



## 2.6 Student Unions

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Your Student Union is there to help your society set up and keep going, so make sure you're getting the most of what's on offer.

The structure of each student's union is different but in general your union is likely to have an executive committee. The committee is elected yearly to represent student views and interests and run the student union. A full-time or part-time societies sabbatical officer, or a member of staff often represents student societies. Get to know your SU sabbatical officers and keep them informed of what you've been doing.

Here are some of the things you may be able to access:

### 1. Money

You should be able to apply for a budget from your union. You'll be given your own society bank account with the union, training on managing your budget and of course the cash itself.

Make sure you check the deadline for applications and don't miss out on much needed funds for your group!

### 2. Equipment and Facilities

- ★ Meeting room use for free, possibly with audio / visual kit
- ★ Computing, printers, photocopiers at low cost
- ★ Tables & boards for stalls
- ★ Storage space for your materials
- ★ A pigeon hole for post

Check what else is available – can you hire a Minibus, or a video camera?

### 3. Training & Advice

If it's not already a requirement, then it's worth some members attending a short session on running a society or managing your budgets.

But you can also contact your Society / Activities Officer or other staff throughout the year for advice on any aspect of running your society.

### 4. Publicity

Check where you can advertise your society:

- ★ on the union website
- ★ in a union magazine or freshers handbook
- ★ regular emails

★ notice boards

You may also be able to get help with design and printing of posters, particularly if the Union is supporting your campaign.