

ENACTUS and your Students' Union

Q: What is Enactus?

A: Enactus is a student-led volunteering programme for university students who are challenged to design and implement social outreach projects aimed at empowering beneficiary groups. At the same time participating students gain a range of practical, soft-skill employability and enterprise skills leading to the development of more employable and active citizens. Enactus UK is a registered Charity in the UK and operates as part of a global network of similar Enactus charities and social enterprises in 36 countries around the world. Our purpose is to develop future socially responsible leaders.

Q: How is the Enactus student team governed or constituted?

A: Teams in the Enactus Programme are formed as part of the Students' Union/Guild as either a society or an associated society. This places the team under the students' union rules and regulations.

Q: What is an Enactus Team?

A: The Enactus programme model has a competition element. University student societies who take part in Enactus are therefore referred to as a team. To be recognised, the team must have at least 15 students who are registered on a full-time course, have at least one nominated university staff adviser known as a University Adviser or UA and at least one social community project that meets the Enactus framework. Enactus UK licences the Enactus brand/logo for use by each society/team although the societies remain separate entities with no contract between themselves and Enactus UK other than their commitment to operate according to the Enactus Team Handbook and competition criteria. All Enactus Societies are expected to fully comply with and sign-up to their respective students' union/Guild regulations and by-laws.

Q: How are students recruited into the teams/societies?

A: Enactus UK provides recruitment resources which the team adapt in order to recruit new members. Being student-led, the team decides on their recruitment strategy according to their needs and may target specific courses or interest groups. The diversity of the Enactus UK programme is something we are proud of.

Q: Who can participate in Enactus as a team/society member?

A: Any registered full-time student of the university may join the team – around 95% of students are under-graduates.

Q: What do teams do?

A: They identify local and sometimes international community/socio-economic and environmental needs and select issues that they would like to address through the design and

delivery of social action projects. Projects are designed to be sustainable and to empower the beneficiary or beneficiary group they elect to support. A project might last a few weeks or multiple years. A successful project outcome would be for the team to have equipped the beneficiary with the skills and confidence they needed to run the project independently. Some teams may run multiple projects at the same time. Enactus UK does not advocate projects outside of the UK although they are eligible to be entered into the Enactus UK National Competition and Individual Topic Competitions as long as they comply with the Enactus Requirements.

Project case studies can be found online at enactusuk.org

Project examples can be found here: www.enactusuk.org/what-we-do/project-stories

Teams also undertake fundraising, designed to provide funding for these social projects. Fundraising may be typical bake sales and fundraising events with an entry fee or more ambitious commercial ventures such as selling hoodies on campus or providing consultancy services to the university. The team also organises employability events to develop members and events of interest to members in the arena of social enterprise.

Q. What does the typical Enactus project look like?

A. Each Enactus team in the world is free to develop their own student-led projects based on reasons of their own choosing. We provide the Enactus Criterion as a deliberately basic framework to allow for innovation and projects that cater to a wide range of community needs.

Q. What support does Enactus UK provide to Enactus student teams?

A: Enactus UK provides training, access to resources and the services of a designated Programme Improvement Manager. In addition, Enactus UK organises regional and national Employability events and Careers Fairs. Enactus UK provides Enactus students with unique access to a range of employers as well as Enactus-only recruitment opportunities. Enactus UK also provides Enactus Alumni mentors and Business Adviser volunteers to further develop students and their projects; these volunteers will also offer training on campus and attend team Advisory Board meetings. Teams that wish to compete are also invited to attend annual regional and national competitions where there are numerous opportunities to learn and collaborate.

Q: Does Enactus UK provide funding to teams?

A: We grant fund teams based on their project development and success. Our corporate partners provide access to themed competition activity and support. Teams apply to these competitions to be awarded grants to develop their social projects. Typically grants range from £100-£1000 but occasionally much larger grants are awarded. Enactus UK would remit these grants on behalf of its sponsors to the society's/team's bank account within the students' union.

Q: How are finances managed, e.g. is VAT applied?

A: Any society/team membership income should comply with students' union rules and be taxed at the standard 20% VAT rate. Any miscellaneous trading income such as through events or bake sales is also VAT-able. In exchange, the team society does not bear the cost of VAT on expenditures where they can submit VAT receipts/invoices. Grants from third parties [e.g. Enactus UK sponsors] are exempt from VAT and, consequently, expenses processed using these grants should bear the full cost of any VAT contained.

Q: How are teams insured?

A: As a students' union society their activities should be covered by the students' union insurance. Sometimes they may require additional cover if any activities fall outside of what the students' union is already insured for. The students should seek the advice of the students' union at all times and should comply with students' union regulations regarding Risk Assessments and Event planning. Enactus UK provides insurance to cover attendance at its events only and not for students in the delivery of their projects or team activity while on campus.

Q: How can the students' union help the Enactus Team?

A: There are a variety of ways that the students' union can support the Enactus team on campus. Your support is not necessary but might include all or some of the following:

- Invite the Enactus team leader to meet with you and make sure that they understand that they are subject to the society policies laid out by the students' union.
- Offer to provide training to ensure that they adhere to and are compliant with society policies.
- Meet with individual project leaders to get regular updates on projects and give them support and advice on their projects.
- Nominate a member of the students' union to become a University Adviser to the team and to attend some of their Board meetings.
- Ask to receive their regular newsletter.
- Offer a free stall at Freshers' and suggest other ways that the students' union can promote the Enactus programme on campus to recruit new members.
- Consider requests from teams where they produce products that they may wish to sell in collaboration with the students' union (E.g., Market Stalls, etc.).

Q: How can Students' Union officers best support the team/society?

A: Enactus UK encourages team members to form Advisory Boards to address challenges the team or their projects are facing and hold a meeting at least once per semester. These Board meetings are in addition to the society meetings such as the AGM, etc. Attendees should also include the team's University Advisers, Enactus Alumni mentors, Business Advisers, students' union representatives and local community/business representation. Enactus UK encourages teams to engage students' union officers as University Advisers to act in a mentor/coach capacity.

Q: What difficulties might arise between Enactus Societies and their students' union?

A: As students' union officers change, the need for constant re-engagement can be a challenge for Enactus societies/teams. We provide teams with introduction materials. Enactus UK also attends NUS Lead and Change: Student Opportunities to promote awareness about Enactus among Sabbatical Officers and full time staff. A lack of awareness can lead to difficulties as Enactus teams will often receive large projects grants to spend on both local and international projects. As team members regularly rotate roles, they may need help and support to understand and appreciate students' union requirements.

Q: What's in it for me?

A: Working with your Enactus team can be very rewarding. Some students' union staff have attended National competitions and even the Enactus World Cup. Our community is very welcoming and engagement with Enactus can support your personal and professional development.

Q: How can I find out more?

A: Speak to your Enactus society's President/Team Leader and University Adviser/s. Ask them to invite you to Board meetings and to Enactus UK events. Consider attending the annual Enactus UK National Competition which is held in April each year.

For further information, contact:

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For more information about Enactus, please visit:

www.enactus.org and www.enactusuk.org

For project examples, please visit: www.enactusuk.org/what-we-do/project-stories

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