



Join

Labour
Students
today!





Welcome!



"I'm Ben your Chair of Labour Students and I can't wait to meet as many of you as possible over the next year! With a general election on the horizon, this could be one of the most important moments in our lifetimes and I know Labour Students is going to be in the middle of it all."

Ben McGowan
Chair



"I'm Jonathan, and I'm the Secretary, which means I help Ben administer and organise Labour Students activities. Outside of Labour Students, I've just graduated in history and now work for the Bank of England."

Jonathan Heywood
Secretary



"Hello! I'm Fabiha and I'm your Vice-Chair. In my role I am committed to ensuring all students feel that their voices are heard and that issues impacting them are taken seriously. Beyond Labour Students, I am a History and Politics graduate and am now working in an academic library! I hope I get the chance to meet as many of you as possible!"

Fabiha Askari
Vice Chair



Labour Students

is the student wing of the Labour Party

We represent thousands of members across the country who believe in a Labour government and in fighting for a fairer future.

Throughout the history of the party, Labour Students have played a pivotal role and behind almost every victory Labour Students have been there campaigning day in and day out.

Our generation has suffered through thirteen years of Tory rule, consistently failed at every turn and left to deal with the consequences of Tory disasters. We know that our generation is crying out for change and we'll be doing all we can to make that a reality and secure a better future with Labour.



Labour Students is your space in the party to organise, socialise and come together as one.

From our annual conference to regular campaign days and social events, we've built a movement in which friendships are built, experiences are forged and that at the next election will be at the forefront of a Labour victory. We're driven by the belief that **by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone.**

Join us **in the fight to win the next election!**

"First, I want to offer each of you a massive congratulations for working so hard to get to university and for all that you've achieved to get here. I will always remember the pride I felt becoming the first in my family to go to university in Leeds. Enjoy these years!

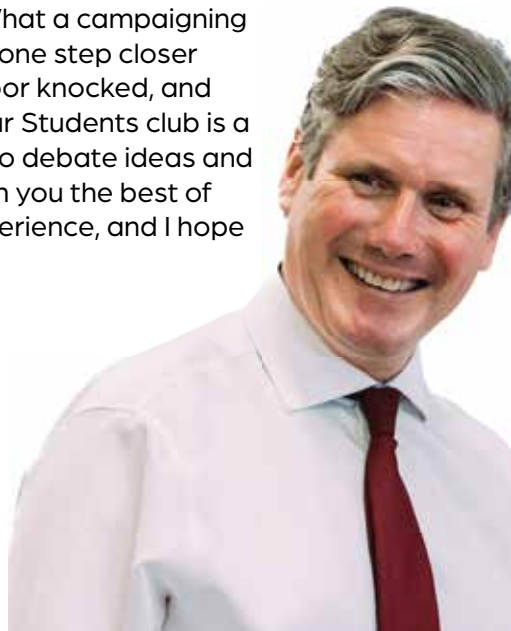
Hope has always been fundamental to the future of any generation. It's at the core of what Britain should stand for, that every young person should be able to trust, no matter their circumstance, no matter where they came from, they can achieve their hopes and aspirations. Yet today it's clear, that for your generation, that trust has been broken. That's why I promise, the next Labour Government will smash the class ceiling, by tearing down those barriers to opportunity holding many people back in this country. With Labour, where you start, won't determine where you go; talent, hard work and ambition will.

I hope you will join us in the fight to win the next election by getting involved with Labour Students. What a campaigning force they are! Labour Students bring us one step closer to winning the next election with every door knocked, and every conversation had. Your local Labour Students club is a brilliant opportunity to build friendships, to debate ideas and to be at the heart of our movement. I wish you the best of luck with your studies, your university experience, and I hope on your journey in Labour Students.

Together, we can build a better Britain."



Keir Starmer
Leader of the Labour Party



The best ways of **getting involved**



1. Join your local Labour Club

The easiest way to get involved is to join your local Labour Club on campus, they'll provide a warm welcome to any new members and organise activities and events throughout the year. Some of your best uni experiences and maybe the start of your political journey will happen here. If you want to get even more stuck in, you can run to be a part of your club's committee and help shape the future of the club!

