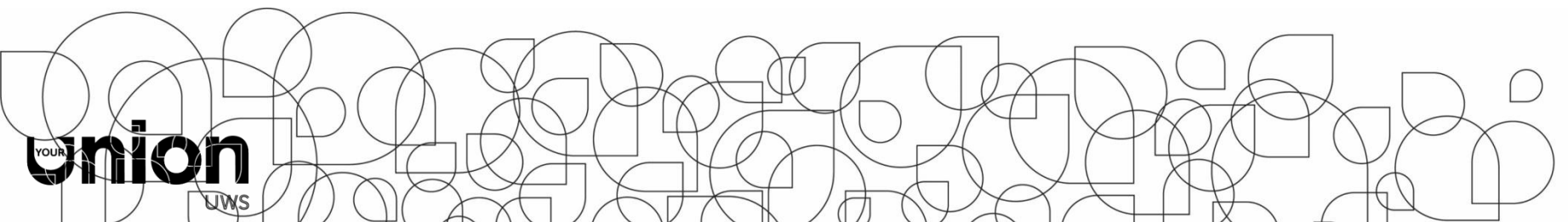




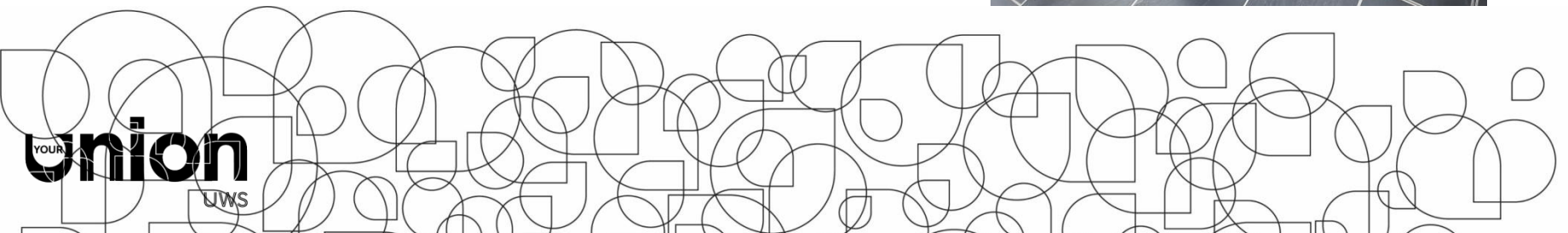
2026/27 Student Volunteering Team

Induction Session



Aims of your Volunteering Team Induction Session

- You understand what the Students' Union is and how it functions
- You understand what role our Volunteering Team will play within this
- You know specific details of the activities you will be involved with
- You sign up for specific activities and know how to stay in contact about these



What is The Students' Union?

It's a charity which:

- Exists to make the lives of UWS students better
- You are automatically a member - it's free
- We are independent from UWS
- We are led by your full-time, paid, student presidents
- Our staff support students to get the best out of their time at UWS

Our Mission:

To be the voice for students at UWS, effecting change and maximising student experience by creating a sense of belonging and offering opportunities to improve students' lives.



Our Aims

Building a powerful voice for students

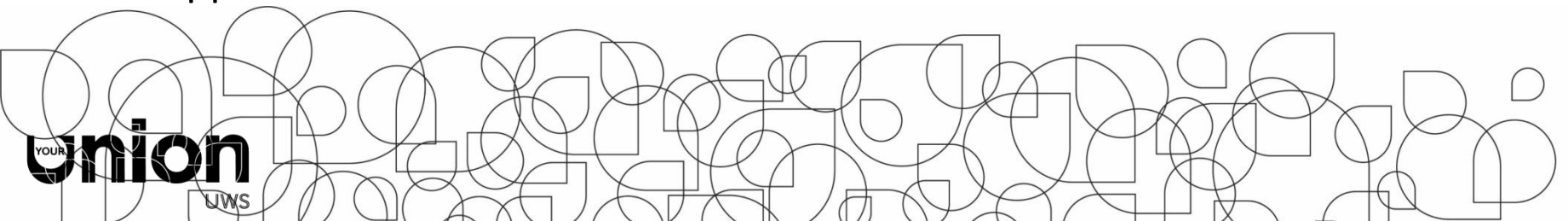
We will work together with students to ensure our voices are a vehicle for positive change within UWS and their local, national and global communities.

