



# Academic Society Guide

A how-to-guide for your Academic  
Society

# An introduction to Academic Societies

An academic society at SUBU (Students' Union Bournemouth University) is a student-led group centred around a specific subject area or field of study—such as law, psychology, media, or archaeology. These societies create a space for students to deepen their academic interests, connect with peers on the same course, and engage in activities like guest lectures, workshops, and socials. They offer both educational and social opportunities, helping students enhance their university experience beyond the classroom.

Academic societies exist on a spectrum; ranging from those that focus primarily on academic enrichment to those that take a more social approach. Some societies may organise events to support learning and career development, while others prioritise social events, trips, and informal gatherings that help students build friendships and enjoy their subject in a more relaxed setting. Many academic societies offer a balance of both, giving members the chance to grow academically while also enjoying a strong sense of community.

These clubs, like all clubs at SUBU, are created to provide a welcoming space for students to connect with like-minded people, explore their interests, and take part in fun, engaging events throughout the year.

Whether you're looking to try something new or deepen an existing hobby, SUBU's clubs offer a great way to enhance your university experience.

As leaders of these communities, these guides have been created to give you some handy hints and tips that can enrich your activity and experience for yourself and your members!

# What can you do as an Academic Society?

Our academic societies have run a huge range of activities, here are just a few examples of the things you could do with yours!

**Debates & Discussions:** Host panels, Q&As, or forums. It's a great way to explore ideas, learn from others, and get talking about what really matters in your subject.

**Guest Speakers:** Invite speakers for educational talks from an experienced professional in your field. This could be a good chance to inspire your members, provide them with extra-curricular knowledge, or an opportunity to learn from a the best of the best!

**Film Screenings:** Screen documentaries that are connected to your field of study. Screenings can be a fun way for your members to cover key content for their course, whilst hanging out with friends

**Collaborations:** Team up with other societies to run fun events, socials, or projects. It's a great way to share ideas, meet new people, and try something different

**Social Events:** Create a space to relax with likeminded people and provide a break from the pressures of your course

**Fundraising Campaigns:** Whether your fundraising for a specific charity close to your hearts, or for equipment that the society needs, campaigns can be a brilliant opportunity to try out something new (potentially challenging) and bring your members together for a united cause

**Trips (UK or Abroad):** Trips to iconic destinations, such as museums, renowned institutions or places with a deep history connected to your academic field are a great way to travel the world with people who appreciate the same field of study. These trips can offer a deeper level of understanding and enrich your hands-on academic experience at university.

# Useful Contacts/Suppliers

## Merchandise Providers

- The Funky Peach : <https://www.thefunkypeach.com/>
- Yazzoo Personalised Clothing : <https://personalised.clothing/>

## Academic Reps

- Don't know who your reps are? Contact **reps@bournemouth.ac.uk**

## Sponsorships

- The Old Fire Station- new for 25/26 - The Old Fire Station can tailor a sponsorship package for you and your members!
- Email: **elliskm@bournemouth.ac.uk**

## Room Bookings

- If you need to cancel, or enquire about capacity of rooms available on campus
- (All rooms need to be booked through the form on the Committee Zone)
- Email: **rbookings@bournemouth.ac.uk**

## FAQS

**How do we get a society patron?** If you don't already have one, you can approach academics in your department and ask if they would be interested in supporting the society

**Can we campaign for changes to our course?** Yes! We would recommend speaking to your course reps to flag specific changes that would improve your members academic experience at BU.

### **Do we have to run subject-based events?**

Just because your members have been brought together from a shared course or interest in a specific academic field, doesn't mean your activity has to reflect that. Some academic societies exist purely as social spaces for people in a shared academic community. How the society chooses to operate is up to you and your membership

*If you have any further questions, please contact the team at [suclubs@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:suclubs@bournemouth.ac.uk)*