

Relationship between HKUST Students' Union and the University and its membership

1. Relationship between HKUST Students' Union and the University

The HKUST Students' Union (SU) is an organization registered with the Hong Kong Police Force under the Societies Ordinance (Cap. 151) of the Laws of Hong Kong. In March 1993, it was agreed that SU should be registered with the Government as a legal body independent from the University. Though officially recognized by the University administration, SU is independent from the University. As explained in the University announcement dated March 19, 2020, entitled "*The University's Response to the Statement of Student Union Issued on 18 March 2020*", the views of HKUST Students' Union DO NOT represent the University's official stance.

2. Membership of SU and other students' societies

According to the *Constitutions of the HKUST Students' Union*, "all undergraduates and postgraduate students shall be eligible for Full Membership" (Article 3). Eligible students could choose to be members of SU voluntarily. SU membership fee is an optional item for students who choose to join, instead of a compulsory part of tuition fee.

The University has adopted the principle not to make registration of any students to specific students' societies automatic or mandatory. Students are free to register in any societies on a voluntary basis.

3. Executive Committee of SU

The Executive Committee (Exco) of SU is run by SU themselves. Its election is governed by SU's own constitution, and only full SU members can vote under SU's specified protocol. The University has no role in governing that process.