

# Students' Union Introduction



## What is the Students' Union?

The University of Bristol Students' Union (UBU) is a democratic, student-led organisation. It is run by a team of annually-elected, full-time sabbatical officers, supported by a permanent staff team and a board of trustees.

The Union is at the heart of the student experience. Its vision is all about students creating a world-class student life for themselves. The Union enables you to:

- improve your education and wider university experience;
- have your say about the way your union is run;
- get advice and be heard through clear channels of communication;
- campaign on issues that are important to you;
- develop your hobbies and interests;
- have the space you need to carry out your activities;
- have a great social life and make university more fun;
- engage positively with the wider community.

All full-time and part-time University of Bristol students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, are automatically members of the Students' Union and of the National Union of Students (NUS), to which UBU is affiliated.

## Elected Sabbatical Officers 2013/14

### President

Rob Griffiths: [ubu-president@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-president@bris.ac.uk)

### Vice-President: Education

Tom Flynn: [ubu-education@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-education@bris.ac.uk)

### Vice-President: Welfare and Equality

Alessandra Berti: [ubu-welfare@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-welfare@bris.ac.uk)

### Vice-President: Activities

Imogen Palmer: [ubu-activities@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-activities@bris.ac.uk)

### Vice-President: Community

Ellie Williams: [ubu-community@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-community@bris.ac.uk)

### Vice-President: Sport and Health

Hannah Pollak: [ubu-sport@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-sport@bris.ac.uk)

## Visit the Students' Union

University of Bristol Students' Union  
Richmond Building  
105 Queen's Road  
Bristol BS8 1LN  
Tel: (0117) 33 18600  
Email: [infopoint@bris.ac.uk](mailto:infopoint@bris.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk)

During term time the Students' Union office is open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, for:

- University branded merchandise
- NUS Extra cards
- event tickets
- information.

# Students' Union Activities

## Clubs and societies

The University of Bristol Students' Union (UBU) supports over 200 societies, in addition to the many sports clubs coordinated by UBU Sport and Health (see Section 5). Joining a society is a great way to make new friends while pursuing existing interests or developing new ones. The UBU societies span a diverse range of interests and activities, from singing and dancing to cheese eating and zombies. There is something for everyone, but if you can't find an existing society that appeals to you the UBU team will guide you through setting up your own special interest group. The full list of societies, together with their contact details, is available at [www.ubu.org.uk/activities/societies](http://www.ubu.org.uk/activities/societies).

## Volunteering

UBU arranges volunteering opportunities for students who are keen to involve themselves in the local community, whether this is organising a party for disadvantaged children or working with victims of crime. With over 40 different projects, the activities are extremely varied, ranging from one-off events to longer-term projects. Volunteers receive support and training to equip them for this valuable role within the local community. Details are available at [www.ubu.org.uk/activities/volunteering](http://www.ubu.org.uk/activities/volunteering).

## Raising and Giving (RAG)

RAG raises money for local and national charities, and gives students the chance to have a lot of fun in the process. RAG organises street collections and fundraising events, such as sponsored international expeditions, bungee jumps, fun runs and even a beer festival. For further information, visit [www.ubu.org.uk/activities/fundraising](http://www.ubu.org.uk/activities/fundraising).

## Student-run media

UBU provides space and support for student-run media, including:

- *Burst*: student radio station
- *Epigram*: free, fortnightly newspaper
- *Intermission*: online arts, events and listings magazine
- *UBTV*: online TV station.

All media activities are run entirely by student volunteers, and there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved, in creative or support roles. Find out more about student media at [www.ubu.org.uk/activities/studentmedia](http://www.ubu.org.uk/activities/studentmedia).

## Events and entertainment

UBU organises a wide variety of events each year ranging from the Freshers Ball to the Summer Ball, plus music gigs and comedy nights. The Winston Theatre, reopening in October 2014, is the venue for theatrical productions. Other rooms are available for smaller-scale activities. The Social and Events team can be contacted by students with ideas for events.

Tickets for all Union events can be purchased online.

## Staying in touch with the Union

You can keep up to date with Students' Union news, events and special offers by:

- opting in to receive email updates
- visiting [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk) regularly
- following the Union on twitter: @ububristol
- liking and leaving comments on the UBU Facebook page: /bristolsu.

# Students' Union

## Representation and advice

### Democracy

The University of Bristol Students' Union exists to represent students and ensure that all students have their voices heard via student representation and democratic channels. These processes provide opportunities for students to contribute to changes and improvements in the University as well as share views on departmental, University and national issues. The Union supports and encourages everyone to get involved by voting, contributing to consultations or taking up one of over 500 representation roles.

