

# Know your sector

### **Russell Group**

An association of 24 leading UK research-intensive universities committed to maintaining and developing the highest standards of research, education and knowledge transfer. They set their sights on quality of teaching, research resources and independence from state regulation and funding.

[russellgroup.ac.uk](http://russellgroup.ac.uk)

### **Universities UK (UUK)**

The major representative body and membership organisation for the higher education sector. Their members are the executive heads of institutions. Together with Higher Education Wales and Universities Scotland, they work to advance the interests of universities and to spread good practice throughout the higher education sector.

[universitiesuk.ac.uk](http://universitiesuk.ac.uk)

### **Ipsos Mori**

A leading research company with global reach. They are engaged in a variety of complex and high profile projects in nearly every major industry and work with the world's leading businesses, governments and institutions. They are the company responsible for administering the NSS.

[ipsos-mori.com](http://ipsos-mori.com)

### **Red Bricks**

A name given originally to the six civic British universities that were founded in the industrial cities of England in the Victorian era and achieved university status before WWI.

The six Civic Universities are:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Sheffield

[wikipedia.org/wiki/Red\\_brick\\_university](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_brick_university)

### **Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)**

This organisation safeguards quality and standards in UK universities and colleges so that students have the best possible learning experience. They publish a range of reference points and guidance including the Quality Code and they review and report on how they meet their responsibilities, identify good practice and make recommendations for improvement.

[qaa.ac.uk](http://qaa.ac.uk)

### **Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)**

The statistics agency for HE providing many useful statistics and measuring performance across the sector in their annual Performance Indicators

[hesa.ac.uk](http://hesa.ac.uk)

### **Guild HE**

A mission group whose aim is to create a sustainable, diverse and dynamic higher education sector which: plays a full part in the development of a well-educated and socially inclusive nation; enhances the UK's economic competitiveness; and fosters cultural engagement, knowledge creation and exchange in a global context.

[guildhe.ac.uk](http://guildhe.ac.uk)

### **Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)**

Distributes public money for teaching and research to universities and colleges. In doing so, it aims to promote high quality education and research, within a financially healthy sector. The Council also plays a key role in ensuring accountability and promoting good practice.

[hefce.ac.uk](http://hefce.ac.uk)

### **National Student Survey (NSS)**

This is a survey of all final year undergraduates which gauges student satisfaction across a number of key areas from teaching and learning to assessment and feedback

[thestudentsurvey.com](http://thestudentsurvey.com)

### **Student Written Submission (SWS)**

A document written by students for the QAA which reflects in their words what the academic experience is like at their institution. This is done as part of an institutional Review.

### **Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA)**

Has a wide remit to examine student complaints about 'the omissions and commissions' of HEIs. It does not examine issues of academic judgment or admissions issues.

[oiahe.org.uk](http://oiahe.org.uk)

### **Higher Education Review (HER)**

The overall aim of Higher Education Review is to inform students and the wider public whether a provider meets the expectations of the higher education sector for setting and/or maintenance of academic standards, provision of learning opportunities, provision of information and the enhancement of the quality of students' learning opportunities.

### **Higher Education Academy (HEA)**

Organisation which aims to support the sector in providing the best possible learning experience for all students – this includes support for academics through the Subject Centres, awarding National Teaching Fellowships and undertaking research.

[heacademy.ac.uk](http://heacademy.ac.uk)

### **National Union of Students (NUS)**

A Voluntary membership organisation made up of around 600 Students' Unions representing more than 7 million students.

[nusconnect.org](http://nusconnect.org)

# Know your Union

## **Sabbatical Officer**

The President, the Vice President Education and Welfare and the Vice President Student Involvement make up our three Sabbatical Officers. They are elected annually in March and hold office for one year from 1 July to 30 June taking a year out from studying or at the end of their course. Any current student can run to be a Sabbatical.

## **Union Council**

The chance for every student to hold the sabbatical officers to account, often with guest speakers. In the past the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor have attended.

## **The Big Deal**

Support package for students at Bucks. Includes free events, entertainment and recreational activities as well as paid representation.

## **Vice President Education and Welfare (VPEW)**

One of the elected sabbatical officers who is your voice at many University meetings, currently your VPEW is Jenny Wade. Elections happen in early March for the following academic year.

## **Education Forum**

A Students' Union meeting between the representation team and the Senior reps, held three times a year and often called Ed Forum. This is a valuable meeting where the Senior reps can directly influence where the representation team focus their energy.

# Know your Institution

## **Design, Media & Management (DMM)**

DMM combine a range of disciplines spanning the creative and cultural industries, servicing public and private sector organisations and integrating a range of diverse disciplines.

## **Society & Health (S&H)**

S&H have innovative courses that help people hit the ground running in their chosen careers when they graduate. Geared towards the needs of NHS and health workers in the independent sector.

## **Mitigating Circumstances (Mit Circs)**

Process for students to request an extension or additional attempt if they feel their work has been affected by unforeseen or unexpected issues beyond the normal stresses of life. All requests should be supported by independent evidence and will be accepted or rejected following confidential review.

## **Academic Misconduct**

There are four different types of academic misconduct, Plagiarism, Collusion, Cheating and Impersonation. If a student is accused of any type of misconduct it will be investigated thoroughly before any action is taken.

## **Professional Services Employee (PSE)**

PSEs keep the University running and are non academic members of University staff. The main places that you will encounter PSEs are as the secretaries to your PCMs and they are the ones who help you at your Faculty Desks.

## **Head of Academic Department (HoAD)**

Member of University staff responsible for managing their department, Senior reps should speak to their HoAD on a regular basis and give them any feedback they have about their department.

## **Council**

This is the University's governing body and makes crucial strategic decisions around finance and planning that affect the student experience. Students are represented through the President of the Students' Union. Most of the Council members are independent of the University.

## **Senate**

This is the University's most senior academic committee and is responsible for maintaining the standard and quality of our academic provision. Students are represented through the President of the Students' Union and the Vice President Education & Welfare

## **Programme Committee Meeting (PCM)**

These committees deal with academic affairs and standards for courses at a local level (within the portfolio). The main meeting for student reps to give their feedback.

## **Validation**

Validation and approval is the quality assurance process by which the University ensures that all new or revised qualifications are valid, credible and fit for purpose.

## **Periodic Department Review (PDR)**

The periodic review process provides a focus on academic standards, the scholarship of academic staff and their engagement with the pedagogy of their discipline.

## **Partner College**

Aylesbury College, Amersham and Wycombe College, BCA, UCFB and Activate Learning Oxford are some of the UK based Colleges that run Bucks courses. There are also international Partner Colleges in Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.