Supporting students to achieve their goals and aspirations

We will work tirelessly with UWS to ensure you are given every opportunity to build your knowledge, skills and confidence to shape your future.

Building a sense of belonging and community

We are proud to be part of a university that is committed to welcoming students from all backgrounds, particularly those who face significant barriers. We want every student to find a place in a strong community that supports them to make a difference and find activities that interest them.



Our Values

Welcoming

Always friendly and supportive, providing opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills and have fun

Innovative

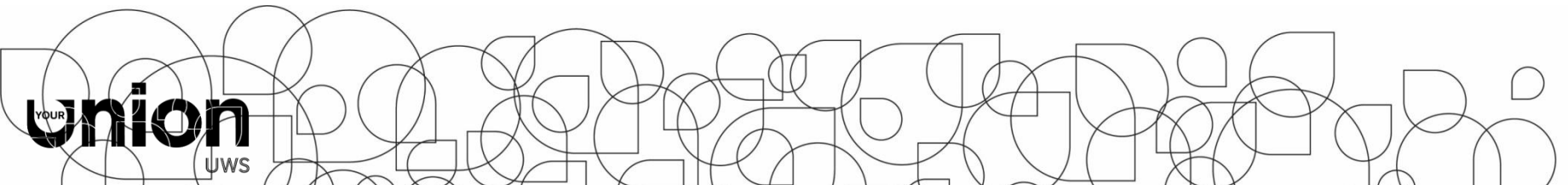
We are an ambitious union and are unafraid to try new ways of working to ensure students receive best services and university experience

Student Led

We are led by students for students and ensure that student voices are at the heart of everything we do

Equality & Diversity

Advancing equality and breaking down barriers in all that we do



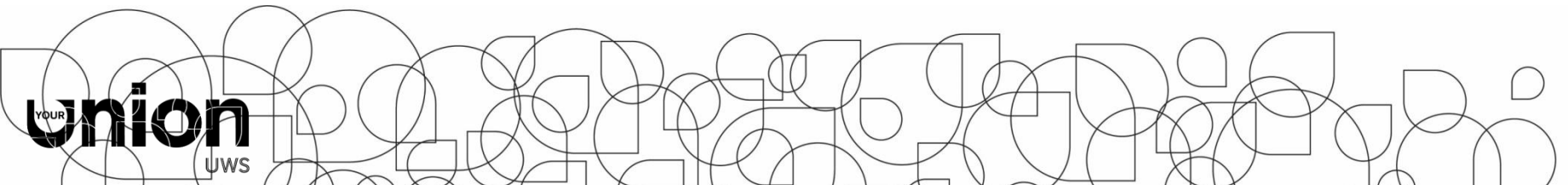
What we do

Student Representation

- Our representation systems aim to make sure that students are partners in the quality enhancement work at the university. The Students' Union are here to work with reps and UWS to facilitate this process.
- [About Representation \(uwsunion.org.uk\)](https://uwsunion.org.uk)

Student Societies

- Societies are a great way for students to make friends and meet new people
- They can also help you gain experience and develop some of the skills that you learn from your uni course
- We have a wide variety of societies to get involved
- These include academic societies, which are based on course groups. They provide a platform for students to help each other through their degree and enjoy their time at university
- [Societies \(uwsunion.org.uk\)](https://uwsunion.org.uk)



