

Small SUs Lead & Change '25

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Tuesday 18 November 2025

Small SUs Lead and Change 2025 is an exciting one-day in person development event is designed for staff and officers/student reps from college and small and specialist SUs.

The event will be delivered across two different streams with separate sessions for officers/student reps and staff - plus chances to connect and collaborate - it's the perfect opportunity to learn, share, and grow!

Outline agenda

Time	Officer/student rep stream	Staff steam
9.30	Registration opens	
10.00 - 10.15	Opening welcome	
10.15 - 11.00	Supporting officers in small SU/SAs	The four student movement roles
11.00 - 11.15	Transfer break	
11.15 - 12.15	Effective learner voice in small SU/SAs	Masterclass sessions: Rebel or Reformer
12.15 - 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 - 14.00	Elections in small SU/SAs	Masterclass sessions: Organiser or Helper
14.00 - 14.15	Transfer break	
14.15 - 14.45	Connect & Reflect - networking and strategy session	
14.45 - 16.20	Scenario game (joint session)	
16:20 - 16.30	Final words from NUS officers	

Small SUs Lead and Change 2025 is taking place in person on two dates. Delegates only need to attend one date:

- **Tuesday 11 November 2025 (10.00-16.30) Fife College, Dunfermline Learning Campus, Calaiswood Crescent, Dunfermline, KY11 8WH**
- **Tuesday 18 November 2025 (10.00-16.30) Heart of England Conference and Events Centre, Meriden Rd, Fillongley, Coventry, CV7 8DX**

[Find out more and register your place at the event.](#)

Session outlines - staff stream

10:15 Supporting officers in small SUs

Supporting officers in a small SU can be really rewarding but also comes with unique demands. With fewer staff, overlapping responsibilities, and short officer terms, the relationship between staff and officers has a lot to balance. In this session, we'll look at the realities of officer support in small SUs, share practical mentoring approaches, and think about what helps officers to grow, thrive, and lead confidently (without exhausting your limited capacity!)

11:15 Effective learner voice in small SUs

In small SUs, learner voice often depends less on formal structures and more on the relationships you build, the credibility you develop, and creative solutions. In this session, we'll map and understand the ecosystem of learner voice and influence, from course reps and committees to conversations in corridors. We'll explore how to strengthen the SU's influence, making impact visible, and designing approaches that work with limited time and resources.

13:00 Elections in small SUs

Running elections in a small SU often feels like a mix of having limited resources and lots of pressure to stay compliant but keep things engaging. In this session, we'll run through our experiences of supporting elections in small SUs, helping you to keep things free and fair whilst engaging your students and supporting candidates to succeed.

Session outlines - officer/student rep stream

10:15 The four student movement roles

This session will introduce you to four key campaign roles, all with their own approach to making change: reformer, rebel, organiser and helper. These roles are a unique way for you to understand your personal contribution to making life better for students and your community. We will identify which role/s you most identify with, their strengths and weaknesses.

11:15 Masterclass sessions: Rebel or Reformer

Having identified your role, masterclasses will be practical sessions to explore one role further. They will help you learn how to play your part most effectively and win for students.

13:00 Masterclass sessions: Organiser or Helper

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Joint sessions

14:15 Connect & Reflect - networking and strategy

We lead really busy lives in students' unions and don't often get the chance to stop, reflect on what we've done, where we want to grow and who we can connect with. In this session, we'll take time to reflect on where our students' union is at right now, identify where we want to take it to and we'll make connections with others to help us achieve this together.

14:45 Scenario game

The scenario game brings together officers and staff in a simulation of life in a small students' union. Working in teams, you'll respond to different scenarios, developing your planning, prioritisation and negotiating skills to improve the lives of your fictional students.