



# **NUS-USI REFERENDUM BRIEFING**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>Question to be Posed</u></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>Timeline</u></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>Voting Method</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>Regulations</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>Finance</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>External Staff</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Public Debate</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Penalties</u></b>	<b>3</b>

# QUESTION TO BE POSED

**Should Ulster University Students' Union (UUSU) remain affiliated with the National Union of Students – Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI)?**

## TIMELINE

**Monday, 3rd Feb:**

Notification of referendum / Invitation for campaigners

**Wednesday 12th Feb:**

Lead Campaigners appointed and communicated to the Returning Officer

**Monday 17th Feb:**

Campaign Information Session (arrangements to be confirmed)

**Monday 24th Feb 9am:**

Campaigning by both sides begins

**Thursday 27th Feb:**

Hustings – Online (arrangements to be confirmed)

**Tuesday 4th March 9am:**

Voting opens

**Thursday 6th March 3pm:**

Voting closes

**Result published one day after the close of polling**

## VOTING METHOD

Vote online via [uusuu.org](https://uusuu.org)

Returning Officer: **David Longstaff (CEO - UUSU)**

Deputy Returning Officer(s): **Mandy Mulholland (Student Voice Manager - UUSU)**  
**Mark Francos (Governance and Policy Coordinator - UUSU)**

The conduct under which this referendum is held shall be governed by the UUSU Student Code of Conduct, the Good Relations Policy and the Political Expression Framework ([uusuu.org](https://uusuu.org)).

## REGULATIONS

1. Each campaign (Yes/No) must appoint a lead campaigner who must be a registered UU student.
2. The lead campaigner will be responsible for the conduct of all members of the campaign team.
3. UU Sabbatical Officers may not undertake any campaigning during their working hours (9-5) but may take time off in lieu or annual leave to engage in the campaign.
4. UUSU marketing and communications will remain neutral throughout the campaign.

## FINANCE

1. Each campaign will be allocated 1000 A5 of printed material printed by UUSU and £100 for additional expenses (excluding posters/leaflets) which will be refunded upon verified receipts being received by the Returning Officer from the campaign lead of each side.
2. Each campaign lead will be allocated a travel bursary of £60 to support campaigning across all three campuses.
3. Each campaign will have a limit of £500 to facilitate travel for external interested parties to speak at UU which includes accommodation costs. This will be funded by the relevant campaign and receipts must be kept for scrutiny.
4. Only material printed for the purposes of the campaign and financed in line with these rules will be permitted for use during the campaign.
5. Receipts will be kept by each campaign for scrutiny by the Returning Officer at any time.

## EXTERNAL STAFF

1. External staff will only be permitted on UU property when the Returning Officer is made aware at least one hour before their arrival, and only with an accompanying UUSU member of the entirety of the visit.

## PUBLIC DEBATE

1. A public debate will be arranged by UUSU and facilitated by the Microsoft Teams platform and moderated by a Deputy Returning Officer. The campaign leads and one external speaker from each side will be facilitated to speak. This debate will take place on the 27th February at 1:30pm.

## PENALTIES

1. The Returning Officer or their deputies may disqualify or penalise campaigners who breach any of the regulations set out in this briefing or the Bye Laws of UUSU.