Students' Union Spaces

- Ayr
- Lanarkshire
- Paisley
- London



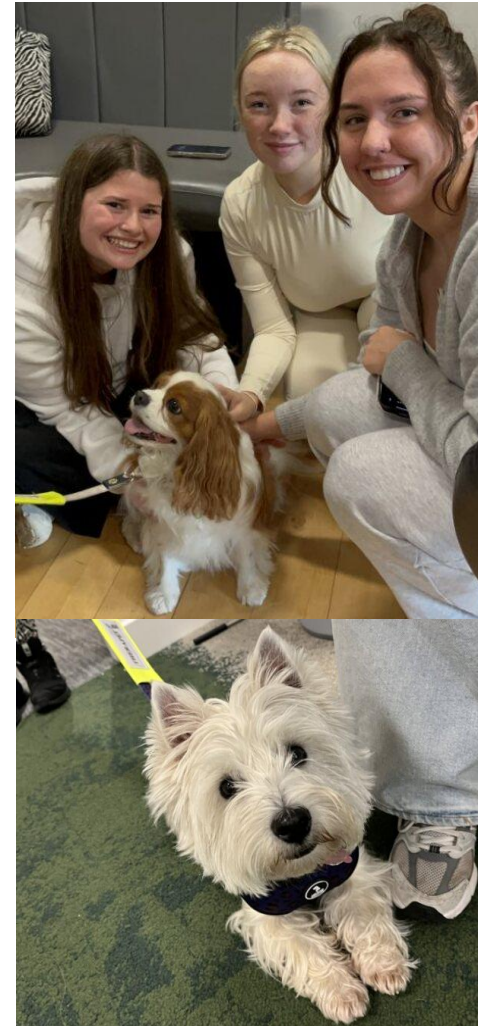
Advice Service

Our Advice Service provides:

- Information, advice, representation and advocacy
- This is a free, confidential, impartial and independent service to all students at UWS
- [Advice Service \(uwsunion.org.uk\)](https://uwsunion.org.uk)

Our Advice Workers can help students with:

- Appeal submissions
- ECS (Extenuating Circumstances statements)
- Plagiarism invites
- Disciplinary invites
- Submitting a Complaint
- Fitness to Practice invites
- Good Sexual Health (free condoms)
- Third party Crime Reporting Centre
- Experiencing a period of Hardship



Your Student Presidents



Student President

Solution



VP Education

Akriti

- Elected by students
- Work Full-time
- Paid
- Represent your voice at the highest levels of UWS



Freshers' Week

What is it?

- This is the when most students begin their academic year
- Most activities run in the week before term starts in September
- Activities also extend into the first few weeks of term

Why is it important?

- This is a chance for students to find out about the university and its surroundings
- It's when they can start getting to know people and start making friends
- They start to understand how university life works, what they can do and what support is available
- This can be quite overwhelming, confusing and a little bit scary
- Having other students available to provide guidance and make them feel welcome can make this much easier and more enjoyable
- A good first impression can make a big difference!

