

2024-25

Constitution of Students' Union UCL

Debating Society

1. Name

- 1.1. The name of the club/society shall be Students' Union UCL Debating Society.
- 1.2. The Club/Society shall be affiliated to Students' Union UCL.

2. Statement of Intent

- 2.1. The constitution, regulations, management and conduct of the club/society shall abide by all Students' Union UCL policy, and shall be bound by the [Students' Union UCL Memorandum & Articles of Association](#), [Byelaws](#), [Club and Society Regulations](#) and the club and society procedures and guidance – laid out in the '[how to guides](#)'.
- 2.2. The club/society stresses that it abides by Students' Union UCL Equal Opportunities Policies, and that club/society regulations pertaining to membership of the club/society or election to the club/society shall not contravene this policy.
- 2.3. The Club and Society Regulations can be found on the following webpage:
<http://studentsunionucl.org/content/president-and-treasurer-hub/rules-and-regulations>.

3. Committee

- 3.1. President
 - 3.1.1. The Presidents' primary role is laid out in section 5.7 of the Club and Society Regulations.
 - 3.1.1.1. The role of the President is to run Students' Union UCL Debating Society and continue its traditions as established since 1828.
 - 3.1.1.2. The President chairs the Students' Union UCL Debating Society Committee, whose meetings should be held fortnightly in term time, excluding Reading Weeks. In the event of tied votes, the President's vote is the casting one. If the President is absent, the Vice-President assumes the role.

- 3.1.1.3. The President should ensure that all Students' Union UCL Debating Society Committee members perform their roles both in spirit and to the word of the constitution.
- 3.1.1.4. The President is the primary representative of Students' Union UCL Debating Society both within and outside of UCL. They are an officer of the society to Students' Union UCL.
- 3.2. Treasurer
 - 3.2.1. The treasurer's primary role is laid out in section 5.8 of the Club and Society Regulations.
 - 3.2.1.1. The Treasurer's primary role is laid out in section 5.8 of the Club and Society Regulations.
 - 3.2.1.2. In order of precedence, the Treasurer is equal to the Vice-President within the society, but senior to them in the eyes of Students' Union UCL and UCL. They are an officer of the society to Students' Union UCL.
 - 3.2.1.3. The Treasurer should keep record of the society's current budget, starting on day one of the Winter term, so that on request from any member of the committee they can provide a full report on the financial status of the society.
- 3.3. Welfare Officer
 - 3.3.1. The Welfare Officers' primary role is laid out in section 5.9 of the Club and Society Regulations.
 - 3.3.1.1. Welfare Officer shall ensure general welfare of members of the society and participants at society events.
 - 3.3.1.2. The role of the Welfare Officer shall be regulated by article 5.9. of Student Union regulation
 - 3.3.1.3. In the event of equity issues arising during external events, it shall be the role of the Welfare Officer to enquire about the incident with the relevant equity team and relay this information to the Student Union if necessary.
- 3.4. Additional Committee Members
 - 3.4.1. Vice President
 - 3.4.1.1. The Vice-President shall support the President in the running of the society
 - 3.4.1.2. The officeholder is of equal precedence to the Treasurer within the society, but below them in the eyes of Students' Union UCL and UCL.

- 3.4.1.3. The Vice-President shall chair the Students' Union UCL Debating Society Committee in the President's absence.
- 3.4.2. Officers of Debating
 - 3.4.2.1. The office shall be held by two persons of equal status.
 - 3.4.2.2. The Officers of Debating have primary responsibility for Thursday Night Workshops, both in terms of leading training and determining their content.
 - 3.4.2.3. The Directors of Debating shall choose teams and judges to compete at inter-varsity tournaments, as agreed with the President and Treasurer. They shall endeavour to accompany them.
 - 3.4.2.4. The Directors of Debating shall be responsible for holding trials for EUDC and WUDC in accordance with the society's constitutional trials requirements. (see Appendix)
- 3.4.3. Officers of the Mace
 - 3.4.3.1. The office shall be held by four persons of equal status.
 - 3.4.3.2. The Officers of the Mace shall invite and organise speakers for Monday Night Debates in accordance with the nature of the motions set. They are responsible for these guests.
 - 3.4.3.3. The Officers of the Mace shall assist the Vice-President in organising Foundation Dinner as requested to do so by them.
- 3.4.4. IV Convenors
 - 3.4.4.1. The office shall be held by two persons of equal status.
 - 3.4.4.2. The IV Convenors shall run the President's Cup IV in the first half of Winter Term. This shall be a novice competition whereby participants have not competed at IV level before.
 - 3.4.4.3. The IV Convenors shall run the UCL IV during the academic year.
 - 3.4.4.4. The IV Convenors shall run the UCL Pro-Am in the Winter term.
- 3.4.5. Schools Officers
 - 3.4.5.1. The office shall be held by two persons of equal status.
 - 3.4.5.2. The Schools Officers should endeavour to run debating workshops for schools children and train society members to take part in this.
 - 3.4.5.3. The Schools Officers should endeavour to run at least one Schools Debating Competition annually

