

Idea for Change: Allow Free Society Membership and Free Event Ticket Options for Non-Members of a Society

What is the issue you would like to discuss?

The current society membership fee structure and ticketing policies create unnecessary financial barriers for students who want to participate in political societies, study-based, and discussion-based groups. Key concerns include:

- 1. Mandatory ticket fees (minimum £1) for non-members attending society events discourage participation and engagement for students wanting to try new things without committing to membership eg. political societies.**
- 2. Societies, particularly non-academic, that do not require funding for activities should be allowed to offer free membership, especially as academic societies will have free auto-enrolment from next year.**
- 3. Byelaw 5, Section 7 (Membership) currently mandates a minimum membership fee of £1, preventing societies from being fully free.**

Why is this of interest to students at the University of Hertfordshire?

- Financial inclusivity: Many students cannot afford membership fees or event tickets, limiting access to SU engagement and society activities.**
- Fairness across societies: If academic societies will soon be free by default, non-academic societies should have the same opportunity.**
- Encouraging political engagement: No student should have to pay to participate in a political society's discussions, as this is a fundamental part of student democracy and activism.**

What would you like Herts SU to do moving forward?

We call on Herts SU to amend Byelaw 5 – Societies to:

- 1. Allow Societies to Offer Free Membership**

- **Amend Byelaw 5, Section 7.3 to remove the requirement that all societies must charge at least £1.**

2. Remove Mandatory Ticket Fees for Society Events

- **Permit societies to allocate up to 20 free tickets per event for non-members.**
- **This promotes accessibility while maintaining event manageability. Herts SU must ensure any additional restrictions are based on the venue's capacity and existing health & safety policies.**
- **Clarify within the byelaws that societies are permitted to allocate up to 20 free tickets per event for non-members, as ticket pricing is currently not explicitly set in the byelaws.**

These changes will increase accessibility, encourage student engagement, and remove financial barriers to participation in societies.