or decision making in relation to any student group.
- Cannot represent UPSU/the University in 'BUCS' or other inter university competitions
- Are not eligible to be elected or appointed as a student representative and must not be considered to be student representatives.
- Cannot undertake paid work in a 'student staff role' at UPSU
- Cannot access the UPSU Advice Centre service
- Are unable to access support from UPSU and use UPSU resources

However, they can;

- Access events and activities that are open to Associate Members – restrictions may apply to high demand or other special events
- Participate in student group activity for as long as they meet the criteria for Associate Membership

Applications that are only seeking to access cheap or subsidised activities or who only wish to undertake activity with someone who is a full member will not be accepted.

All memberships are non-transferable. UPSU reserves the right to revoke or amend the terms of any Associate Membership. Where possible, Associate Members will be given advance notice of any changes. However, if there is a breach of the [Code of Conduct](#), membership may be revoked immediately, and any membership or participation fees will be forfeited.

[Apply for Associate Membership](#)