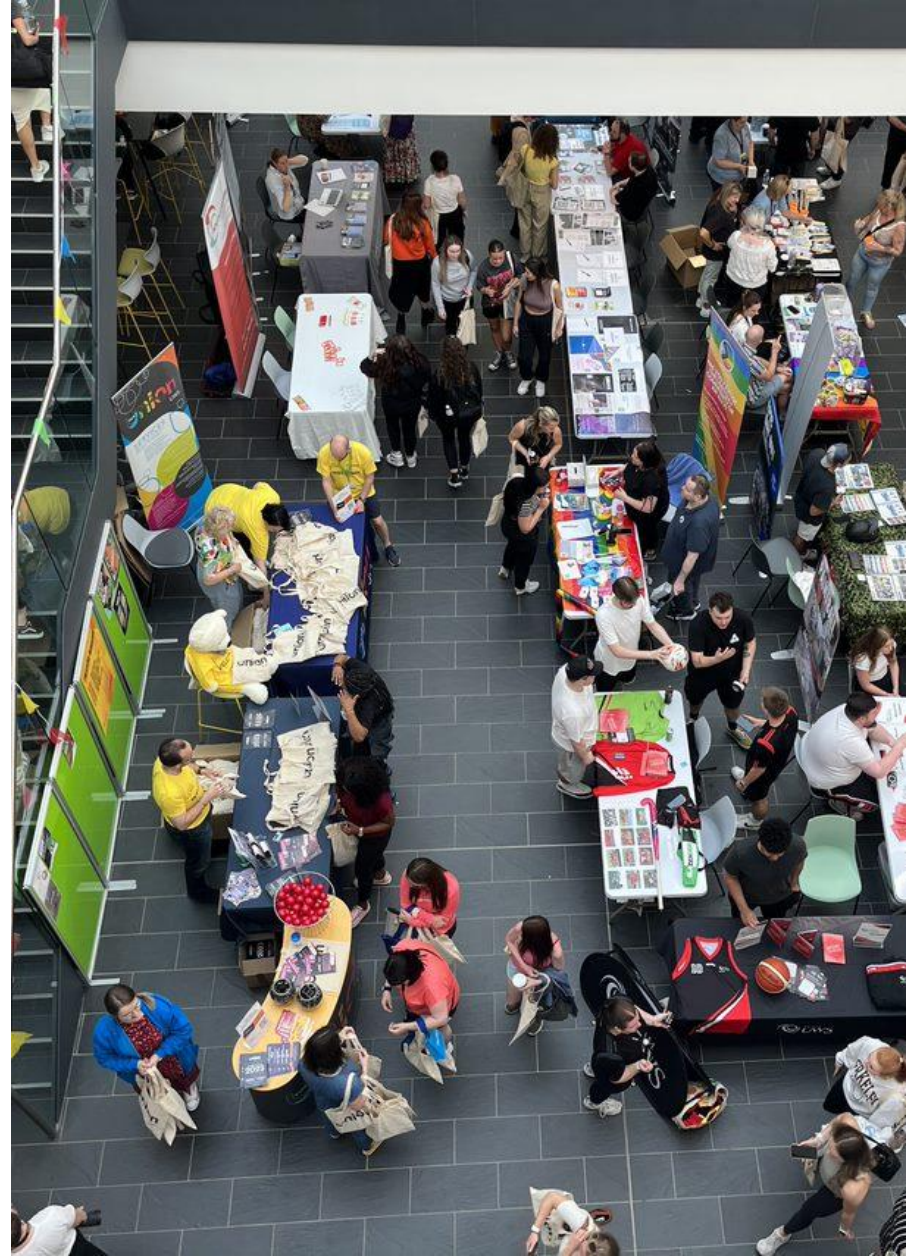












Student Volunteers

- How do our volunteers fit into all this?
- This is your Students' Union. We are led by students
- What types of volunteering do students do with the Union?
- Volunteering Team
- Student Reps
- Societies
 - Society Committee Members
 - Societies Leadership Team



Students' Union Volunteering Team

- The aim of our Students' Union Volunteering Team is to make students feel welcomed and settled into their life at university, make friends, and find out about the opportunities and support available to them
- Having our friendly, welcoming Volunteer Team has never been more important. As part of the team, you will have the chance to make a genuine, positive impact on the lives of other students

Specific roles:

- Freshers' Fairs
- Social Walks
- Society Welcome Events
- Union Welcome Events
- Black History Month
- UWS's Got Talent



Students' Union Volunteering Team

Freshers' Fairs

- Being a welcoming and friendly face for new and returning students
- Assisting with the set up and delivery
- Handing out flyers and providing information on the Students' Union
- Guiding students around fairs and the campus
- Supporting our Communications Team with capturing photos and videos
- Having fun!



LOCATION OF EVENT	CAMPUS	EVENT DATE	START TIME	FINISH TIME
Students' Union Level 1	Paisley	07/09/2026	11am	3pm
The Street	Lanarkshire	08/09/2026	11am	3pm
The Atrium	Ayr	09/09/2026	11am	3pm
Students' Union Level 1	Paisley	10/09/2026	11am	3pm
The Street	Lanarkshire	11/09/2026	11am	3pm

Students' Union Volunteering Team

Social walks

- Leading walks near our campuses
- Helping and encouraging new and returning students to get to know each other and explore the local area
- Guide students around planned route
- Make sure everyone stays together and safe!



