



Goldsmiths Debating Society Constitution

Last updated 08.09.2020

NB. The Debating Society exists within the Goldsmiths Student's Union and as such is subject to all general guidelines and regulations set out by the SU which supersede the authority of this internal constitution.

1. Mission Statement

- 1.1 The Society's firm belief is that every voice matters. This society exists to provide an accessible space at Goldsmiths where everyone feels able to engage in debate and enjoy the many benefits of this activity.
- 1.2 We aim to create an apolitical forum within the university for student-led discussion of ideas and topical issues of importance to our members.
- 1.3 The Society recognises the exceptional educational value of debating and is committed to offering members the opportunity to develop their confidence and communication skills through debate.
- 1.4 Outside of our on-campus activities, the Society also represents Goldsmiths within the wider university debating community and on the competitive debating circuit.

2. Membership

- 2.1 All enrolled students of Goldsmiths, UoL are eligible to join the Society.
- 2.2 Members will not be charged a joining fee, nor will there be any try-out or audition process for membership.

3. Member Expectations

- 3.1 To respect the right of any other student to participate in the Society, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- 3.2 To always refer to other members by their chosen terms of address (e.g. preferred gender pronouns, preferred names, etc.)
- 3.3 To behave at all times in such a way as to make other members feel welcome and able to engage in discussion without fear of prejudice or hostility.
- 3.4 To respect the allotted speaking time of others, and not interrupt or in any way obstruct the ability of another member or speaker to make their voice heard within the time which is given to them to do so.
- 3.5 To also adhere to these expectations when representing the Society at competitions or other events occurring off campus and/or involving external stakeholders.
- 3.6 Failure to conduct oneself in adherence to all of the above will be considered grounds for temporary or even permanent expulsion from the society.



4. Society Committee

- 4.1 The minimum composition of the Society Committee consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer, who collectively form the Committee Executive.
- 4.2 No individual may hold more than one Executive position at any one time; and an Executive position may only be held by one individual at a time.
- 4.3 The Executive are to be elected in accordance with SU procedures, with elections occurring annually between April-June of each year. The entire former Committee is formally dissolved following the announcement of the newly elected Executive officers.
- 4.4 Should issues occur during Executive elections (no candidates standing for a specific role, a vote to R.O.N, a disputed result, etc.), defer to the precedents set by SU procedures regarding interim Executive officers.
- 4.5 Handover from the outgoing Executive to the Executive-elect is to occur before the commencement of the new university term.
- 4.6 Additional committee members (Training Officer, Publicity Officer, etc.) can be appointed during the year subject to need, requiring unanimous formal approval of the candidate from the Executive.

5. Constitution

- 5.1 Proposed amendments to this constitution require the unanimous written ratification of the Executive in office at that time.