

Benefits for your college to attending National Conference

With NUS National Conference approaching we hope you can send a student delegation to attend. It can be a challenge to get teaching staff or college managers to excuse students for 3 days of teaching but some of the following may help you win that argument.

1. Consider this great work experience

Acting as a representative for students at your institution is a brilliant and unique experience. Students who attend (called delegates) will gain skills such as Time Management, Debate and Compromise, Political Awareness, Communication as well as an appreciation of the scale of the student movement. This is a really important role and one that will look good on a CV or UCAS form and will build more confidence than a week in an office making tea. We hope your students will come back inspired and ready to improve the lives of students at your institution.

2. An exercise in democracy

Electing delegates to attend NUS National Conference can be used as case study to evidence vibrant democracy at your institution. Allowing your students the chance to talk about their values and letting the student body select their best representatives is a fantastic real life example for future use.

3. A cost effective enrichment opportunity

As an affiliated member the cost of attending conference is covered in your affiliation fee. You have already paid for students to attend! NUS can also help fund travel if you are finding that a barrier. Your NUS card sales commission could also help support attendance so you may not have to access your already limited college funds. Breakfast is provided at the hotel, there is some free food at lunchtime "fringe" meetings and there is always the good old NUS Extra discounted chains for dinner.

4. You will learn, a lot

As a member of staff you will get to see the broad spectrum of ideas that makes-up the student movement which you will be able to take back and develop in your institution. There is a parallel training event for FE staff on 26th April where you can meet other practitioners and share best practice. The costs for attending the

three day event is very reasonable compared to other sector events.

5. NUS will look after your students

NUS have a NSPCC qualified safeguarding team with both male & female staff on call 24hrs a day whilst conference is on and 40 other staff working at the event. There will be a safe-space for under-18 students and there is a full agenda of debate and learning each day to ensure there isn't time for students to drift off. If you attend with Under 18 students you will be in the same hotel and we can provide a full risk assessment for the event if you need it.

With regards to safeguarding, we make the following arrangements:

- There is a conference phone number published on the app and is communicated as part of a behaviours & protocol video which is played when Conference opens.
- The phone is switched on when on-the-day registration opens and is switched off when Conference closes on the Thursday.
- The phone is held by NUS staff on Information Point during the day. If a safeguarding issue arises they will contact a named safeguarder on the staff rota.
- All under 18s are accommodated in the same hotel with their delegations (we will endeavour not to separate under and over 18s in the same delegation).
- On both evenings the phone is held by a trained safeguarder. We have two safeguarders on duty on each evening – one who self-defines as a man and one who self-defines as a woman. At least one of these staff will be accommodated in the same hotel as the under 18s.

It's probably also worth reading the Under 18s consent form which gives an overview of the safeguarding arrangements.

<http://conference.unioncloud.org/resources/under-18-consent-form-nus-national-conference-2017>

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your member of the Membership Engagement Team

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/strong-students-unions/membership-engagement/meet-the-team>