

Bye-Law 1

Membership

1. General

There are two types of membership to the Union; Members and Associate Members. There are four classes of Associate Membership as defined in section 3.3.

2. Members

As provided for in the Articles of Association, the Members of the Union shall be as follows:

- (i) Each and every student at Queen Mary, University of London who has not opted out by notifying Queen Mary, University of London or the Union of his or her wish not to be a member of the Union; and
- (ii) The Officer Trustees of the Union.

2.1 Members of the Union shall be entitled to the benefits set out in the Code of Practice, as referred to in the Articles of Association, as well as being entitled to:

- (i) Use of any services and facilities of the Union, and its subsidiary companies;
- (ii) Hold ordinary membership of any Union club or society;
- (iii) Attend Student Council and other student committees of the Union as observers, except in such cases as are specified in the Bye-Laws or where confidential business is being discussed;
- (iv) Vote in, and stand for office in, the Union elections;
- (v) Attend, and vote in, the Annual Members Meetings and Company Law General Meetings of the Union; and
- (vi) Vote in a Union referendum.

2.2 All Members are subject to the Articles of Association, Bye-Laws and any policies of the Union.

3. Associate Members

The Board of Trustees and Student Council have the right to approve Associate Membership to the Union for individuals or groups from time to time. Certain classes of Associate membership may come with a fee, determined annually, by the Board of Trustees.

3.1 Associate Members shall not be members of the Union for purposes of the Articles of Association or the Companies Act.

3.2 Associate Members are entitled to:

- (i) Use of any services and facilities of the Union and subsidiary companies with possible restrictions;
- (ii) Hold ordinary membership of any Union club or society; and

- (iii) Attend Annual Members Meetings and Company Law General Meetings as observers.

3.3 **Classes of Associate Membership**

3.3.1 Individual Associate Membership

Available by application, on an annual basis, to any persons employed by Queen Mary, University of London or involved in the Union.

3.3.2 Reciprocal Membership

The Union may enter into reciprocal membership arrangements with other students' unions or educational institutions, both within the United Kingdom and overseas.

3.3.3 Alumni Members

Available by application, on an annual basis, to any person who has previously been a Member of the Union. The Board of Trustees can grant an Alumni membership for a specified period of time or for life.

3.3.3 Honorary Life Membership

This shall be awarded to all past Officer Trustees and persons as proposed by the Board of Trustees. Honorary life membership can be revoked by the Board of Trustees at any point.

4. **Opting-out students**

All students have the right not to be a Member of the Union. Any student who exercises this right shall not be disadvantaged with regards to the provision of services and facilities provided by the Union.

4.1 A student wishing to opt-out must notify the Secretary to College Council of Queen Mary, University of London or the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Union in writing of their wish to do so.

4.2 A student who has opted-out may re-join as a Member by notifying the Secretary to College Council of Queen Mary, University of London or the Union President in writing of their wish to do so.

4.3 A student who has opted out is not entitled to:

- (i) Vote in, or stand for office in, the Union elections;
- (ii) Speak or vote at an Annual Members Meeting or Company Law General Meeting of the Union;
- (iii) Vote in a Union Referendum; and
- (iii) Hold an elected position in a club or society of the Union.

4.4 A student who has opted out has the same entitlements as an Associate Member.