

This document has been created with the intention of answering questions members may have about rep entitlement and selection.

Changes to NUS rep selection

Members have now been sent their final rep numbers for NUS 2025/26 democracy. These numbers may look different to previous years due to changes made in line with NUS reform.

In 2024, members voted to pass NUS reform. Reform was designed to strengthen how members engage with and shape the work of the national union and empower different nations and NUS' liberation campaigns.

We have therefore made changes to how our democratic activity is organised: for instance, each nation will now have its own democratic event with UK-wide representation taking place through the Officer team of NUS. [You can find the full details of reform here.](#)

We want our democratic events to be a space where student activism is galvanised. The role of an NUS rep is not to just attend one event, but to be an active part of NUS campaigns throughout the year; to work with other officers, tackle issues on their campuses, and ensure their students' voices contribute to the collective power of NUS year-round

We need reps who are used to advocating for and organising with their peers, who can contribute to discussions about the problems students are facing. Therefore, we ask that members put forward reps to NUS who have been elected by students to represent them within your students' union. For instance, this could be Sabbatical Officers, course reps, or Part-Time Officers.

We know that members may have questions about NUS reps, so please read the below FAQs and role profile.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does this mean for the number of reps my union can send?

Members said that they wanted less of a burden of participation with more chances to engage in NUS work through the year. We have adjusted the number of reps that can be sent by each member in line with this feedback. We're also creating more opportunities to engage in NUS' work outside of yearly democratic events.

The number of reps members can send has changed. This is still linked to full-time equivalent student numbers however the number of reps per student has changed and in some nations there is a cap on reps for larger unions. The minimum number of reps in each space is two. These changes mean there is less disparity between unions in the numbers of reps being appointed.

Guidance on selecting NUS reps

How should we select our NUS reps?

NUS does not require members to elect specific 'NUS reps' as part of union elections. We believe that students' unions know their own members best and that they should therefore determine who from their union represents their students at NUS conferences.

Are there any restrictions on who we can select as an NUS rep?

We ask that members select reps who have been elected by students in some capacity. For example, this could be a sabbatical officer, academic representative, or a society president. Members are asked to ensure that disabled, LGBT+, trans, racialised and women students are represented adequately among the reps they send to NUS events.

Unions should do their best to ensure their reps are able to speak to the diversity of their students' experiences and the activity of their SU. This could be done by sending a mixture of Sabbatical Officers and student reps.

What if our students' union does not elect representatives?

Members should follow their own democratic principles to select their NUS reps. Our guidance is that rep roles should be tied to elections however we know SUs are doing different forms of democratic participation. Ultimately it is up to the union as to how you interpret this guidance.

Should the role of NUS rep be part of a particular role's responsibilities?

To ensure members are able to act with flexibility to best represent their members, we suggest that students' unions do not tie the role of NUS rep to a particular role or write it into a role's responsibilities within their bye-laws. This enables decisions to be made each year based on the interest and strengths of team members.

Are rules on gender balancing still in effect?

We are no longer requiring gender balancing of your reps. The clear steer from reform what that SUs should be entrusted with choosing their own representatives who will benefit and contribute most to national work.

However, our recommendation, particularly for students' unions with larger rep numbers would be ensure that disabled, LGBT+, trans, racialised and women students are represented through your rep selections, with NUS-UK's campaign priorities in mind.

I have more sabbs/students that want to get involved in NUS than I have rep spaces, what do I do?

Limits on participation are set only set with regards to NUS democratic activity, meaning that only reps can vote and attend our democratic events. However, our campaigns and influencing events/activities, such as regional campaign days and parliamentary events, are open to all your students and sabbs.

NUS Rep role profile

Skills and qualities:

- An advocate for students
- Ability to work collaboratively with student leaders across the country
- Commitment to participating in national campaigns and movement building
- Ability to bring together students on campus
- A commitment to representing students at a national level
- Motivated change-maker

Duties:

- Voting in NUS elections (including DPC elections in the summer and officer elections in 2026)
- Submitting priority submissions to NUS before 14 October
- Attending regional campaign events through the year
- Participating in NUS campaign actions and activities
- Working with their students' union to ensure students add their voice to What Students Think ahead of democratic events
- Attending democratic events, contributing to discussions and networking
- Working on issues discussed at conference, planning and delivering campaigns

Time commitment

Approx 1 day per month spread throughout the year including:

- Regular engagement with NUS and feeding back into the union
- Participating in events, actions and activities per the duties above
- Attend 2 day event in November