

Policy on Inviting People to Come and Speak on Campus For Political & Campaigning and Cultural & Religious Groups

Here at Leeds University Union (LUU), we pride ourselves on being a diverse organisation that supports the wider range of beliefs that our members hold. As part of our commitment to maintaining freedom of speech on campus, we encourage groups inviting speakers and guests from political parties, religious faiths, and other arenas.

The presence on-campus of speakers and guests of this type can potentially cause unrest in other groups. There are often a number of people who need to be informed of such a presence here in advance, from the Societies Officer and Student Activities Staff to the University Secretary and University Security.

In order for us to ensure that we can best provide for each of our groups, we need activity groups to provide us with details of who they are inviting onto campus and when. When booking rooms, you will be asked if you are inviting a speaker along and who this is likely to be. From this information we can make sure that we put all the safeguards in place to allow the event to take place without potential disruption.

We are aware that there may be times when specific names cannot be given for security purposes. In this case we would require you to let us know some description – for example, “senior political figure”, “local cleric”, “renowned radical speaker”, etc. In this way we can best assess what kind of preparations we need to take.

If your speakers or guest are going to be accompanied by press, you also should tell us so that we can make appropriate arrangements and support the management of your event.

None of the above is aimed at stopping your group from running your event on campus. On the contrary, this policy is in place to protect your right to freedom of speech and ensure that you can hold your events in the safest way possible.