

Starting New Clubs and Societies

Supporting the creation of new clubs & societies

Clubs and societies span a vast array of interests and as student led provide a wonderful development opportunity for students. Supporting students to start and create their own club or society can be hugely empowering for the individual however getting the process right can be a challenge for Students' Unions.

Ensuring that the process for creating new clubs and societies works for both students and the staff and officer team supporting them has been a challenge for some time.

Managing the need to maintain a level of control mixed with the need to make it as easy as possible for students' not to be put off by the process can be a hard line to judge.

In this guide we've pulled together a series of case studies that illustrate how other students' union manage their processes and how they got to that point.

Key things to think about in developing your process for supporting new clubs and societies are:

- **Documentation** – How much information do you need up front about the idea for the group? Do you help them formulate the idea or leave them to refine it themselves?
- **Membership** – Do they have to charge members a minimum membership fee? Are they charging members to be involved?
- **Interest** – Do they need to have a minimum number of interested students? If so how many? Or do you let them see if they can attract enough interest once they've got started?

- **Approval process** – Who has the say on whether a group can start or not? Is it a student led process or does it involve your staff or officer team? Do they have to offer something different to a similar pre-existing club or society?
- **Timing** – How long does it take to get a group approved? Is there a quick turnaround or do you have set periods across the year that students can apply to start their group
- **Resources** – What do new clubs and societies get when they form? Do you have a set amount as a starter fund or do they have to go it alone to see what they can raise themselves?
- **Capacity** – Are there a finite number of clubs and societies that you can support through staff time or funding? If there is what do you do with the new ideas?

Content

If you have any questions about this guide or would like to suggest any amendments please contact studentopportunities@nus.org.uk



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