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SU Standpoint Document from 2024-27

What is SUmmit?

SUmmit is a committee of student leaders and elected representatives that helps shape the political direction of The SU. It considers issues affecting students, develops and adopts Standpoints, makes recommendations to The SU, and holds SU Officers to account.

SUmmit operates in an advisory capacity. Its recommendations are non-binding, and operational decisions and governance oversight remain the responsibility of the relevant SU bodies, including the Board of Trustees.

Read more on our SUmmit webpage.

What are Standpoints?

A SUmmit Standpoint sets out a position on a particular issue, topic or aspect of University life, reflecting student views and priorities. Standpoints help guide SU Officers and representatives in their work and inform The SU's approach to issues affecting students.

All Standpoints begin with the phrase "SUmmit recommends" and may include non-binding recommendations for The SU to consider. These recommendations express SUmmit's priorities but do not commit The SU, its Officers, staff or Board of Trustees to specific actions.

How are Standpoints created?

Any student can propose a new Standpoint by submitting a proposal. Guidance on how to do this is available on our Standpoints webpages.

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SUmmit considers proposals, discusses the issues raised and develops the wording of Standpoints and any accompanying recommendations. Members then vote on whether to adopt the Standpoint and its recommendations.

Once approved by SUmmit, Standpoints and their recommendations are referred to the Board of Trustees to be noted on a cyclical basis.

Why do some Standpoints have actions and others have recommendations?

Standpoints approved between the 2024–25 and 2025–26 academic years may include non-binding actions agreed under the previous process. In spring 2026, SUmmit revised its approach to clarify its role as an advisory body, replacing non-binding actions which was vague and misleading, with non-binding recommendations, which clarify the role of SUmmit.

Existing actions remain published alongside the relevant Standpoints for reference. New Standpoints follow the revised process and use recommendations rather than actions.

Standpoint	**Actions**	**Proposer**	**SUmmit approval**	**Date of expiry/ review**
The University must continue to constantly seek student feedback on engagement monitoring and data collection.	• The organisation of a Q&A session with students and University leaders on Engagement Monitoring and the plans moving forwards. • The Education Officer to ask the University for clear definition of Attendance and Engagement, as to differentiate between the two. • Once next steps have been proposed, The SU to organise ongoing events for students to provide feedback. • The Education Officer to request a clear list from the University about what data will be collected and how this will be used.	Amber Snary, Education Officer	19 November 2024	NA

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The University should prioritise student welfare and academic equity with a standardised response to late submission of assessment.	• Explore the intricacies of the submission penalty system across Departments regarding the length of coursework. • Come up with alternative ways of how else this could look and bring it back to SUmmit.	Helen Slater, Open Place Member	02 December 2024	NA
The University shares responsibility with the SU for ensuring the inclusion, dignity, and safety of trans, non-binary and gender diverse students, addressing systemic barriers and promoting a culture of respect at all levels	• Explore an alternative way to display pronouns other than library cards including considerations of language options. • Lobby the University to push for mandatory training for contracted and casual staff on interaction with all students. • Further explore the name changing process for all students in relation to transition, marriage, divorce etc. • Request that the University expand the list of pronouns on the library card including mixed pronouns. • Lobby the University to increase resources for DDAT for improving mixed databases that allow for better integration of data.	Eesha Ganesh and Isobel Shone, Diversity and Support Exec members	02 December 2024	NA
The University should amend its IMC and extension policies and processes and standardise these across departments in accordance with its EDI Commitments.	• Advocate for an increase to the deadline for IMC applications • Push for explicit acceptance/rejection emails with detailed reasoning when an IMC is rejected • Seek the option to receive extensions after a deadline has passed. • Represent the student views through the inclusive education steering group. • Continue work on the standpoint on allowing students with IMCs the option to resit affected exams (even if they do not fail) • Standardise processes across departments. • SUmmit members must have the option of being consulted through the review process. • Lobby for a reduction in evidence requirements and self-certification.	William Riddell and Helen Slater, Open place members	04 March 2025	NA

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The University careers services should implement an ethical careers policy to ensure that it is not complicit in platforming the companies most responsible for the climate crisis.	Assess existing relationships with fossil fuel companies: • Conduct a full review of all recruitment-related agreements between the university and oil, gas and mining companies. • Publish a report detailing these relationships that is made available to students and staff of the university. Lobby the University: • To refuse all new relationships with oil, gas and mining companies in the CU200. • To decline to renew any current relationships with these companies once the contractually obligated periods end. • For every fossil fuel company removed from recruitment partnerships, the careers team should aim to establish at least two new relationships with companies in the renewable energy of sustainability sector Policy should be implemented on a trial basis, where it is under continuous scrutiny and review. Listen to students: • Student feedback on the policy changes and specific company exclusions should be continuously collected and policy altered accordingly • Differential impacts between student groups, e.g. students with low household income, should be particularity considered here.	Xandi Drysdale, Open place member	04 March 2025	NA
Lecture recordings should be mandatory for all taught content and must meet a consistent and accessible standard, ensuring	• All lectures should be recorded • Make sure all taught content is clearly visible and audible on the recording.	Robbie Altham, Academic Exec	22 April 2025	NA

