This document explains how UJS Policy works and how you can submit a motion.

What is UJS Policy?

- The aims, direction and priorities of the Union of Jewish Students is determined by (a) the President (given their democratic mandate) and (b) by Policy
- UJS Policy cover all areas of UJS' work
- Policy typically highlights a specific issue and suggests a specific action that UJS can take in response
- All policies can be found on this page of the UJS website - https://www.ujs.org.uk/how_we_work

Conference is your opportunity to make change and have your say about UJS' activities for the next three years, to ensure it represents you! You can propose, debate and vote on policies of UJS.

What is a motion?

- Any member of UJS (as determined by the UJS Constitution: i.e., all Jewish students and apprentices in the UK and Ireland) can submit a motion to amend or add to UJS Policy
- Motions are submitted in the run up to Conference and are voted on at Conference
- Any member of UJS can vote at Conference in person or online
- A motion will be categorised into one of the following baskets:
    - Community
    - Your Union
    - Combatting Antisemitism
    - External Affairs
    - Jewish Enrichment & Inclusion
    - Programming & Development

Policy Lapse

- All UJS Policy automatically lapses 3 years after being voted on (this means that it is no longer UJS Policy)
- If you would like a motion that has lapsed to remain UJS Policy, you must resubmit it as a motion
- Alternatively, if you'd like to challenge a lapsing policy (i.e., you'd like it to remain as Policy) at conference, you can go to the Steering Committee and say so. There will also be a chance to request that all lapsing policy be considered by the National Executive Committee

- You can find out what policies will lapse in the UJS Policy document, where policies are listed based on when they lapse https://www.ujs.org.uk/how_we_work

UJS Constitution

- Another way that students can influence UJS is by amending the Constitution
- The Constitution lays out how the organisation functions and who makes what decisions
- A constitutional amendment can be submitted in the same way as any other motion (just put in the title of the motion that it's a constitutional amendment)
- The Constitution can be found on this page of the UJS website - https://www.ujs.org.uk/how_we_work

When?

- 9.30am Monday 2nd November 2026 – motion submissions open
- Sunday 13h December 2026 – UJS Conference (at Convention)

How?

- A link to submit motions will be advertised by UJS
- To submit a motion, you must include:
    - The title of the motion
    - The proposer's name (you)
    - The proposer's university
    - The seconder's name (someone who is supporting your motion)
    - The seconder's university
    - A section entitled 'What is the idea?:'
    - A section entitled 'How do you want it to happen?:'
- A motion may have multiple proposers and/or seconders

What happens next?

- Once motion submission has closed, the Scrutiny Board will go through all the motions that have been submitted to ensure that:
    - They do not contradict the Constitution (unless they explicitly amend the Constitution)
    - They do not fall outside the objects of UJS (the core goals of UJS laid out in the Constitution)
    - They do pose an unmanageable legal, reputational or financial risk to UJS
    - They do not repeat other motions or current UJS Policy
    - They make sense and are formatted correctly
- The Scrutiny Board might:

    - Strike a motion (decide that it will not go to Conference)
    - Amend a motion
    - Merge two motions together
    - Move text from one section of a motion to another
        - Following any of these decisions, the Scrutiny Board will write to the proposer to explain the decision and the outcome
- Once this process is complete, the motions will be published. At this point, any member of UJS can submit an amendment to any of the motions (a link to a form to suggest amendments will be advertised)
    - If the amendment is accepted by the proposer, the amendment will become part of the motion
    - If the amendment is not accepted by the proposer, the amendment will be voted on separately at Conference
- UJS have a process called a priority ballot to determine (a) the order that the baskets will be voted on and (b) the order that motions within each basket will be voted on

At Conference

- Conference will be chaired by Campaigns Team who will explain how Conference works
- The results of the priority ballot will determine: (a) the order of baskets, and (b) the order of motions within each basket
- When a motion is discussed, the proposer (if not, then the seconder, if not, then another member of the floor) will speak for the motion. Someone (any member of the floor) will speak against the motion
- The Chair will determine how long individuals can speak for and may decide to allow another round of speeches
- A member of the UJS team may make a public note on a motion, for example on financial limitations
- Motions will be voted on by a show of hands, with most motions only requiring a simple majority (over 50% of voters)
- Any motion that is not voted on at conference due to time restrictions, will go to the National Executive Committee, who will determine whether a motion should pass or not

If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to your Sabbatical Officer. If you do not know who your Sabbatical Officer is, you can find out their name and contact details here - https://www.ujs.org.uk/j-socs

An example of a bad policy

- Title: Excluding all individuals named Raphi Leon from all UJS and JSoc events
- Basket: Jewish Enrichment and Inclusion
- Proposer: Sacha Baron Cohen

- Proposer's university: Comedic Arts
- Seconder's name: Andy Samberg
- Seconder's university: Comedic Arts
- What is the idea?:
    - Raphi Leon has failed to uphold the UJS Policy that he must follow Sami Berkoff's (a former UJS President) footsteps in regularly engaging in popular TikTok trends
- How do you want it to happen?:
    - Ban all Raphi Leons from UJS and JSoc events

What are the problems with this policy

- UJS is an inclusive organisation and will not exclude individuals except in exceptional circumstances, as laid out in the Constitution
- Motions should refrain from naming individuals
- This motion does not fit into the basket of Jewish Enrichment and Inclusion, in fact it is expressly exclusive
- Sacha Baron Cohen and Andy Samberg are not members of the Union of Jewish Students as determined by the Constitution, and therefore are not eligible to submit motions
- Comedic Arts is not a university in the United Kingdom or Ireland
- Whilst not mandatory, it is advisable for the proposer and seconder to be from different universities to ensure a greater degree and diversity of support for a motion
- There is no UJS Policy as described in the motion
- The motion takes an extreme step from one individual's alleged failings to banning all individuals with the same name from UJS and JSoc events
- The motion fails to provide adequate detail