

Associate Membership Policy

Updated January 2024

As a charity and membership organisation, Greenwich Students' Union directs funding and resources solely for the benefit of its student members. In some circumstances, Associate Memberships may be granted to non-student members providing they meet the GSU Associate Membership criteria set out below.

Definitions:

- GSU Student Group: Any sports club, society or academic community ratified with GSU, who are bound by GSU policies and procedures
- Associate Membership: as defined in this document
- GSU Student Members: Students registered with University of Greenwich (UoG), University of Kent (UoK) or Canterbury Christ church University (CCCU).
- Standard Membership: student group membership held by GSU student members

1. GSU Group Majority

- a. All GSU student groups must comprise a majority of current GSU student members
- b. This majority must be no less than two thirds of the groups member base as acknowledged through membership sales via MSL (greenwichsu.co.uk)
- c. This majority must apply at all times throughout the year
- d. Associate membership will not be granted to groups unless this majority applies with the acceptance of a new associate member.

2. GSU Associate Memberships

- a. GSU Associate Memberships allows non-students to become a GSU member and obtain the benefits below.
- b. This is limited to:
 - i. Students of UoG Partner Colleges,
 - ii. Students studying at other UK universities.
- c. GSU Associate Membership may be granted at the discretion of GSU for anyone outside of the above criteria with sufficient evidence to support their application
- d. Those who fulfil the criteria set out above must also be over the age of 18. Associate membership will not be granted to those who are under 18 unless an agreement is in place via a UoG partnership college

3. Benefits and Restrictions to Membership

A GSU Associate Membership grants the following benefits:

- a. Access to purchase associate memberships to GSU student groups including, sports clubs, societies and academic communities
 - i. Agreement should be sought from the current student group committee prior to purchase of the associate membership.
 - ii. Student groups must opt-in to have an associate membership
- b. Access to GSU rooms for group activity in line with the GSU room booking policy.
- c. Access to GSU Venues and events including
 - i. Commercial venues (Lower Deck, Deep End, Candy Shack, Tudor Café)
 - ii. Activity Programmes (GiveitaGo, GSU Move, Medway Move, Global Greenwich)
 - iii. GSU Large Events, such as Welcome and Varsity, at the discretion of GSU.
- d. Discounts to GSU venues where applicable

A GSU Associate Membership does not allow:

- a. The right to vote in any GSU democratic processes such as Elections for Officers, Reps and Student Group Leaders and Student Assembly
- b. The right to hold an officer or representative role at GSU
- c. The right to hold a committee position for a GSU student group
- d. Access to GSU spaces unless through a ratified student group or commercial partnership
- e. Participation in BUCS
- f. Access to the GSU advice service

4. Applying for a GSU Associate Membership

- a. A prospective GSU associate member as described in point 2b must complete an application form detailing their reasons for becoming an associate member with sufficient evidence such as a valid ID card.
- b. Once approved, the GSU associate membership can be purchased through greenwichsu.co.uk
- c. Purchasing a GSU associate membership will unlock the benefits outlined in point 3
- d. To join a student group, GSU associate members will need to purchase a corresponding associate membership to the group. Before doing this, approval should be sought from the current committee of the group to authorise the membership as an associate member.
- e. Student group associate memberships will cease to be available if the group falls below the GSU group majority threshold outlines in point 1b
- f. Incomplete application forms will not be accepted
- g. Applications will be accepted on a case-by-case basis
- h. Approval will be granted subject to the applicant satisfying eligibility
- i. Evidence that can be provided includes:

- i. University of Greenwich (UoG), University of Kent (UoK) or Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) alumni card
- ii. Expired UoG, UoK or CCU student card
- iii. Written evidence from the relevant alumni office
- iv. Valid UoG, UoK or CCU staff card
- v. Valid GSU staff card
- vi. Valid student card belonging to a recognised UoG partner college
- vii. Valid student card belonging to another UK University institution

5. GSU Associate Membership Fees

- a. The GSU Associate Membership will be valid from the date of purchase up to 1st August each year.
- b. The GSU Associate Membership will carry a fee of £25 for the whole year (up to 1st August)
- c. If purchased after January, GSU Associate Membership will carry a fee of £15 for the remainder of the year (up to 1st August)
- d. Student group membership costs apply in addition to the GSU Associate Membership.

6. Complaints and breaches of policy

- a. GSU Associate Members must adhere to GSU policies and procedures including code of conduct, safe space and behaviour policies.
- b. By purchasing a Student Group Associate Membership, members are agreeing to terms of the GSU Student Group Code of Conduct and Student Group Constitutions.
- c. Any breach of GSU policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the GSU Disciplinary procedure.
- d. Any complaints should follow the GSU complaints procedure set out at greenwichsu.co.uk/complaints