

VOTE YES TO DISAFFILIATE FROM NUS UK.

We're asking you to vote YES to disaffiliate from NUS UK. But why does this matter to you and your student experience at Winchester?

NUS UK Just Isn't Meeting Our Needs

Since the 22/23 Academic Year both the current and previous President of Winchester Students' Union (2022-24/2024-26), have questioned the value of affiliation with the NUS UK, including the cost to benefit ratio, interaction from NUS, and reports of antisemitism. There have also been concerns raised by all Executive Committees since 2022/23, culminating in this academic year Student Senate members approving our motion to hold this referendum to disaffiliate. Contextually, many Students' Unions in the South of England have also disaffiliated in recent years.

More Money for What Matters to You:

Right now, we're paying money to be part of NUS – about £6,246 each year. But I believe this money can be better spent right here at Winchester. If we disaffiliate, we'll save around £3,736 a year, and we can put that money towards things that really benefit you: more local events and campaigns that matter to YOU, and supporting causes that affect our community directly. NUS's national campaigns don't always align with what's possible here in Winchester. Plus, their activism days and training are usually far away – traveling to these costs us extra money/time, making it hard for officers to get involved. Our Executive Committee feel NUS UK does not offer us value for money. National NUS campaigns are fixed and limited to a few policies a year, but Winchester has its own unique needs and demographics. Disaffiliating from NUS UK will allow us to be more flexible with our national and local campaigns. Things like the NUS Liberation campaigns to collectively fight oppression is mirrored our own platforms, such as One Winchester which serves the same purpose at a local level. Whether it's mental health, cost of living, or any other issue, we can focus our efforts where they matter most

Keeping Collectivism, but Keeping It Local:

Disaffiliation doesn't mean we'll be alone. One of the benefits of NUS UK affiliation is collectivism, but over the years, there's been minimal support and the benefits haven't justified the costs. Officers have often felt disconnected, with little NUS presence on campus or interaction with us as a Union. However, we have instead found this collectivism through the Southern Unions Network; a group of Unions across the South of England that connect and network, holding local conferences, including officer support, training

and officer-led communication channels. This is a network run by Unions, for Unions, and it doesn't require an affiliation fee. Over recent years this has allowed Winchester officers to build stronger connections with other nearby universities like Southampton and Chichester, who have already made the move to disaffiliate. We could and should band together to make effective change with other Unions who are easier to reach, and without having to pay for it. Without the NUS affiliation fee, we can run more local campaigns that speak to the issues you care about – and we'll still be able to partner up with nearby Union for bigger, more impactful actions.

Previous investigation and cases of antisemitism - continued association with NUS UK is no longer desirable due to the historic antisemitic allegations and investigation:

During May 2022 the NUS UK commissioned an external investigation into allegations of antisemitism. This included the removal of the previous NUS President. Following investigation, there were concerning accounts of antisemitism within the NUS movement. I would strongly encourage you to research into this for more context!

NUS Conference

This year we did not attend NUS National Conference 2025 after several years of poor feedback from elected delegates. The value of the conference was concerning, not only for further reports of antisemitism, but around the structure and concerning content of some sessions. This conference is another benefit of being affiliated to NUS UK which serves us no purpose, but which costs us money.

Disaffiliating from NUS UK means more money, more control, and more focus on issues that matter to YOU as a Winchester student. It's about creating a student experience that's tailored to your needs, whilst still having power and connection to vocalise your issues to a higher level.

Ask yourself: *Where do I want my Union to be spending money?* Do I want to keep funding an affiliation that doesn't bring us much benefit, or do I want to invest in something that supports my time here at Winchester?