

Byelaw I: Student Collectives

1. Purpose

This Byelaw has been established to provide further details regarding the operation of Student Collectives, under Article 21 of the Constitution.

2. Definition

Student Collectives are autonomous bodies that are responsible for working with the Union to secure the general interests and collective rights of the students that define into the relevant group.

They will also coordinate activities, events and campaigns relevant to that agenda, which may include supporting and working across different Student Groups.

The current Student Collectives are as follows:

- i. Women
- ii. LGBT+
- iii. Disabled Students
- iv. BAME Students
- v. International Students
- vi. Postgraduate Research Students
- vii. Postgraduate Taught Students
- viii. Commuting Students

The Officer Group will consider further applications and make recommendations to the Board for further groups as required.

3. Membership

Only those Student Members that self-define as being a part of that group shall be entitled to participate in the formal governance of the Collective.

Supporters and other interested students are free to participate in activities and events, but not vote or hold leadership roles.

Students will automatically have the right to be a member of the Student Collectives they define into upon registration with the union, but will be asked to opt in via a website hub promoted during the first weeks of term. Students will be able to opt in at any point.

Membership of each Collective will be free.

4. Leadership

The leadership of each Student Collectives will be determined by an online election of those who have opted in and self-define into the relevant category.

There will be three convenors for each Student Collective, with one acting as a Chair who sits on Wellbeing Community and Diversity (WCD) Executive. This will be offered to the individual who receives the most votes.

5. Associated Student Groups

Student groups who wish to become associated with a Collective will be free to do so. This should be done by a vote of the entire membership of each group.

The WCD Executive will have the power to approve Associated Status, but must provide a rationale for why an application is rejected, which is subject to appeal by the Officer Group.

6. Funding of Student Collectives

The WCD Executive will receive an annual budget for Student Collectives, and set priorities for its distribution.

The WCD Executive will be the principal body to distribute this funding, although it will be required to consider input from the professional staff team of the Union.

7. Amendments

This Byelaw may be amended where Student Collectives choose to operate in a different manner. Such approval by the Board shall not be unreasonably withheld, to ensure the autonomous operation of each Collective.