**LSESU Student Activities Code of Conduct**

LSESU Student Activities are for all LSE students to enjoy and be part of. LSESU is committed to being inclusive and increasing participation in the various communities at LSE.

The LSESU Student Activities Code of Conduct aims to outline behaviour that is expected from all Student Group members to ensure a fun, inclusive and fair community open to all. It should be read in conjunction with the School’s own code of conduct and associated policies.

The policy covers all organised events and activities led by student groups (normally clubs and societies) regardless of where they take place including but not limited to events, matches; training; social events; external speakers; dinners; trips; tours; post-match training; match refreshments; conferences; or any mass participation events including all AU events.

**1. Adoption and review of this Policy**

1.1. This policy was adopted by the London School of Economics and Political Science Students’ Union in July 2018. Next review date July 2019.

**2. Definitions**

2.1.For the purpose of this policy, the terms ‘student activities’ or ‘groups’ includes all groups which are student-led and includes sports, societies, media and volunteering groups.

2.2. The term ‘members’ shall include all members of any group operated by or operating within the Students’ Union.

**3. Policy Statement**

3.1. The LSESU recognises that there is a diverse range of groups within the Students’ Union who undertake a large variety of organised and social activities.

3.2. The LSESU recognises that participating in student-led activities is a great way to develop skills, make friends and adds value to the overall student experience.

3.3. The LSESU is committed to the value of equality and inclusivity, and, as such, aims to ensure that all activities within the Students’ Union are inclusive to all who may wish to participate in them in a safe, non-threatening and enjoyable environment.

3.4. The LSESU is committed to ensuring that all activities take place in a considered, safe and inclusive manner without causing undue pressure and distress to members or a negative impact to the local community.

3.5. The LSESU is committed to ensuring the continued safety and wellbeing of all members and that all activities that take place abide by the Union’s Health and Safety Policy. These should be read in conjunction with the School’s Health and Safety Policies.

3.6. The LSESU is committed to a zero tolerance approach to all forms of discrimination, bullying and harassment.

3.7 The Students’ Union recognises it has a responsibility to communicate this Code of Conduct and any new relevant policy clearly to group leaders and all members.

**4. Activities**

4.1. Student groups are able to organise a wide range of activities and events for their members, including those related directly to their group’s activity as well as a wide range of social events.

4.2. It is the responsibility of the group’s committee members to ensure that all activities organised through, or for, group members are inclusive and in line with the LSESU’s Health and Safety Policy and other relevant Union policies, even if passed by UGM after signing this agreement. Activities must have an appropriate risk assessment completed and handed to the relevant Coordinator prior to the event taking place.

4.3 It is the responsibility of the student group committee to ensure all activities where applicable are conducted according the rules & regulations of the activity issues under the authority of the National Governing Body.

4.4 As a group within the Students’ Union, all groups agree to abide by the following guidelines:

All groups and its members will:

4.4.1. Ensure that all activities, including social activities, are intended to be enjoyable to members and are undertaken within a safe and non-threatening environment

4.4.2 Ensure that the welfare of members is paramount at group events and that this is considered during the planning of all group events and activities, including planning for student travel home after evening events and where there has been alcohol consumption.

4.4.3 Ensure that membership of the group or any teams within it is not dependent on participation within social activities

4.4.4 Ensure that no member of a group is forced into alcohol consumption and that where alcohol is offered as part of a group event, that a suitable non-alcoholic alternative is available. Members should consume drink or food of their own free will, free from coercion, bullying or threat.

4.4.5 Ensure that all communications from the group to its members are appropriate and do not promote any activity that is in breach of any Union policy or procedure

4.4.6 All representatives of LSESU are expected to take proactive steps to ensure that student activities are inclusive and representative of the entire student body, and that diversity is valued which includes attending the necessary training provided by LSESU.

