Student Organisations Policy

Section 1 - Key Information

Policy Type and Approval Body	Governance – University Council
Accountable Executive – Policy	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Responsible Manager – Policy	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and Employability)
Review Date	29 September 2029

Section 2 - Purpose

(1) This Policy provides a framework for:

a. the recognition of student-led organisations by La Trobe University;
b. the establishment, affiliation, and operation of student clubs at La Trobe University.

Section 3 - Scope

(2) This Policy applies to all:

a. student-led organisations, including those seeking formal University recognition;
b. student clubs operating on any La Trobe University campus, including online.

Section 4 - Key Decisions

Key Decisions	Role
See linked Procedures	

Section 5 - Policy Statement

(3) The University recognises the valuable role that independent, well-governed student-led organisations and student clubs play in contributing to the student experience.

(4) Recognised student-led organisations and affiliated student clubs must operate in accordance with the following principles. They must:

a. be student-led and democratic – governed by students through democratic elections and transparent decision-making;
b. be inclusive and respectful – provide safe, welcoming environments aligned with University values, policies and relevant legislation;

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c. be purpose-aligned – activities and operations must align with the relevant student-led organisation or club constitution;
d. be safe and compliant – must comply with University safety, conduct, financial, and risk requirements and Student Service and Amenities Fee (SSAF) requirements where applicable;
e. have appropriate, transparent governance – must maintain required records, hold required meetings and meet constitutional responsibilities.

Section 6 - Procedures

(5) The following procedures form part of this Policy suite:

a. Student Organisations Procedure - Recognition
b. Student Organisations Procedure - Clubs

Section 7 - Definitions

(6) For the purposes of this Policy:

a. affiliated student club: a student-led group that is formally recognised through the University's clubs program;
b. recognised student-led organisation: a student-led organisation that has been formally recognised by the University under this Policy.

Section 8 - Authority and Associated Information

(7) This Policy is made under the La Trobe University Act 2009.

(8) Associated information includes:

a. Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth) and the Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines (SSARA Guidelines) made under that Act.

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Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	7th October 2026
Review Date	29th September 2029
Approval Authority	University Council
Approval Date	7th October 2026
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Responsible Manager - Policy	Naomi Dempsey Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and Employability)
Enquiries Contact	Student Experience & Employability

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