

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:

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

Section 3 - Scope

(2) This Policy applies to all:

- student-led organisations, including those seeking formal University recognition;
- 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:

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

- 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.

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