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they are clear, promptly available, and retained throughout the course duration.	• Through a consultation with students, prepare a checklist of minimum requirements as to what makes an effective and useful recording. • Make sure lecturers know how to make an effective recording and that they are aware of any limitations (e.g., things not showing up on the recordings) • Speed up the release of recordings so students do not have to wait to catch up if they miss a lecture. • Not delete lecture recordings and make sure they are available to students for the duration of their course / degree.			
There should be adequate sensory friendly workspaces available.	• Conduct an evaluation of current spaces to determine the stimuli in them • Prioritise lobbying for more spaces dedicated for study such that there is greater capacity for low-sensory areas • Investigate the possibility of using existing study spaces for low sensory hours • Ensure that room descriptions - including accessibility information - are regularly updated	Star Dootson, DAG Rep	22 April 2025	NA
Sport should be inclusive, equitable, and accessible for all students, regardless of gender identity, and that trans and gender-diverse athletes deserve respect, fair participation, and a safe environment. The SU is committed to challenging discrimination, advocating for evidence based policies, and upholding the dignity of all athletes	• Mandate trans-inclusion training for all club committees • Require clubs to explicitly embed Trans Inclusion into their practices • Develop a 'Trans Inclusion Charter' for SU Sport • Celebrate trans and gender-diverse athletes through SU Channels • Treat transphobia as equally severe in discipline processes compared to existing anti-discrimination policies for issues such as misogyny, racism and xenophobia. • Create a comprehensive document pertaining to the accessibility and eligibility criterion for participation in SU sports. This document will be publicly accessible to all students and will serve as an easy-to-understand gateway into university sports.	Eesha Ganesh, D&S Exec, and Angus Gueterbock, Sports Exec	22 April 2025	While this Standpoint passed through SUmmit, it was vetoed by the Board of Trustees over certain actions which they felt were too operational.

	• Collaborate with other SUs to lobby National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to ensure decisions on trans inclusion are based on robust, sport-specific evidence produced by independent, trustworthy researchers — not influenced by political pressure or ideologically motivated groups. • Consider community consultation after standpoint passage, strongly evaluating any possible risks to marginalised communities that such a process may entail prior to execution. Ensure the process does not put marginalised communities at any risk. • Detailed sub-actions are available for all of the above actions by clicking this link.			
Students should be provided with clear, concise, and accessible guidance on their right to protest, and that the university should commit to protections against intimidation (including through disciplinary action, suspensions which would endanger the visa status of overseas students, and disproportionate use of security).	• Students should be protected from intimidation through (the threat of) disciplinary action, suspensions which would endanger the visa status of overseas students, and inappropriate use of security. • The University should consult the student body and engage with the SU to ensure they follow sector best practice regarding their protest policies. • The SU and University should collaborate to provide students with clear and accessible guidance on how students can protest following University policy. • Update the University website to reflect changes to policy and ensure students are notified of changes.	Olivia Warmington, Open Place member	19 November 2025	
Physical accessibility around university campus should be a key priority. In line with wider university improvements, students support policies to champion disability awareness and more transparent pipelines for support and improvements.	• The SU should lobby the University to introduce a centralised and accessible reporting tool to identify access issues on university premises. • The SU should lobby the University to introduce a centralized system for students to see accessibility details around university premises, including reported issues.	Sofiia Furman, DAG Rep	19 November 2025	

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	• The SU should lobby the University to consult with students with lived experience to prioritise how to best improve accessibility around university premises.			
Restricting student housing in Bath will reduce supply and drive-up housing costs. Student voices should be heard in local decisions, with affordability for lower income students at the heart of its advocacy.	• Lobby Bath & Northeast Somerset Council (B&NES) to reconsider restrictive HMO policies that would reduce student housing supply and drive-up costs. • Lobby the University of Bath to expand affordable Purpose Built student accommodation to contribute to housing supply. • Use student voice to represent concerns on housing affordability in local consultations and decision-making forums. • Inform and engage students about proposed housing policy changes and encourage them to raise their views directly with the local authority. • Maintain housing affordability as a priority campaign within the SU, ensuring it remains a standing issue in advocacy and student representation. • Work with the University of Bath to amplify student voices in the Local Plan process and continue seeking to develop a jointly owned student living strategy.	Will Darling, Open Place member	19 November 2025	

Standpoint	**Proposer**	**SUmmit approval**	**Date of expiry/ review**
Steps towards plant-based eating are crucial as part of the net zero transition and that this should be represented by SU and University catering options. .	Penn Mackintosh, Senior PAL leader Imara Wright, non-member	16 April 2026	NA
The university and all levels of the UK government have a responsibility to equally equip all home and	Sanya Jethwani, Postgraduate Officer	16 April 2026	NA

international students to attain employment at the conclusion of their studies.			
Sport should be inclusive, equitable and accessible for all students, regardless of gender identity or modality, and that trans, intersex and gender diverse athletes deserve respect, fair and dignified participation and a safe environment both recreationally and competitively.	Luthais Bradbury, non-member Charlotte Harrison, non-member Seconded by Penn Mackintosh, Senior PAL leader	16 April 2026	NA