



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, media, psychology, or midwifery. These societies offer both educational and social opportunities, helping students enhance their university experience beyond the classroom by creating spaces to deepen academic interests, connect with peers, and engage in activities.

Academic societies can primarily focus on academic enrichment by organising events which support learning and career development. They can also take a more social approach by prioritising social events, trips, and informal gatherings that help 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 can 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. This could be a good chance to inspire your members, provide them with extra-curricular knowledge, or an opportunity to learn from an experienced professional!

Film Screenings: Screen documentaries that are connected to your field of study. Screenings can be a fun way for your members to cover key course-related content 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 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- for 26/27 - 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