



**YORK ST JOHN  
STUDENTS' UNION**

## **BYELAW 1: MEMBERSHIP**

REVIEWED AND REVISED JULY 2016

## **BYELAW 1: MEMBERSHIP**

### **1.1. The categories of membership are as follows:**

- 1.1.1 Full Membership
- 1.1.2 Honorary Life Member
- 1.1.3 Associate Member

### **1.2. Rights and Obligations of Membership**

- 1.2.1 Each category of membership carries the rights and benefits described for those categories. All members must observe the policies of the Union, in particular the Equal Opportunities Policy.
- 1.2.2 Membership of the Union and/or any rights or benefits of membership of any member may be suspended or withdrawn in accordance with point 11 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Disciplinary Policy.

### **1.3. Full Membership**

- 1.3.1 All enrolled students registered as pursuing a course of study at York St John University shall be entitled to full membership of the Students' Union, unless they choose to opt out under the Education Act 1994.
- 1.3.2 Full Members are entitled to:
  - Participate in the governance of the Students' Union
  - Access all activities run by the Students' Union
  - Use all services and/or facilities available through the Students' Union
  - Stand as candidates and vote in elections as defined by the schedules
  - Call for a referendum on policy, schedules or sabbatical officer conduct, in accordance with the schedules governing referenda and sabbatical discipline
  - Access all relevant financial and strategic evidence governing Students' Union affairs.
- 1.3.3 Full Membership shall be valid for the period of time a student is enrolled at the University.

### **1.4. Associate Membership**

- 1.4.1 Associate Membership is extended to any member of another Students' Union, Guild, Association or similar group from other HEI's (Higher Education Institution), so long as they are accompanied by a Full Member who takes responsibility for their behaviour unless previous arrangements have been made with an Officer Trustee.
- 1.4.2 Associate Membership may also be granted by Senate in line with Article 12.

### **1.5. Honorary Life Membership**

- 1.5.1 Honorary Life Membership may only be conferred by Student Senate. Any Full member may nominate someone for honorary life membership. Sabbatical Officers reaching the end of term of office shall be automatically nominated.

- 1.5.2 The maximum number of Honorary Life Memberships available each academic year shall be limited to four plus the number of Sabbatical Officers at the end of term of office. This means that Student Senate must consider the merits of each application based on the nominees' contribution to the Students' Union.
- 1.5.3 A majority vote at the final Student Senate meeting of the academic year will be required to approve any nomination for Honorary Life Membership, including the automatic nominations for the Sabbatical Officers.

## **1.6. Opting out of Membership**

- 1.6.1 Any student can exercise their right to opt out of Students' Union membership, under the 1994 Education Act, without affecting their rights of access to the Union and its facilities.
- 1.6.2 Any student wishing to opt out must state their intentions, in writing, to the President of the Students' Union. The decision to opt out is valid only for a single academic year.
- 1.6.3 A student who has chosen to opt out may at any time change their mind, but again must notify the Students' Union President in writing. The President has the discretion as to whether to let this person again become a member or not. However, no student shall be allowed to nullify their wish to opt out for 20 working days either side of the opening of any nominations for Union positions.
- 1.6.4 There shall be no distinction between opted out students and members of the Union in accessing Union commercial services. However, non-members are not entitled to use the Union building unless they are signed in as a guest by a full member.
- 1.6.5 Opted out students have no right to but not limited to:
- Vote in any elections or referenda.
  - Stand for elected positions.
  - Nominate or second any candidates standing for Union elections.
  - Attend any Union meetings.
  - Join clubs and societies.
  - Access education and welfare services.