3. Come out canvassing

The best way to help deliver the next Labour government is to get out on the doorstep speaking to the voters we need to win over before the next election. Labour Students organises national campaign days in the most marginal seats and your local Labour Club will organise canvassing sessions within your area. If you haven't been canvassing before there's no need to worry, there will always be experienced campaigners more than happy to teach you and ease you past any worries.

2. Go along to a social

Getting involved in a society of any kind can feel a bit daunting at first, especially if you don't already know anyone there. One of the best ways to meet other members in a relaxed environment is to go along to a social, from pub crawls to quizzes, sports days or balls, every club will have its own unique take on how to bring members together. Most clubs will organise a welcome social not long after the freshers' fair so ask your local club for more information on where and when it is. National Labour Students also organises socials that bring members together from across the country, including our famous Labour Students Disco at Annual Conference.

4. Get involved with the wider party

The Labour Party is a huge movement, and although Labour Students is an important part there are many other elements to the party. In your local constituency, you can become active in your Constituency Labour Party (CLP) who will have regular meetings, canvassing and can offer an important introduction to the party's democratic structures. The Labour Party also has a proud history of affiliated trade unions and socialist societies that support the party. You can join a trade union and get involved in one of the socialist societies that best fits you.

5. Come to Labour Students Conference

Every year Labour Students organises an annual conference, where our members come together to discuss policy, socialise and have their input into Labour Students' direction. Conference is open to a set number of voting delegates from each club which you be elected to or you can come along as a non-voting delegate and still take part in the vast majority of conference. Our last conference in Edinburgh was packed with exciting sessions, debates, campaigning and keynote speakers.

→ Top Tips for Freshers Week



"Don't suffer in silence!" There are many new experiences to be had at university and making sure that you are comfortable and safe are always the most important. Never be afraid to talk to event organisers or staff in your students' union with any concerns about how you can take part or if you need alternative arrangements to make sure you can get involved as much as everyone else!"

Theo Biddle, Disabled Students Officer



"Don't ever feel you're too young or too small to make a difference." Our movements depend on everyone, so get as involved as you want to and always have confidence in yourself. – Just make sure you always get your assignments in on time too!"

Cai Parry, Ordinary Representative



"Get to know your new town or city if you've moved away." It's a great chance to explore a new place and you'll most likely end up loving it. Freshers is a great chance to make new friends and go out but absolutely don't buy a freshers wristband unless its from your SU, the rest are a scam."

Eleanor Falshaw, Yorkshire and Humber Representative



"You will get ill no matter what," either from a week long hangover or the inevitable freshers flu, stock up on paracetamol and just try to make sure you're not No.1 on the chun chart."

Lily Soaper, West Midlands Rep



My year as a Labour Student



**Olly Singer,
Keele Labour Students**

"Keele Labour Students has allowed me and many others to become more involved within the party. Labour Students societies act as a gateway; with many of our members meeting like-minded people and campaigning for the first time. But most importantly it's about having fun. If you want to have fun, meet kind and likeminded people whilst getting more involved in the party then Labour students societies are definitely for you."



**Lewis Warner,
KCL Labour Society**

"KCL Labour was a warm introduction into the Labour Party and paved the way for so many other opportunities – campaigning across the country, meeting MPs and connecting with other students nationwide. As Chair, I had the honour of working with a fantastic committee to expand KCL Labour, creating a more diversified, more engaging and more active student group. We achieved all this and some, but most of all I am proud that by the end of our term two women Co-Chairs were elected for the first time!"



**Seb Charleton,
St Andrews Labour Society**

"I've really enjoyed getting involved in the St Andrews University Labour Society. It's provided a much needed space for debate and discussion on campus. I particularly enjoyed the prolific Ed Balls Ball!"



**Sudenaz Top,
City Labour Party Society**

"When I founded the Labour Society at City, University of London I was a fresh first year law student. I founded it because, whilst there were 'socialist and Marxist' society stands, I could not find a Labour stand at our fresher's fair. After support from many coursemates, I decided to create the society and our first committee were all women. It's been an amazing year utilising my network to help bring opportunities to other Labour-supporting students whilst also pushing labour to become the next government as students. Creating a society could be scary but when you've got the vision and the support you can do amazing things on campus."



