

FIRS – Guide for LSESU Student Groups

What is FIRS?

The Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) is a regulatory framework established under the National Security Act 2023. The scheme aims to enhance transparency around foreign influence in UK politics and public life. This comes into effect as from the 1st of July 2025, with a 3 month grace period to register ongoing activities that began before July, by 1 October 2025

How will it affect student groups?

Most student activities are completely unaffected. FIRS only applies when foreign governments specifically direct or asks a society to carry out political campaigning in the UK.

The Simple Rule

Do not worry about FIRS unless your society is involved in political campaigning directed by a foreign government or receives funding/ sponsorship from foreign entities with political conditions. – this is true but it doesn't just apply to societies and political campaigning, it can apply to work such as dissertations if foreign influence was directed/political influence is the outcome. I will send you an example of a query we were sent and what we replied with. Up to you whether you want to include but just to point out its not just limited to this ^

When You **DON'T** Need to Register (Most Student Activities)

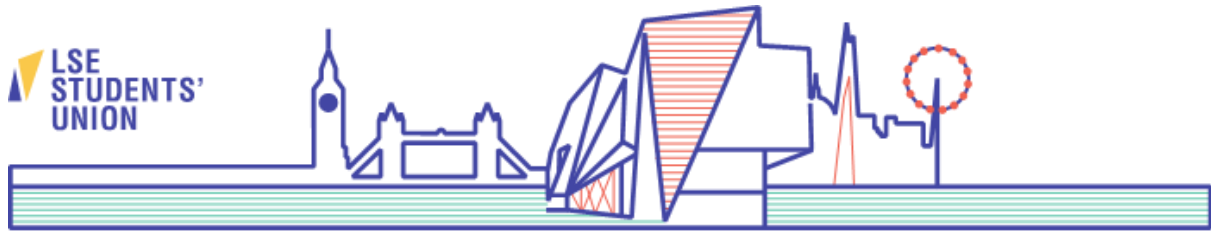
- Cultural events and festivals
- Academic talks and debates
- Social gatherings and networking
- Student-led protests or campaigns
- Inviting foreign speakers for educational purposes
- Receiving general sponsorship without political conditions

Events highlighted in yellow are registerable if direction to influence UK politics has been given by a foreign power.

When You **MIGHT** Need to Register

Only if BOTH apply:

- A foreign government tells you what to do
- It involves trying to influence UK politics/policy



Examples:

- Embassy directs your society to lobby MPs about UK policy
- Foreign government pays you specifically to campaign against UK decisions
- You're told by foreign officials to organise political protests

Quick Checklist

- Does a foreign government give us instructions?
- Are we being paid to influence UK politics?
- Did an embassy ask us to campaign for/against something?
 - If YES to any: Contact LSESU immediately
 - If NO: You are fine - carry on!

What You Need to Do

Just let us know! LSESU will handle the registration for you.

- When booking events: Declare any foreign government connections in your Event Form
- When seeking sponsorship: Declare any foreign entity funding in your Sponsorship Form

Contact Us

- su.societies@lse.ac.uk