LOCATION OF EVENT	CAMPUS	EVENT DATE	START TIME	FINISH TIME
Paisley town centre	Paisley	07/09/2026	1.30pm	2.30pm
Lanarkshire campus woods	Lanarkshire	08/09/2026	1.30pm	2.30pm
Ayr campus river	Ayr	09/09/2026	1.30pm	2.30pm
Paisley town centre	Paisley	10/09/2026	1.30pm	2.30pm

Students' Union Volunteering Team

Welcome Events

- Helping specific societies with the set up and delivery of their welcome events
- Supporting students who attend to make sure they feel welcome and included
- Build student communities at UWS
- Help to hand out flyers and promote the events







Working with your student presidents

Getting involved in campaigns and events

- What are Solution's manifesto aims?
- What are Akriti's manifesto aims?
- What specific activities can you get involved in?
- How can you contact them?





Faculty Vice Presidents

The Students' Union is holding elections in September through to October to elect our new Vice-Presidents for each faculty. These positions are:

- Vice-President Creative Arts, Business and Social Sciences (CBSS)
 - Vice President Health, Education and Social Care (HESC)
 - Vice President Computing, Sciences & Engineering (CSE)
-
- The positions are part-time and the post holders will do these roles in addition to their studies
 - Each role will be paid 15 hours per week and the posts will continue until the 30th June 2026

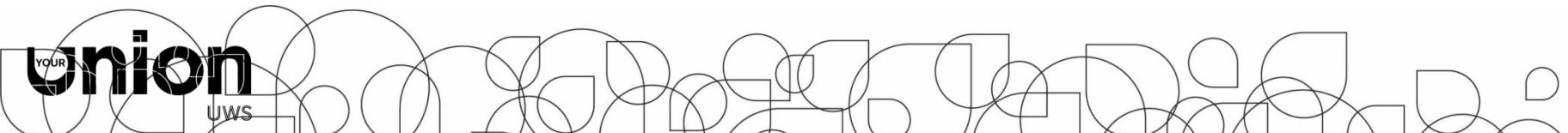


Faculty Vice Presidents

Why did we create these roles?

- We created the part-time Vice-President positions due to feedback that we received from students
- Students often do not have time to take a full year out of their studies to work for us – especially home students, so we wanted to create an alternative pathway that students could use, even if they continued studying
- We are especially proud to finally have an officer system that our health students are able to stand and take part in and we encourage them to do so!
- The Vice-Presidents will represent each of the new faculties students and represent them at the faculty leadership committees
- They will also sit on the Union's executive committee and help direct the work of the Students Union

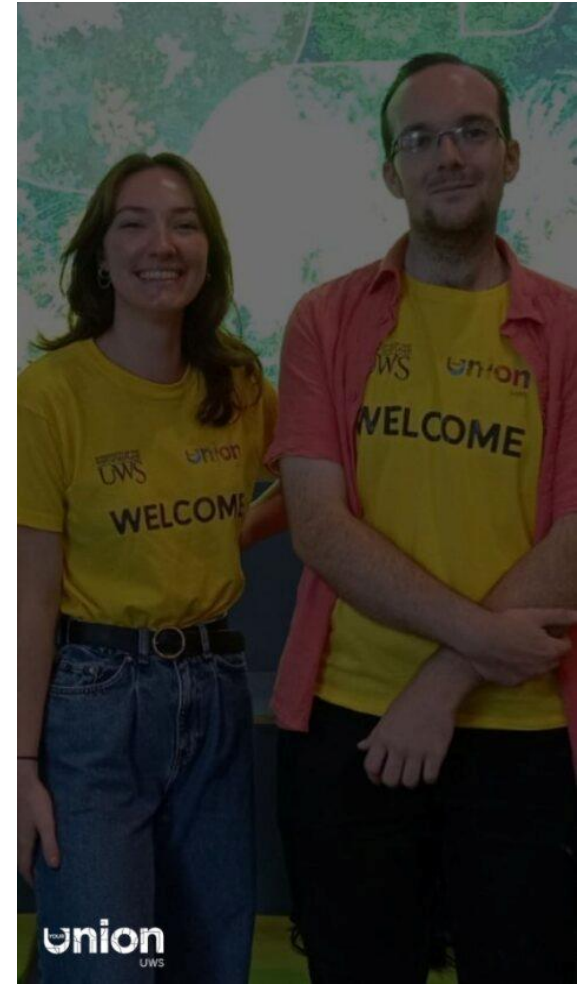
<https://www.uwsunion.org.uk/representation/elections/facultyvicepresidents/>