**Thripity Dutt,
Oxford University Labour Club**

"OULC is the heart of socialism at Oxford and there is nowhere else I'd have rather spent my time at university! I've met incredible people and experienced wonderful new opportunities both on and off the committee. My favourite experience with OULC so far has probably been every rowdy "Beer and Bickering" – our weekly drinks and policy debate event, which gets every left-leaning student with a flare for the dramatic a chance to have at it with their opinions. I couldn't imagine my time at university without OULC and Labour Students."

My experience:



I joined the Labour Party at 15, shortly before the 1997 general election, because I was desperate to get rid of the Conservative government. When I went to Oxford University, I joined Labour Students and it was a fantastic experience for me. It was amazing to meet like-minded people, who had the same affinity with the Labour Party as I had. It's no exaggeration to say I met many of my friends for life there.

I look back on having been the Chair of the Oxford University Labour Club in 2001 and National Chair of Labour Students in 2002 as being among the best things I have done. It really was life changing.

In 2002, as the Chair of Labour Students I was given the great opportunity of chairing a televised in-conservation with the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, at the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool on another occasion, I organised a garden party at Number 10 to thank student and young Labour activists for their campaigning – I remember taking Tony round introducing him to everyone there. As a young woman from a South East London comprehensive, these were not the sort of experience I ever expected to have.

I also travelled around the country, taking teams from Labour students campaigning, often fighting against the BNP. I was growing up at the time of Stephen Lawrence's murder and the subsequent botched Police investigation, so it meant a lot to me to be able to do something meaningful to fight against racism.

I knew from my time with Labour Students that the Labour Party was always going to be part of my life, and that the confidence and grounding it gave me would stand me in good stead for the future. After being in Labour Students I went on to serve on the National Policy Forum, and then served on Labour's National Executive Committee for 10 years whilst working as a trade union lawyer. In 2017 I was elected to Parliament.

I would say to anyone who holds Labour values to go along and give it a go. You never know where it might lead.

Ellie

Ellie
Reeves
MP



Vicky Foxcroft MP

I first got involved with the Labour Party in 1996, when a canvasser knocked on my door and I asked how I could help get rid of the Tories. It turned out to be pretty good timing. When Labour came to power a year later, we knew that real change was finally on the way after eighteen years of misery under the Conservatives (sound familiar?).

Whilst studying Drama and Business at DeMontfort University I got involved in setting up a Labour society. Labour Students were brilliant during this time and gave me lots of training and support. There was public speaking training and networking events, and I made some lifelong friends along the way (some of whom are now also MPs).

I also took of advantage of the many opportunities to hear from inspiring speakers. As I progressed through Labour Students I even had the opportunity to introduce some, including Tony Blair at the 2001 manifesto launch; although my big moment was overshadowed by the famous Prescott punch. Afterwards I asked John if I could use his picture for our recruitment materials alongside the slogan 'Labour Students packs a punch', but sadly he declined.

There is no doubt that Labour Students gave a young woman from a working-class background – who would previously not have believed that her political voice mattered – the confidence to go on and become a councillor, and eventually an MP.

So if you're thinking about getting involved with Labour Students, give it a try. You won't regret it.

Vicky



My experience



→ Why join a trade union?

Trade unions are rooted in the principle of collectivism and the belief that workers are always stronger when united.

The Labour Party was first founded by trade unions and Labour remains the only party that truly speaks for workers and the trade union movement. Throughout history, trade unions and the Labour Party have worked together to deliver the most important workers rights we have today.

It's thanks to trade unions that we have rights such as equal pay, paid holidays and the weekend. Trade unions represent their members in disputes and issues in the workplace, fighting for fairer pay and working conditions from employers.

Often students are seen as easily exploitable workers by employers who want to take advantage of the fact that students have traditionally lower rates of trade union membership.

With students largely working in precarious work in the gig-economy or hospitality, trade unions are the best solution to ensure you're protected at work and feel secure in your job.

Most unions will also offer a heavily discounted student rate making it even easier to join one today!

Some trade unions will specialise in representing certain professions such as railway workers or retail while others are 'general unions' that will represent you regardless of your profession.

Scan the QR below and you can find out which trade union is right for you!



The Labour Students logo is located in the top left corner. It consists of a red square with a white border. Inside the square, the word "Labour" is written in a white serif font, and the word "STUDENTS" is written in a white sans-serif font below it.

Labour
STUDENTS

We represent
thousands of members
across the country who
believe in a Labour
government and in
fighting for a fairer
future.

Let's get started!

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