

# Welcome to **National Conference** 2019!

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This is the second year National Conference is going to Scotland.

The venue is the Scottish Exhibition Campus (SEC) next to Glasgow City Centre.



SEC Armadillo  
Exhibition Way  
Glasgow  
G3 8YW

# What happens at National Conference?



**NUS National Conference is the sovereign policy-making body of NUS.**

**Nearly 1000 delegates from students' unions across the country gather to discuss, debate and vote on motions and elect the political leadership of the organization for the year ahead.**

Members submit policy proposals to National Conference – called Motions. The Democratic Procedures Committee ("DPC") puts these together into the Motions Document. This will be published here:

<https://conference.nusconnect.org.uk/what-s-on/agenda-and-papers>

Motions are debated at the conference and voted on by delegates. Motions which pass become NUS UK Live Policy.

Before the conference, members vote for the order in which they want motions to discuss in the 'Priority Ballot'.

# Introducing Democratic Procedures Committee

DPC this year are:

- **Sam Mujunga (Chair)**
- **John Hein**
- **Bradley Langer**
- **Lucas North**
- **Naa Aqcuah**
- **Esther Offenbergl**
- **Yasmin Gasimova**

DPC facilitates and ensures the smooth running of the National Conference.

You'll see one of them sat with the Conference Chair to make sure motions get debated fairly and properly.

Other members of DPC sat at the front of the room are there to help interpret the articles and enforce the rules of conference.

# Debate procedure

Debate procedures can be quite complicated if you haven't taken part before. To help you:

- Before Conference starts DPC will run a **first time delegate training session** in the morning to go over debate procedures and define key terms. This is really useful if it's your first time at Conference or if you just need a handy refresher!
- **DPC are available** on conference floor throughout Conference hours to help answer any questions you may have.
- NUS staff on **Information Point team** members will also be available during the whole event to help answer your queries.
- Videos of National Conference appear on [YouTube](#). This is a great way to see previous National Conferences in action and get an understanding of how debates take place.



# Voting on motions

- Motions are split into zones which categorise the issues.
- Discussing some of the motions before you arrive means you are prepared and have thought about the issues in relation to your own union.
- For each motion you'll hear speeches, some in favour and some against passing the motion.
- If you hear DPC say "we have parts", they mean a delegate has asked to discuss one section of a motion separately
- After the speeches, you will be asked to raise your voting card in the air at one of 3 times to show how you want to vote:
  - **For** if you want the motion to become policy
  - **Against** if you don't want the motion to become policy
  - **Abstain** if you don't understand the issue or don't believe NUS should have a stance on it



# Elections and candidates

Elections at National Conference include the full-time officer positions, members of the National Executive Council (NEC) also known as the 'Block of 15', and positions on DPC and NUS UK Directors.

You will see people campaigning to get help get their preferred candidates elected – often seen wearing brightly coloured t-shirts! Before you arrive at Conference take a look at the candidates and discuss who you think is best for each job.



Candidates for National President will also have the opportunity to take part in Informal Hustings, where they answer questions submitted by delegates.

All candidates are allowed to give a speech on why you should vote for them just before the election takes place.



# Voting in elections

When voting delegates arrive and register they will be issued with their **voting card** and **ballot papers**.

*TIP – don't lose these, you can't vote without them!*

When all candidates have delivered their election speeches, delegates will be instructed to fill in their ballot papers for the relevant position.

Delegates show their voting card and post their ballot paper in the ballot box as they leave conference floor.

The result will be announced as soon as possible once the votes have been counted.





# Introducing Elections Committee...



**Jules** is the Chief Returning Officer. He is responsible for the good conduct and administration of elections to officer and committee positions within NUS.



**Estelle, Kathy and Rhodri** (left to right) are members of Elections Committee, who support the Chief Returning Officer in the running of fair and democratic elections.

A member of Elections Committee will chair Conference floor when elections are taking place.

If you wish to speak to a Returning Officer or have questions about elections please email [democracy@nus.org.uk](mailto:democracy@nus.org.uk)

# NUS Code of Conduct

**Treat other delegates as you would wish to be treated.**

- Respect each other.
- Treat property as if it was your own.
- Support each other and make sure everyone is equal.
- If there's a problem with anything make sure you notify the relevant person.
- Be honest!
- Make sure all protocols are followed, be it equal opportunities, safe space, safeguarding, platform or staff policy.



If you would like more information on the NUS Code of Conduct visit:

[www.nusconnect.org.uk/governance/nus-code-of-conduct](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/governance/nus-code-of-conduct)

# Be part of a healthy social media space

Social media is a huge part of our events and as such anything you post, comment on, retweet or like during the event is part of the overall delegate experience.



## Remember!

- Ponder before you post!
- You're being watched
- What goes online tends to stay online
- Look after yourself – you don't have to be available online or offline 24/7
- Don't say it online if you wouldn't say it in person



@nusuk  
#nusconference



[www.facebook.com/  
nationalunionofstudents/](http://www.facebook.com/nationalunionofstudents/)

**nus**  
national union of **students**

# Our expectations

## **We want our Conference to be positive, accessible and inclusive.**

Take pride in being part of a movement that is mindful of everyone's needs, whether that is by:

- Respecting another delegates access needs
- Helping people to find their feet
- Engaging debate in a constructive way



## **Healthy debate is what drives the movement forward only when coupled with mutual respect, regardless of our differences.**

- NUS Conference is for everybody
- All delegates should feel they can contribute and engage in a safe environment
- Everyone should feel that their voice is being heard

## **Make sure National Conference is positive & inclusive for everyone.**

For more information visit:

[www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/a-positive-inclusive-national-conference](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/a-positive-inclusive-national-conference)

# What is it like at Conference?



# Self care and taking time out



While Conference is a fun and positive experience, the days are long and at times it may feel quite intense.

We encourage all delegates to prioritise self care. Use our event app to build your own agenda - look at the timetable, decide which sessions are a priority and where some of your delegation may be able take a break.

We have a dedicated **Wellbeing Area** where you can go and take time away for Conference floor. Members of NUS staff will always be in this area free for a chat and a coffee. The Wellbeing Area is located on the **1<sup>st</sup> floor Mezzanine of the Conference Centre**.

Nearby, you can also take a walk along the river, grab a cup of tea in a local hotel or cafe, or even visit Glasgow Science Museum on the other side of the river.



# Who to contact during the event




NUS staff will be available on the Information Point for the duration of conference hours. All NUS staff wear navy branded t-shirts so feel free to ask them a question!

You can visit the desk or ring them on the conference phone.



## 999

If you experience a medical emergency outside of conference hours, please dial 999 as you would usually.



If you have a problem while at or near your hotel you may wish to ring your hotel reception for assistance.



Have a safe journey...

...and we look forward to welcoming you in Glasgow!