

**Standing Order G: Student Groups**

1. Student Groups shall include Societies, the Associations, Media, Nightline, and DUCK.
2. Any Student Group whose aims and objectives do not contravene the Union's policies and procedures may apply to be ratified as a Student Group of the Union.
3. Connection with a religious or party political organisation shall not be a bar to affiliation.
4. Ratification or any changes to any Student Group's constitution must be approved by Student Groups Committee after agreement by the membership of the Student Group.
5. Assembly shall approve the Student Group Agreement setting out conditions for new or continuing affiliation of Student Groups.
  - 5.1. Any such regulations are subject to the approval of the Secretary and shall form an Appendix to these Standing Orders.
6. Assembly may, with good reason, suspend or terminate the affiliation of any Student Group to the Union.

**Societies**

7. There shall be the opportunity for students to set-up and run Societies, bringing together students of shared interest,
8. Student Groups Committee will be responsible for approving new Societies and continued ratification.
9. Societies will be subject to annual registration to continue as a ratified student group.

**Associations**

10. There shall be Associations which shall be responsible for providing representation and, where appropriate, support and social opportunities and activities, for students identifying with those Associations.
11. The recognised Associations shall be:
  - 11.1. Students with Disabilities Association;
  - 11.2. International Students' Association;
  - 11.3. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender + Association;
  - 11.4. Mature Students' Association;
  - 11.5. People of Colour Association;
  - 11.6. Trans Association.
12. Each Association shall present to Assembly a constitution for approval which will comply with these Standing Orders and Union policies.

13. Each Association shall elect a President on an annual basis by a cross-campus ballot of all self-defining members. Any by-elections to elect to vacant Association President positions shall also be conducted by cross-campus ballot of all self-defining members
14. Each Association shall produce and present at the first Assembly meeting of the academic year, an annual work plan detailing how it intends to comply with its representation responsibilities and, if appropriate, its support and social responsibilities.
15. Each Association shall hold an open meeting once a term for anyone who self-defines as belonging to that Association. These will be chaired by the association President and will discuss issues that are currently affecting the membership.
16. Associations will not be subject to annual ratification by Assembly but any changes to an Association's constitution must be approved by Assembly.

### **DUCK**

17. As the fundraising arm of the Students' Union, DUCK will be responsible for organising events and activities to raise awareness of or money for chosen charities and support all students fundraising activity at Durham University.
18. For the purpose of elections within DUCK, all full members of the Students' Union are considered members of DUCK.
19. There shall be an election on an annual basis for DUCK committee positions.
20. The membership of the committee shall be defined in the DUCK handbook; any changes to this handbook must be approved by Assembly on an annual basis.
21. DUCK will not be subject to annual ratification by Assembly.

### **Nightline**

22. Nightline is a student-led listening and signposting service for students, provided by trained volunteers.
23. The structure of the group shall be defined in the Nightline constitution.
24. Nightline will not be subject to annual ratification by Assembly.

### **Media**

25. The defined Media groups shall be groups that undertake media activities which allow for the diverse range of interests of all Durham Students; where students are both the producers of media and its primary consumers.
26. Media activities shall be guided by the mission and values of Media at Durham Students' Union.
27. Media groups will not be subject to annual ratification by Assembly.