

# Students' Union Introduction

## What is the Students' Union?

The University of Bristol's Students' Union (UBU) is at the heart of the student experience. Its mission is to:

- Represent the voice and views of students to the University and beyond to ensure you have the best possible experience at Bristol
- Provide social, cultural, sporting and recreational opportunities through its many events, clubs and societies to ensure you have fun during your time at Bristol
- Support students by providing advice and representation
- Develop students' skills, leadership and engagement through student-led activities
- Help students engage with the local community via fundraising and volunteering.

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.

The Students' Union 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. To find out more, visit [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk).

### Sabbatical Officers for 2011/12

#### President

Gus Baker: [ubu-president@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-president@bris.ac.uk)

#### Vice-President: Education

Josh Alford: [ubu-education@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-education@bris.ac.uk)

#### Vice-President: Welfare and Equality

Sophie Bennett: [ubu-welfare@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-welfare@bris.ac.uk)

#### Vice-President: Activities

Chris Ruff: [ubu-activities@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-activities@bris.ac.uk)

#### Vice-President: Community

Max Wakefield: [ubu-community@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-community@bris.ac.uk)

#### Vice-President: Sport and Health

Dom Oliver: [ubu-sport@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-sport@bris.ac.uk)

## Representation

The Union exists to represent you and work on your behalf to ensure the best possible student experience during your time at the University. You are welcome to contact any of the elected sabbatical officers with questions or problems, or just to express your views. You can help influence change at the University through the Union's democratic activity and events, such as Student Council, online referenda and the annual elections in March. Find out more at [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk) or email [ubu-representation@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-representation@bris.ac.uk).

### Student representatives

The Students' Union coordinates and supports the student representatives from all courses. The purpose of the student reps system is to ensure that your school, and the wider University, can discuss and act on student feedback and concerns.

The Union offers training, skills development, advice and accreditation for the work of student reps. To find out more visit [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk) or email [ubu-representation@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-representation@bristol.ac.uk).

## Campaigns

The Union campaigns at local and national level on a wide range of issues from student funding and debt to housing and health. The priorities are decided democratically by the student body and carried out by elected officers. Proposals for new campaigns are always welcome. Find out about current campaigns or how to get involved at [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk) or email [ubu-campaigns@bris.ac.uk](mailto:ubu-campaigns@bris.ac.uk).

## Staying in touch with the Union

To keep up-to-date with Union news, events and special offers, you can sign up to:

- Regular email updates: [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk)
- Facebook fanpage: [facebook.com/pages/University-of-Bristol-Students-Union/124687302320](https://facebook.com/pages/University-of-Bristol-Students-Union/124687302320)
- Twitter feed: [twitter.com/ubunews](https://twitter.com/ubunews).

# Students' Union Activities

## Do It! Hub

### Clubs and societies

The Students' Union supports around 170 societies covering a vast range of interests and activities, in addition to the many sports clubs coordinated by UBU Sport and Health (see Section 5). There is something for everyone, and joining a society is a great way to make new friends while pursuing existing interests or developing new ones.

Here are examples of just some of the clubs and societies on offer:

- Capoeira
- Debating
- Rugby
- Chocolate
- Sustainability
- Rowing
- Computer Gaming
- Sky-diving.

The full list of societies, together with their contact details, is available at [www.ubu.org.uk/societies](http://www.ubu.org.uk/societies).

### Student community volunteering

The Union 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/sca](http://www.ubu.org.uk/activities/sca).

### Raising and Giving (RAG)

RAG raises money for local and national charities by organising street collections and fundraising events, such as sponsored international expeditions, bungee jumps, fun runs, even a beer festival. For further information, visit [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk).

## Entertainment

### Bar and events

The Students' Union is a hub of social life with its own coffee shop and bar. The Union arranges a wide variety of events each year ranging from the Freshers Ball and Graduation Balls to music gigs, comedy and theme nights in the bars. The Winston Theatre is the venue for theatrical productions, and other rooms are available for smaller-scale activities. The Social and Events team can be contacted by students with ideas for events.

### Music gigs

The Union's Anson Room hosts some of the biggest music gigs in the city. Recent acts have included Friendly Fires, The Vaccines, Plan B and Chase and Status.