- 3.4.5.4. The Schools Officers shall be responsible for the organization of the UCL ICYD round if one is held
- 3.4.6. Society Secretary
 - 3.4.6.1. The Secretary is responsible for taking the minutes at the weekly committee meetings, AGM and EGMs. They are responsible for distributing these to relevant parties.
 - 3.4.6.2. The Secretary should help in society paperwork as deemed fit by the President.
- 3.4.7. Publicity Officer
 - 3.4.7.1. The Publicity Officer is responsible for the communication and advertisement of all the society's activities. They are responsible for the Freshers' Fair stall.
 - 3.4.7.2. The Publicity Officer is responsible for the society's Mailing List, Group Space, Facebook account, and Instagram feed.
- 3.4.8. Social Secretary
 - 3.4.8.1. The Social Secretary is responsible for all social events organised by the society. They shall endeavour to encourage a wider audience into the society.
 - 3.4.8.2. The Social Secretary is responsible for acquiring wine, soft drinks, cups and prizes for Monday Night Debates. They are also responsible for all other wine orders.
 - 3.4.8.3. The Social Secretary shall organise at least one debating social during the first half of the Winter term
- 3.4.9. First Year Representative
 - 3.4.9.1. The First Year Representative communicates the needs of the First Years on their behalf to the committee.
 - 3.4.9.2. The First Year Representative shall endeavour to be of use to any member of the committee for society business as seen fit.
 - 3.4.9.3. The First Year Representative is the only position not elected at the AGM. It is elected in the second half of Winter Term, preferably in the week after Reading Week.
- 3.4.10. Technology Officer
 - 3.4.10.1. The Technology Officer shall endeavour to assist other committee members with any society-related technological issues they may have.

- 3.5. Management of the club/society shall be vested in the club/society committee which will endeavour to meet regularly during term time (excluding UCL reading weeks) to organise and evaluate club/society activities.
- 3.6. The committee members shall perform the roles as described in section 5 of the Students' Union UCL Club and Society Regulations.
- 3.7. Committee members are elected to represent the interests and well-being of club/society members and are accountable to their members. If club/society members are not satisfied by the performance of their representative officers, they may call for a motion of no-confidence in line with the Students' Union UCL Club and Society Regulations.

4. Terms, Aims and Objectives

- 4.1. The club/society shall hold the following as its aims and objectives.
- 4.2. The club/society shall strive to fulfil these aims and objectives in the course of the academic year as its commitment to its membership.
- 4.3. The core activities of the club/society shall be:
 - 4.3.1. The object of the society shall be providing utility to its members, through debate and any other appropriate means.
 - 4.3.2. The society should organise Monday Night Debates. These will be open to all. Motions shall be chosen by the committee and the Officers of the Mace are responsible for providing the speakers. Wine and other refreshments shall be served. Prizes may be awarded by the chair and any other judges for the best Floor Speaker. The Society Mace should be present.
 - 4.3.3. The society shall organise two intervarsity (IV) competitions and one Open competition. The President's Cup is a national novice competition to be held in the first half of Winter term. The UCL IV shall be held annually. The IV Conveners hold primary responsibility. The London Open shall be held in the second half of Winter term.
 - 4.3.4. The society should hold weekly Thursday Night Workshops. These will be organised by the Directors of Debating to improve debating and public speaking skills for society members.
 - 4.3.5. The society will endeavour to send society members chosen by the Directors of Debating to IV competitions as either teams or judges.
 - 4.3.6. The society should engage with schools to encourage the development of debating and public speaking skills, particularly in London. Workshops and a Schools Debating

Competition should take place. Society members should be encouraged to participate and help.

- 4.4. In addition, the club/society shall also strive to organise other activities for its members where possible:
- 4.4.1. The society shall organise the Foundation Dinner annually in the second half of the Spring Term. The motion will be ‘This house has no confidence in Her Majesty’s Government.’ The event is the primary responsibility of the Vice-President, and if requested the Officers of the Mace. The society shall endeavour to provide preferential access to its members.
- 4.4.2. The society shall endeavour to organise social events for the pleasure of the society and to aid its cohesion.
- 4.5. This constitution shall be binding on the club/society officers and shall only be altered by consent of two-thirds majority of the full members present at a club/society general meeting. The Activities Executive shall approve any such alterations.
- 4.6. This constitution has been approved and accepted as the Constitution for the Students’ Union UCL [Debating Society](#). By signing this document, the President and Treasurer have declared that they have read and abide by the Students’ Union UCL Club and Society Regulations.

President	Name: Yixuan (Roy) Zhang
	Signature: Yixuan Zhang
	Date: 18/07/24
Treasurer	Name: Santiago Luca Jimenez-Rowe
	Signature: Santiago Rowe
	Date: 18/07/2024