

Union Council Policy Motion

Policy Motion Title: Disabled Students at Aston University

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Motion Passes into Policy on: 12th July 2021

Policy due to lapse by: 12th July 2025

Preamble

The union supports disabled students to achieve full accessibility on the Aston University campus and in the wider community.

Union Council Notes

1. The union acknowledges that successive Disabled Students Officers (DSOs) have worked extensively to raise awareness of ableism present in the University, and have, lobbied the University to improve accessibility.
2. The University buildings remain architecturally inaccessible in many areas to disabled people. For example, much of the Main Building is still without automatic doors.
3. The Union recognises that disability covers a wide range of conditions and that the existence of this diversity within the disability community means that there are a wide range of issues to be covered.
4. The Union recognises that the Disabled Students' Officer has the responsibility to represent all disabled students within the Aston Community.
5. The Union recognises that there is a diverse range of disability experiences, from physical, mental, intellectual, visual and more. The creation of a Disability Committee would help the Union better understand the needs of, and represent/advocate on behalf of, all disabled students.

Union Council Believes

1. That at the Union level, to advocate for people with varied and different disabilities effectively, disabled student representation must be cross-disability and self-advocating in nature.

The Union recognises that this means the participation of people with physical, mental, and sensory disabilities who want their voices heard.

2. That the University has a legal obligation to provide parity of experience for disabled students.
3. That the University must do more to achieve full parity of experience for able and disabled people.

Union Council Resolves

1. To create a Disabilities Committee.
 - a. The Disabilities Committee shall be appointed via self-nomination and ratification by Students' Union Council so different disability experiences can raise awareness of issues from and not limited to a physical, psychological, or sensory disability perspective.
 - b. The Disabilities Committee shall be chaired by the Disabled Students' Officer.
 - c. The Disabled Students' officer shall be accountable to Students' Union Council for the work and conduct of the Disabilities Committee.
 - d. The Disabled Students' Officer can choose to delegate chairing responsibility to another member of the committee.
 - e. The Disabilities Committee shall work to promote the rights of disabled students, reasonable adjustments, and the correct ways of thinking about disability to educate and support everyone through Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion training.
 - f. Together with the Disabled Students' Officer the Disabilities Committee shall be responsible for:
 - i. Internal communication with the wider Students' Union on Union disability-related issues.
 - ii. Liaison with the University on disability related issues.
 - iii. Providing support to Students' Union members regarding disability issues.
2. Any full member of the Union who self identifies as disabled shall be able to nominate themselves as a member of the committee. The committee members shall be ratified by Students' Union Council and subject to accountability via the Disabled Students' Officer and Students' Union Council.