

What faith and belief groups exist on your campus?

In order to chart a course forward for how your students' union can strengthen or initiate relationships and activities with faith and belief groups and societies, we suggest first taking stock of the current situation.

What exists on campus?

To get a perspective on the range of faith and belief activity already present at your institution we suggest you:

- Undertake some initial fact finding
- Meet with various students, staff and officers including chaplains and faith advisors
- Analyse the information you have collected
- Create a clear and workable action plan for engaging with your faith and belief societies

Auditing faith and belief

Use the following questions to think about what relationship you have with faith and belief societies, and how you might improve this.

1. What faith and belief societies do you have affiliated to the students' union?
 - How many students are members of these societies?
2. Are there faith or belief groups that meet regularly who are not affiliated to the Students' Union?
3. Are there students from faith or belief backgrounds without a representative group, at your institution?
 - How might you find this out?
 - What faith communities (that may not be represented on campus) exist in the local community surrounding your institution? Does the students' union engage with them?
4. What kind of relationship does the students' union have with faith and belief societies?
5. What level of engagement do you have within the union and its activities from students of faith and belief?
6. What types of activities do your student faith and belief societies organise?
7. What events or campaigns have the faith and belief societies organised?
 - Which of these have been jointly run with or supported by the students' union?
 - Which of these have been organised with other societies?
8. Do you know what barriers exist for students of faith and belief at your institution?
9. How often do you organise events that are accessible to students of all faiths and beliefs?
10. Do you know who your university chaplain is?
 - Do you have a multi-faith chaplaincy team? Does this support students from all faith groups on campus?
 - How often do you meet your university's Chaplain(cy) team?
11. Is there someone responsible for religion & belief, and building good relations on campus within your institution?
 - Are you in contact with this person?
 - Who has responsibility for this within your students' union?
12. Is there a structure for the various faith and belief societies to meet with each other and the students' union on regular basis?

National Student Faith and Belief Organisations

You may find that faith and belief societies do not engage much with your students' union but instead look to their national bodies for support. National student faith and belief organisations offer a wide range of services to student societies and are useful contacts to have should you need further information. Listed are a number of the more prominent student faith and belief organisations who have national umbrella bodies:

- [National Federation of Atheist, Humanist and Secular Student Societies](#)
- [Baha'i Community of the UK](#)
- [British Organisation of Sikh Students](#)
- [Federation of Student Islamic Societies](#)
- [National Hindu Students Forum \(UK\)](#)
- [National Sikh Student Alliance](#)
- [Network of Buddhist Organisations](#)
- [Student Christian Movement](#)
- [UCCF: The Christian Unions](#)
- [The Union of Jewish Students](#)
- [Young Jains](#)

To find out more about national student faith and belief organisations take a look at the briefing [here](#).



Further information on faith and belief

To find out more information on various faiths and beliefs see:

- [Atheism](#)
- [Baha'i](#)
- [Buddhism](#)
- [Christianity](#)
- [Hinduism](#)
- [Humanism](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Jainism](#)
- [Judaism](#)
- [Paganism](#)
- [Rastafari](#)
- [Secularism](#)
- [Sikhism](#)
- [Zoroastrianism](#)

Faith and Belief in Higher Education Guides

The Higher Education Academy subject centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies produced a series of faith guides looking at issues specific to Higher Education. You can find them here:

- [Buddhism](#)
- [Christianity](#)
- [Hinduism](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Judaism](#)
- [Sikhism](#)

Faith and Belief in Further Education Guide

The National Ecumenical Agency in Further Education has produced a handbook with the support of the Learning and Skills Council to help existing, developing and new chaplaincy members and teams providing multifaith support in FE colleges and sixth forms.

- [Faiths and Further Education: a handbook](#)