

Society Membership

Full membership of your society is open to anyone who is a member of Sheffield Hallam University Union of Students, both full and part time students. Providing they pay the required fee and agree to abide by the rules and regulations lay down by Hallam Union.

Associate membership of your society will be limited to approved instructors, life members of the union, reciprocal members (anyone who brings expertise, experience or valuable skills to your society), University of Sheffield students, university and union staff. Associate members shall not exceed 20% of registered members.

Once you have at least 12 members (paid societies only, free societies do not have to meet this minimum) you can go ahead with all the activities you had planned. However, you need to keep the interest in the society so that there are always enough members to fill the committee and keep it running.

Recruiting

Although the Activities Fair is important to recruiting students to your Society, people can always get involved throughout the year. Societies need to remain visible throughout the year, so that people will be able to join. Don't just go and hide away in the corner as soon as you've reached your target number of members. Let it be known where you meet and what you do, use the societies notice boards, SHU Media, the website, Facebook, e-mail etc to get more students involved. Being seen as an active society will attract lots of new members.

Retaining

Make an effort to remember the faces and names of a number of new members and then make an effort to talk to those new members at the first, second, third meeting. Hopefully these people will feel part of the group immediately.

If someone arrives for their first meeting part way through the term, try not to make them feel as if they have arrived in the middle of things. Make it clear that they can get involved, but don't overwhelm them.

Share some responsibility outside of the committee. By making people feel part of the group and showing them what it is like to run a society they may be keen to take over when the time comes. The committee must be open to suggestions and challenges from others and carry forward any ideas that have been suggested.

Remember

The more active a society you are and the more interested and involved members are, then the more successful your society will be at recruiting and retaining members.

If a paid society has less than 12 members at the end of the first semester, the society will be suspended until the minimum amount of members have registered and have their membership cards.

Any Society voluntarily winding up shall notify the Union.

The Officer Committee has the authority to dissolve any society if its activities or conduct are deemed contrary to the aims and objectives of Hallam Union.

How to join

All society members, including the committee, must register with Hallam Union. There is an online registration form to complete. Once the form is completed, members will need to come to the Hubs to pay any membership fees, and receive their membership card. It is also possible to pay fees at the Union's Collegiate Office by arrangement.