Students' Union Volunteering Team

Volunteering Team Rota

- Select which activities you would like to volunteer at here: [Volunteering Team Rota 26-27.xlsx](#)
- The expectation is that everyone will volunteer at least:
 - One Freshers' Fair
 - One other event or activity

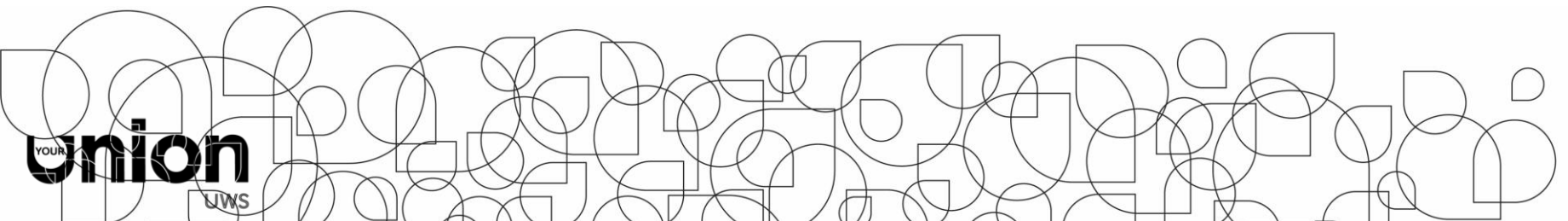


Inclusion and Engagement



Aims

- Define what we mean by being inclusive and engaging
- Consider your own previous interactions with others
- Discuss how our interactions with students can be inclusive and engaging
- Explore different communication styles to help you be more inclusive and engaging towards others



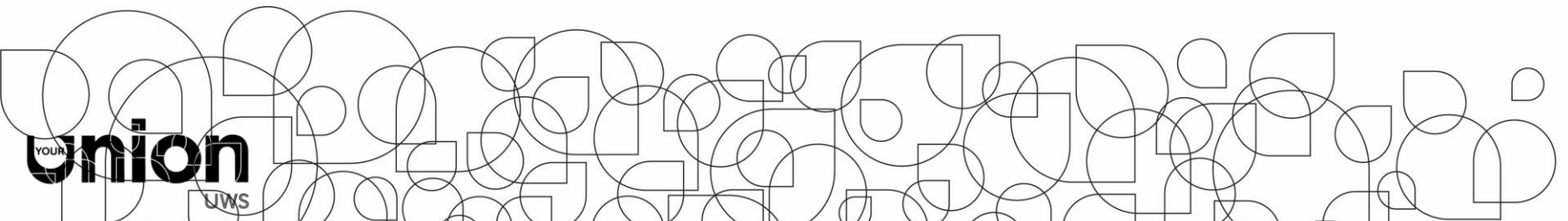
Definitions

Inclusion (valuing others)

Making sure we can adapt our approach and activities to ensure they are accessible and meet all students' requirements

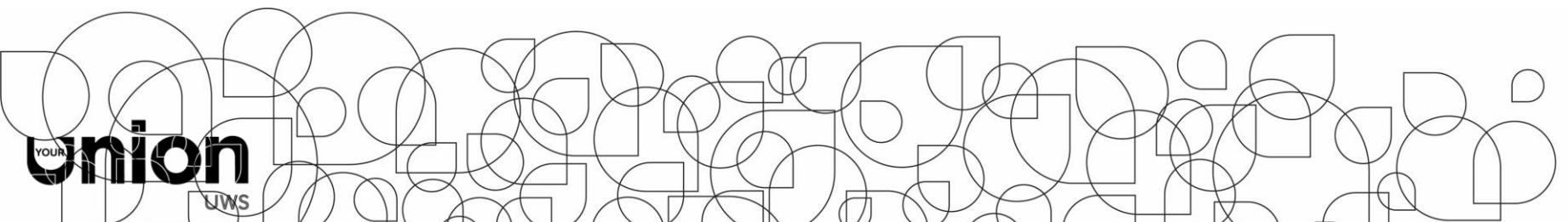
Engagement (involving others)