### What's on?

All events and entertainment are advertised on the What's On guide around campus, in *Epigram*, on Facebook and on the Union's website – see [www.ubu.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.ubu.org.uk/whats-on).

### Tickets

Tickets for all Union events can be purchased online or at the Union coffee bar.

## Student media

The Union provides space for and supports student-run media, including:

- *Epigram*: free fortnightly newspaper
- *Helicon*: termly creative arts magazine
- *Burst*: student radio station
- *Blink*: 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](http://www.ubu.org.uk).

# Students' Union Advice

## Just Ask centre

The Students' Union runs an independent advice and representation service from the Just Ask centre on the 4th floor and can help with any queries, large or small.

The main focus of the service is on academic representation including complaints, appeals, extenuating circumstances and other assessment issues. The ethos of the service is to help students to help themselves.

The centre also deals with referrals to and from other agencies on a range of other issues such as financial matters, consumer rights and personal problems, and organises occasional workshops and information fairs for students.

The main areas of support are:

### Academic

- Academic appeals
- Complaints
- Changing course
- Plagiarism
- Extenuating circumstances
- Disciplinary procedures

### Personal welfare

- Finance
- Harassment
- Health
- Housing
- Safety and security.

If you have a question on any other issue that affects you as a student, get in touch and the Just Ask team can explore direct support or refer you in the right direction. You are welcome to drop in during opening hours or to make an appointment by phone or email.

The Just Ask website provides links to information on all the above topics, and the centre itself has a range of literature on these and more general topics, including local bus timetables and cycling routes.

## Contact

### Just Ask

Students' Union Building  
Fourth Floor, South Side  
Tel: (0117) 33 13511/13541  
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  
(and until 5pm on Tuesdays, by appointment only)

## Nightline

Nightline is an all-night helpline run by students for students. It operates during term-time only and is staffed by trained volunteers. It has two main roles:

### • Confidential listening service

A concerned, friendly and informed ear for students who have any kind of problem to discuss or who simply feel a bit lonely in the small hours


### • Information service

Provides information and pointers to sources of help on a vast range of topics from pregnancy, anorexia or drug addiction to local bus times and cinemas.

### Contact – see also the back of your UCard

Tel and minicom: (0117) 926 6266  
Internal tel and minicom: 46864  
Email: [nightline@bris.ac.uk](mailto:nightline@bris.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.bristol.ac.uk/nightline](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/nightline)  
Available from 8pm – 8am, term-time only

## Student Help

 for online help on a variety of personal and study-related topics.

See [www.bristol.ac.uk/studenthelp](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/studenthelp).

# Students' Union General information

## General facilities

The Union hosts a number of spaces which are available to students. Students can use the spaces to stage events or performances. Spaces available 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.

## Refurbishment of the Union

The Union is undergoing refurbishment to enhance its facilities. The building will remain open throughout the refurbishment with minimum impact to students. Visit [www.ubu.org.uk/build](http://www.ubu.org.uk/build) to see regular progress reports and plans.

## University clothing and memorabilia

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

## Opening hours

The Students' Union Building is located on Queen's Road. Term-time opening hours are as follows:

Monday – Saturday 8.30am – 10.30pm\*  
Sunday 2.30pm – 10.30pm

\* later closure for special events

Reduced hours apply during vacations.



## Freshers' Guide

The Freshers' Guide, which is produced every summer, contains everything that new students need to know about Students' Union activities, about what Bristol as a city has to offer and about student life in general. If you did not receive a copy before you arrived, pick up a copy at Freshers' Fair (6-7 October) or, if you are an international student, call in to the International Office on the second floor. The Guide is also available online via the Students' Union website: [www.ubu.org.uk](http://www.ubu.org.uk).

## 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 (6-7 October), 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, 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; first-year students living at home or in private accommodation wishing to join should sign up online at [www.bristolorbital.com](http://www.bristolorbital.com). The website also features their calendar of events, mailing lists and an online shop for tickets and clothes. Orbital will be at Freshers' Fair (6-7 October), and their office is on the lower ground floor of The Hawthorns.

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 Union, Students' Union Building, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1LN.