### Student representatives

Course reps ensure that each school – and the wider University – discusses and acts on student feedback and concerns. The Union offers training, skills development, advice and accreditation for the work of student reps. Elections for these positions are held in October. To find out more, visit [www.ubu.org.uk/representation](http://www.ubu.org.uk/representation).

### Campaigns

The Union supports campaigns at local and national levels, on a wide range of issues from student funding and debt to housing and health. Proposals for new campaigns are always welcome, and priorities are decided democratically by the student body and then carried out by elected officers. You can contact any of the elected officers with questions or problems, or just to express your views. You can also help influence change through the Union's democratic activity and events, such as Student Council, online referenda and the annual elections in March.

### Just Ask

University life is an incredible experience but it can also be a little confusing and intimidating at times. The Students' Union provides a free, independent and confidential advice service on a wide range of concerns including academic issues, personal or social problems, consumer rights and employment queries. The **Just Ask** team aims to support you in a way that empowers you to make informed choices about your situation.

As well as one-to-one advice, the Just Ask team offers other ways for students to get support, including overseeing:

- skills workshops helping with study skills and other challenges
- student-led support groups providing safe spaces for students to be able to talk openly about issues concerning them (includes eating disorders, LGBT+ and student parents groups)
- peer mentoring – students helping students get the most out of university life
- mediation – impartial support to help settle disputes.

**Nightline** is the Union's overnight listening and information service run by students for students. It is open every night during term time, 8pm – 8am. For more information visit [www.ubu.org.uk/nightline](http://www.ubu.org.uk/nightline).

If you have any questions about anything that affects you as a student, if you're interested in getting involved with student-led support, or to discuss welfare issues more generally, get in touch with the Just Ask team.

### Contact

#### Just Ask

Richmond Building  
105 Queen's Road  
Tel: (0117) 33 18634

Email: [ubu-justask@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-justask@bris.ac.uk)

Web: [www.ubu.org.uk/justask](http://www.ubu.org.uk/justask)

Open Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm, all year

# Students' Union

## Additional information

### General facilities

The Richmond Building, home of the Students' Union, is being transformed into a world-class facility. Due for completion in October 2014, a £26-million project, funded by the University, is under way to refurbish the whole building.

On completion the Students' Union will be a dynamic and vibrant hub with spaces maximised to accommodate the full spectrum of students' needs. Students will be able to stage events and performances, and available spaces will include bars, a 200-seat theatre, a dance studio, an art studio, a pottery room, dark rooms for photography, music practice rooms and a band practice room.

A lot of the work has been completed, such as the University swimming pool which reopened in November 2012. The famous Anson Rooms will reopen in October 2013. One of the city's biggest gig venues, the Anson Rooms has hosted huge names over the years including Radiohead, Coldplay, Amy Winehouse and Ed Sheeran, to name just a few. In addition to a calendar of gigs, the Union will launch a brand-new club night in the Anson Rooms, exclusively for University of Bristol students.

### University clothing and memorabilia

The Union sells a range of University of Bristol merchandise including jumpers, t-shirts, polo shirts and accessories. See the range in the Richmond Building foyer or browse through the online shop at [www.ubushop.co.uk](http://www.ubushop.co.uk).

### The Guide

The Guide, which is produced every summer, contains everything that new students (undergraduates and postgraduates) need to know about activities, what Bristol as a city has to offer, and student life in general. If you did not receive a copy before you arrived you can pick one up from the Richmond Building or at the Freshers' Fair which will be held on Bristol's Harbourside on Thursday 26 September.

### NUS Extra Card

NUS Extra is the official NUS student discount card, giving you hundreds of exclusive student discounts that you can't get with your UCard. Find out more about the NUS Extra Card at Freshers' Fair (26 September) and get yours online at [www.nusextra.co.uk](http://www.nusextra.co.uk).

### Orbital

Orbital is one of the largest student groups and exists to bring together all first-year undergraduates who live in Student Houses, partnership residences, at home or in private accommodation. It has a similar function to a Junior Common Room in a hall of residence. It organises a range of activities throughout the year and also has a representational role, ensuring that its members' views are reported to Student Council. Membership is automatic for those living in Student Houses and partnership residences; first-year students living at home or in private accommodation wishing to join should sign up online at [www.bristolorbital.co.uk](http://www.bristolorbital.co.uk). The website also features a calendar of events, mailing lists and an online shop for tickets and clothes. Orbital will be at Freshers' Fair on 26 September.

Student unions are required by law to offer students the right to opt out of membership. Students wishing to do so should write to the Chief Executive of the University of Bristol Students' Union, Richmond Building, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1LN.