



**Useful Information
For Your Written
Statement &
Campaign**

Officer Elections 2022

Your Voice
Only Louder

What is the Guild?

The Guild is here to support the social and academic experience of UoB students, and ensure that you get the very best experience!

Asides student elections, we offer a variety of services and opportunities to students, including:

- Decision-making (democracy) - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/howitworks/>
- Student Rep System - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/studentreps/whatrepsdo/>
- Campaigns - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/campaigns/>
- Guild Advice - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/support/guildadvice/>
- Societies, Student Groups & Associations - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/studentgroups/>
- Joe's Bar - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/value/joesbar/>
- Nightclubbing events (e.g. Fab) - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/eventsandtickets/fabnfresh/>
- Student Mentors - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/support/studentmentors/>
- Community Wardens Scheme - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/support/community-wardens/>
- Student-Staff Jobs - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/studentstaff/>
- Employability Support - <https://www.guildofstudents.com/employability/>
- Lots of More Volunteering Opportunities



What is the NUS?



NUS (National Union of Students) is the largest democratic student organization in Europe

- NUS was founded in 1922, with UoB Guild being a founding member
- It works to represent students on a national level – lobbying the government and universities on a variety of issues including tuition fees, teaching standards and liberation issues.
- It's achieved lots of successes over it's history e.g. securing an exemption from paying Council Tax for students
- It has two key conferences every year in the Spring – National Conference & Liberation Conference
- You can find out more about NUS here: <https://www.nus.org.uk/>



What Do We Know About UoB Students?

- Over 30,000 students
- UG, PGT & PGR, Full-Time & Part-Time
- Students are from all over the world
- Students study at either the Birmingham campus, abroad, at joint institutions, the Dubai campus, or are distance learners