Making sure students want to take part and are actively involved in our activities



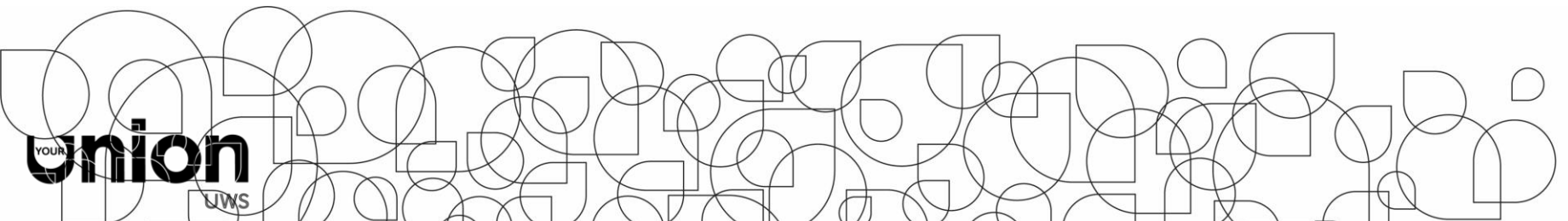
5-minute task!

- Think about a when you started at the university and first interacted with staff or other students
 - Did you feel included or excluded?
 - What happened, or didn't happen, for you to feel this way?



How can we make students feel welcomed, valued and involved?

- Be nice!
- Make it clear that you are someone who can help
- Be approachable
- Listen
- Be patient
- Don't make assumptions
- Identify any accessibility requirements
- Use preferred name and pronouns
- Take an interest in what they have to ask/say
- When in groups, make sure everyone has the opportunity to speak and be involved
- Direct them to any necessary support services
- Make a note of name and Student ID if any issue needs to be followed up



Students' Union Volunteering Team

Expectations

- What should you expect from us?
- What should we expect from you?

Expenses and Awards

- Volunteer Recognition Award
- Travel expenses



2024 Freshers' Volunteering Team

- 15 students
- Helped the delivery of 21 student led welcome events
- 713 attendees

2025 Freshers' Volunteering Team

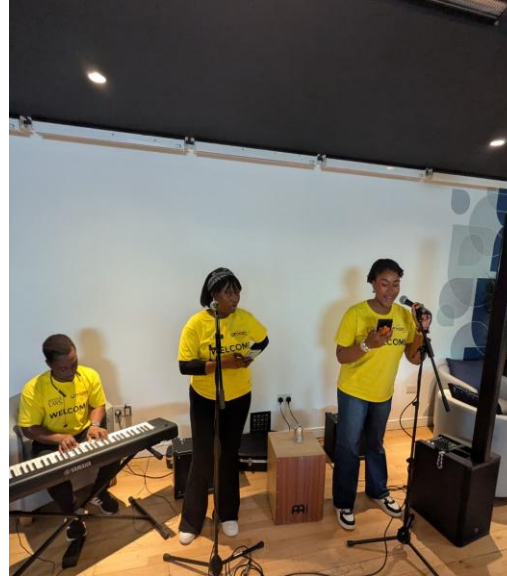
- 30 students
- Helped the delivery of 28 student led welcome events
- 1429 attendees

"I had mad fun today. I've never enjoyed a moment like this since I came to Scotland"



2025 Volunteering Team have since become involved in other roles and activities within the university, including...

- Society leaders
- Student reps
- Uniforce Project
- Speaker at Martin Luther King Jr. Day event
- Represent UWS at Scottish Student Table Tennis Championships
- UWS Student Buddies





Students' Union Volunteering Team

WhatsApp Group

Join the Volunteering Team WhatsApp group (see emails for link to join)

Any other questions?

