

**WHAT DOES
IT MEAN,
TO BE A
SOCIETY
LEAD
AT NASU?**

WHAT IS A SOCIETY LEAD?

A society lead is a student who **volunteers** their time to the Students' Union and **runs a Society**. Societies cover a wide range of topics, and typically organise around shared traits, such as a **shared interest, education, belief or lived experience**. There are over 40 societies at Norwich Arts and over one hundred Society Leads.

Society Leads receive **training and support** from the SU, as well as access to several supportive resources such as the Society Lead Handbook. They also receive **funding** to run their society which is typically free for students to join; sports societies charge a small membership or ticket cost to cover mandatory instructor or court hire. We send out a monthly **newsletter** to provide updates and advice to society leads, and run a **Society Open Office** which volunteers can use to work on their society and meet other Leads and work on collaborative events and projects. Being an official society also gets you access to **room bookings, public liability insurance and further training opportunities**.

Running the badminton society has been a great experience. I enjoy bringing people together to have fun not only at weekly sessions but also at the socials we run. Alongside working with other societies, it's super enjoyable!
(Badminton Society Lead 2024–26)

Being a society lead is a rewarding, but equally as challenging role. It's helped me make more connections with people that are just as passionate as I am, and have gained confidence through my role. I've improved my organisational and communication skills to ensure the society stays active and engaging for current and prospective members.
(Creative Writing Society Lead 2024–26)

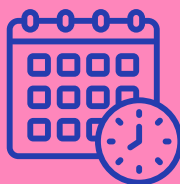
WHAT SKILLS DO YOU DEVELOP?



confidence



event planning



time management



teamwork

problem solving



communication



social media



leadership



There are times where I must be empowering and encouraging but then I need to be compassionate and sympathetic and then I need to be authoritarian and control the space I've constructed... I think this role teaches you a lot about how to interact with other people and how you must be able to be the person that people can turn to with concerns about the society... You have to be able to talk to people. You have to stay organised. You have to control and progress through your events. You can't just rock up and put on an event together [being a Society Lead] require a commitment, passion and understanding that the society is for your members too, not just you.

(Dance Captain 2025–26)

I really enjoy running my society. It's offered me a really simple way into building up a community of folks I know at Norwich Uni. NASU are incredibly helpful in both training us and coordinating events if we need any help. It does keep you very busy! My advice is try to run a society with at least two other co-leads, that way you have a bit of a fall back if one of you is busy or sick. It's a lot of work but I promise it is very rewarding. I wouldn't still be doing it if it wasn't!

(Life Drawing Society Lead 2025–26)

WHAT DOES THE ROLE LOOK LIKE?

What you will definitely be doing:

Adhere to the SU rules, processes and code of conduct

COVERED IN TRAINING

Complete risk assessments for society activity, and inform the SU of any accidents and near misses

COVERED IN TRAINING

Create budgets for events and request funding from the SU

Work with members to come up with new ideas for the society

Work with the SU on keeping the website up to date, including descriptions, logos and event details

Manage your society social media in a way that is engaging, exciting and informative

Have some knowledge of support services offered by the SU and University and signpost students accordingly

COVERED IN TRAINING

Find people to run the society after you graduate/step down

What you might do:

Get involved in SU campaigns such as ones ran by the Presidents or things like Freshers and Spill the Society

Work on designing and sourcing society merchandise

Bid for funding to buy equipment or resources for your society

Work with external venues on events for your society

Feedback on society matters, sharing your opinion on how the service runs and how it can be improved