Guild Democracy

The Guild is a “democratic” organization

Democracy -> NOUN

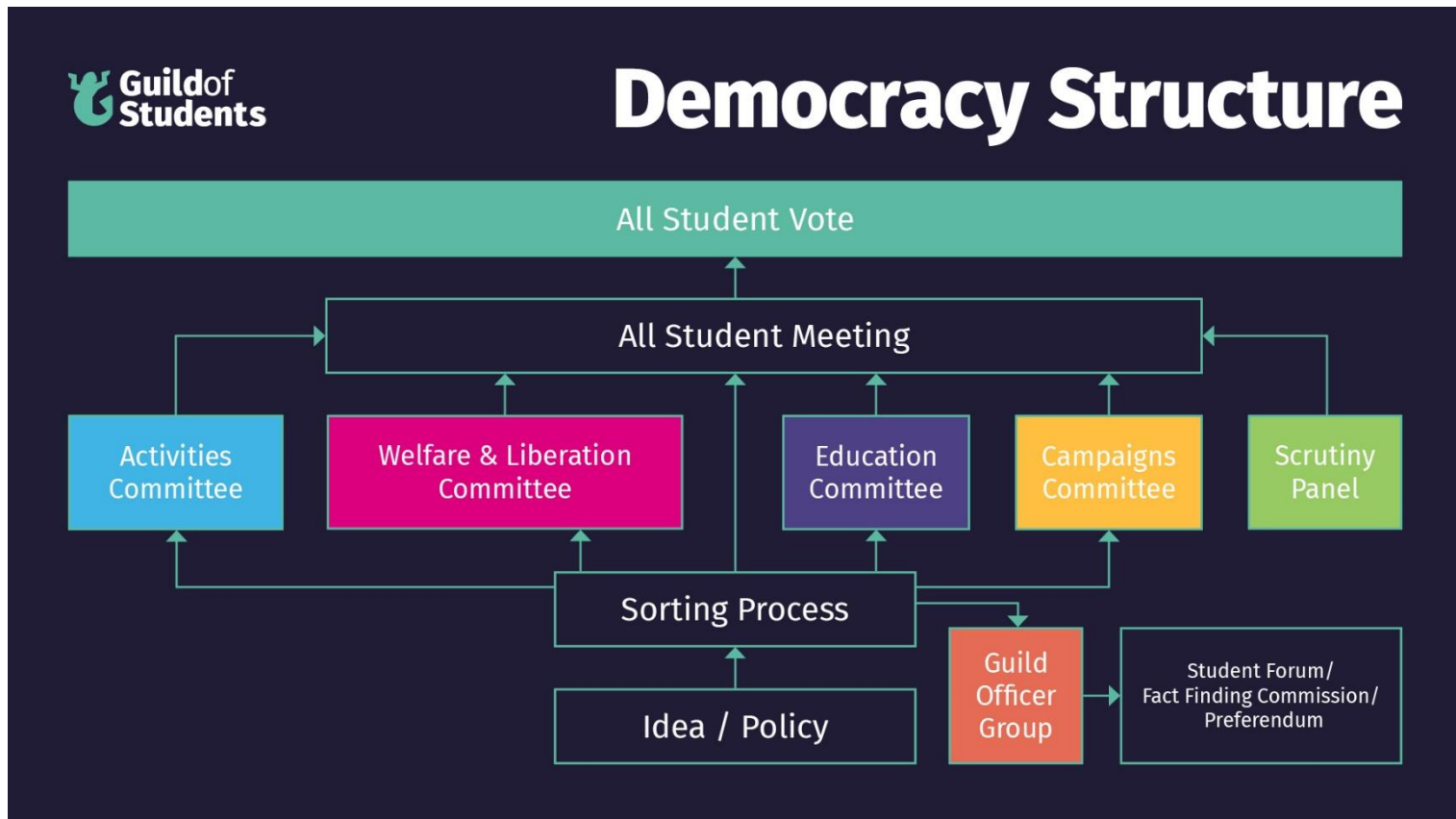
Democratic -> ADJECTIVE

- Democracy is all about people being able to have their say in what they want to see change & being able to choose who they want representing them
- As the Guild is a democratic organization, all of its members (UoB students) are able to have their say in things they want to change in the University, Guild and local community, and elect who they want representing them.
- Decisions are made by UoB students – UoB students have decision-making power in the Guild!!!

The Guild should be representative and inclusive of ALL UoB students!



The Guild's Decision-Making (Democracy) Structure



You can find more information and details about the decision-making structure here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lzi7s1t1LG-FFDMaVaTZKIIRjMO8izYTFNGM7tx5ENA/edit?usp=sharing>



Your Elected Officer Team

As the Guild is a democratic organization, students can have their say in which students they want representing them

7 Elected Full-Time Officers and 7 Elected Part-Time Officers are elected every year to represent UoB students

Elections are a big part of democracy!

As an Officer, although the President is the lead Officer for Guild democracy and elections, ALL Officers still play a HUGE role in Guild democracy

Find out more about your current Officer Team here:
<https://www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/>



How Can You Find Out More About What UoB Students Care About?

- NSS, PTES & PRES Data
- Issues raised by Reps/Previous Rep Impacts
- Student Ideas, Policy & Campaign Proposals
- Decision-Making Committee Meetings
- All Student Meeting
- Officer Priority Campaign – Change In Mind
- Black Voices Campaign

We recommend that you include information in your written statement & campaign that is relevant to the role that you are applying for!



National Student Survey

The NSS is a survey that all final year Undergraduate students at UK Universities complete

The survey asks these students for feedback on different areas of University life (e.g. teaching, University services etc)

Data from this survey shows that students are mainly happy with “Teaching on my course” and the overall experience at Birmingham.

Areas where students show they are not as satisfied include:

- Assessment and feedback
- Learning opportunities
- Academic support
- Learning community
- Student voice (listening to student feedback)
- Provision of welfare services
- University’s responsibility for student safety

For more information, please contact studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk



PTES & PRES Surveys

The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) are surveys to find out more about the PG student experience

For more information, please contact elections@guild.bham.ac.uk



Issues Raised By Reps

The Most Common Issues Raised By Reps Include:

- Timetabling
- Assessment timing/structure
- Teaching resources
- Personal tutoring

Rep Impacts are when Reps raise an issue and the issue is resolved - see the next two slides for examples

You can also find out more about representation of academic interests on the Guild website:
<https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/academicinterests/>



Rep Impacts

“Biosciences Student Reps listened to and represented their fellow students' academic interests by investigating a class on canvas that had been causing confusion. They wanted to know a) what the class was about, b) if it was a workshop or practical, and c) which group it was for, and so they raised it at a Staff Student Forum. Based on their work, University staff took action, making it easier for students to find the information they needed on canvas and link classes to their timetabled slots.”