All groups and its members will not:

4.4.7 Engage in any activities which are likely to bring the Students’ Union and/or the University into disrepute

4.4.8 Promote abuse of alcohol consumption as a method of ‘joining in’ group activities.

4.4.9 Promote the consumption of alcohol outside of licensed areas. It is illegal to consume and carry open containers of alcohol in parts of London. It is also illegal to cause a public nuisance including large group drinking in public, which includes the LSE campus.

4.5 Failure to abide by these guidelines will result in disciplinary action being taken against the groups or individuals involved, using the Students’ Union Disciplinary Procedures, which can be found online.

**5. ‘Initiations’**

5.1. The Students’ Union does not condone any behaviour which places members in a position in which they feel pressured into doing something that they would rather not do, whether this is intended or not, social or otherwise.

5.2. The Students’ Union recognises that groups may wish to undertake welcome activities as part of their introduction to new and existing members for the academic year and does not wish to prevent groups from organising such activities. In light of this, the Students’ Union has the following regulations in place for all welcome activities:

5.2.1. All activities must be non-compulsory for members to participate in at their choosing and non-participation must be treated respectfully, with no bullying or peer pressure applied.

5.2.2. Where alcohol consumption forms part of an activity, a non-alcoholic soft drink alternative must be readily available to all members.

5.2.3. Activities should not include enforced degradation or humiliation or fall outside of publicly acceptable standards of behaviour, e.g. nudity

5.2.4. All activities must take place at a specific venue and not on the streets or any public right of way.

5.2.5. All welcome activities must have an appropriate risk assessment completed and handed to the relevant Coordinator prior to the event taking place.

5.3 The above guidelines are also applicable to all events and activities carried out throughout the year by student groups.

**6. Individual Members**

6.1. It is important that all members of the groups behave in such a way as to uphold the reputation of the Students’ Union and the University at all times when participating in groups’ activities.

6.2. By purchasing a membership, every member agrees to adhere to this code of conduct. It will be communicated to them at the point of sale and again within their receipt.

6.3. All members agree to abide by the following terms at all times and when representing the Students’ Union and the University, including during social activities:

Members Will:

6.3.1 Conduct themselves in a reasonable and responsible manner of mutual respect and understanding for all members of the LSE community at all times

6.3.2 Conduct themselves in a manner that shall not offend others and shall not use foul and abusive language, either orally, in writing, or by expression

6..3.3 Treat facilities, property, staff, and students at LSE and other institutions or establishments with respect and shall not interfere with other peoples’ enjoyment of Union or University facilities or events

6.3.4 Adhere to all Union policies and procedures and if relevant their particular regional and National Governing Body guidelines or sponsorship agreements.

6.3.5 Pay their own fines for any cautions or suspensions received. The Union and Student groups will not take any responsibility financially or otherwise.

Members Will Not:

6.3.6 Engage in any behaviour which is deemed an act of discrimination, bullying or harassment

6.3.7 Engage in any behaviour which causes either a nuisance or distress to members of the local community

6.3.8 Act in any way that could foreseeably cause harm to themselves or anyone else and be aware that they owe a “duty of care” to those who are closely affected by their acts and omissions.

**7. Trials, Selection and Auditions**

7.1 The Student Union operates a policy that all individuals must trial or audition each year irrespective of ability for groups this is applicable to.

* 1. Members can be constantly re-assessed by committee members and coaches to aid selection.
  2. It is a student group’s committee’s responsibility to ensure fair and inclusive opportunities for any student, no matter their level, to trial or audition.

**8. Breach of code of conduct**

8.1 Sanctions may be imposed on student group or individual member found to be in breach of this code of conduct.

8.2 If an incident occurs at the end of a season or academic year, the sanctions may be levied for the following years.

8.3 Breaches of the Code of Conduct can be reported through the Union’s Complaints Procedures which can be found online

8.4. Breaches will be dealt with in accordance with the Articles of Governance, and pursuant By-Laws, of LSE Students’ Union – in particular the Student Activities By-Law and the Discipline and Appeals By-Law. Please see our published complaints procedure for more details.