“A Student Rep received feedback around the accessibility of lectures and seminars - so in response they raised the issue with their student experience officer to improve the situation. As a result, students have really noticed a change in their lectures and seminars and have fed back that they feel better assisted.”

“Biomedical sciences cohort had an exam moved to January instead of December as their cohort felt the exam was too soon after learning the content.”



Rep Impacts

“Student Reps identified issues with exam timetabling for medical students who followed Islamic and Jewish faiths with Ramadan and Passover taking place during exams, respectively.

The Reps raised this issue at meetings with staff, following which a quiz was announced on canvas for students to identify their preference of when they want to have their exam (e.g. afternoon or morning) and asked for any other requirements for consideration.

The response rate was high.

From raising this issue it was also noted that students had not received communication from the University about religious observation forms - the Reps therefore communicated and encouraged students to fill this in if applicable.

Had this topic not been raised, students would not have been aware of the Religious Observation Forms and so would not have filled it out.

Students fed back that they were grateful that this issue was raised.”



Student Idea & Policy Submissions

At the Guild, students are able to submit ideas and policy proposals for things they would like to see change in the Guild, University and local community.

These ideas and policy proposals may be allocated to the Guild's decision-making committees, to Officers, the All Student Meeting, or core Guild staff.

Ideas that have been submitted this year have included:

- Providing an icebreaker event for 2nd year Economics students
- The University should continue to offer remote learning in Semester 2
- Removing the APPG definition of Islamophobia from the Guild's Zero Tolerance Policy
- The University should have online exams for all courses
- The University should provide fellowship students with clear mentions about meals with cash

For information on progress on these ideas, please email elections@guild.bham.ac.uk



Student Campaign Submissions

Students can also submit ideas for campaigns, and request funding for them!

Funding for campaign ideas related to welfare, liberation, equality and diversity and wellbeing are approved by the Guild's Welfare & Liberation Committee.

Funding for any other campaigns are approved by the Guild's Campaigns Committee.

Previous campaign ideas that have been submitted have included:

- Evening of Elegance 2021 Campaign
- Raising awareness of sustainable fashion
- Guild of Students to Endorse the UoB Amnesty International Society's Campaign to Stop "Killer Robots"
- University-Wide Campaign for the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE Bill)
- Period Poverty

For information about campaigns, please email elections@guild.bham.ac.uk



General Impact of COVID-19

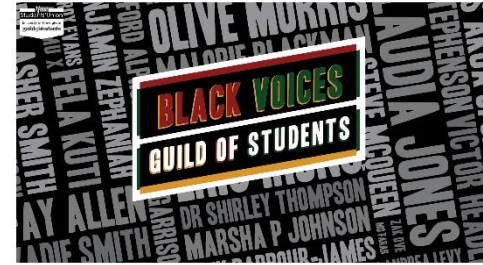
COVID-19 has had a significant impact on various areas of the student experience, including:

- Welfare
- Money
- Housing
- Teaching & learning
- Placements, jobs & years abroad
- Social experience
- Accessibility of university services

You may want to talk about this in your campaign and written statement.



Officer Priority Campaigns



- Each year, Officers host 2-3 Priority Campaigns
- Last year's Officer Team hosted 1 Priority Campaign – the Black Voices Campaign

The Black Voices Campaign is still ongoing, and is run by a group of student volunteers. You can find out more here:

<https://www.guildofstudents.com/blackvoices/>

- **This year's Officer Priority Campaign is Change in Mind – you can find out more by contacting your Officer Team:**

<https://www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/>



**Thank-You For
Reading
&
Happy Campaigning
and Writing!**

