UJS CONFERENCE 2021

Everything you need to know BEFORE Conference

12th December 2021

www.ujs.org.uk
020 7424 3288
info@ujs.org.uk

UnionOfJewishStudents
UJS_UK
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*Please remember that before, during and after Conference, UJS expects our code of conduct to be followed. This can be found at [https://www.ujs.org.uk/how_we_work](https://www.ujs.org.uk/how_we_work)*
What is Conference?

Conference is UJS’ annual event where students put forward ideas in how to shape UJS priorities for the year.

These ideas come in the form of ‘motions’ which are then debated and voted on at Conference, which this year will take place on the Sunday of UJS Convention. If a motion passes it becomes official UJS policy, which lasts three years.

This is your guide to help understand the different parts of Conference and how you can get involved in the Conference Day e.g. speeches and procedural motions.

On the day of Conference, you will also receive a smaller guide which includes the motions and all the key information to support you throughout the day.

Key dates

15 November 2021 • Conference Motions Open
22 November 2021 • Constitutional Amendments Open
29 November 2021 • Constitutional Amendments Close
29 November 2021 • Conference Motions Close
6 December 2021 • Motions Published
6 December 2021 • Motion Amendments Open
8 December 2021 • Motion Amendments Close
10 December 2021 • Final Motions Booklet Published
12 December 2021 • CONFERENCE and Priority ballot
How to get involved with Conference

Before Conference

**Motions**
Anyone can submit a motion and then speak on that motion. Usually, the proposer speaks in the first round of speeches, but they can choose to waive this to the seconder or anyone on conference floor. Anyone can raise their hand to indicate they would like to speak against a motion. The Chair will then choose the speaker.

**Amendments**
Anyone can submit an amendment to a motion, *before conference*. If it is accepted by the proposer, it becomes parts of the motion to be debated at Conference. If it is not accepted, it goes to debate at Conference on whether it should be accepted into the motion.

During Conference

**Priority ballot**
As there are many motions and we only have a limited time to discuss them, all delegates can vote on the order they want to discuss the policy baskets and the specific motions. More information on this will come closer to Conference.

**Procedural motions**
These are special motions that anyone at any time can take to the Steering Committee to change the ‘procedure’ of conference and help shape the debate.

Every delegate is only allowed to use one procedural motion per basket, so make sure to use them wisely. The Chair will ask to see a certain number of hands to hear the case for procedural motions.
A. That the Meeting has no confidence in the Chairperson. Raise this if you believe the Chair is prejudiced or otherwise ruling unfairly.

B. That the Chairperson’s ruling be overturned. Raise this if you want to challenge a specific ruling of the Chair.

C. That a vote be by secret ballot. Raise this if you want voting to be done secretly rather than by show of hands.

D. That a rule or regulation be suspended for a specified length of time for a specified reason. Raise this if you wish to stop procedural motions or a specific procedural motion being raised.

E. That another round of speeches be granted. Raise this if you think we should hear another speech for and against the motion before voting.

F. That the meeting be adjourned or closed. Raise this if you want to stop Conference.

G. That the guillotine be extended. Raise this if you would like to spend more time discussing the current basket than allotted (be aware this might take away from other baskets.)

H. That the question, as specified, be not put. Raise this if you think we shouldn’t have a vote on the motion/amendment being discussed.

I. That the question, as specified, be now put. Raise this to put a halt to any more speeches on this motion / amendment and proceed straight to a vote.

J. That the order of motions be changed. Raise this if you would like to move a motion up or down the order of debate.

K. If you wish to take parts. If you disagree with part of a motion or really agree with one part of the Motion, you can isolate this part and debate it. This is also known as negative and positive parts.

L. That the question, as specified, be remitted to another body or person. Raise this if you would like to send motions not discussed today to National Executive Council, to be debated there.
As a democratically governed union, we are not only represented by the President - we also have a number of other roles that we elect each year at Conference.

The National Council of UJS holds the President to account throughout the year, whilst the Board of Deputies Representatives are the voice of Jewish students on the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

**National Council (5 positions)**
This body holds the UJS President to account to make sure they fulfill their manifesto promises. One member of the Council will be elected to the Trustee Board of UJS, giving a unique understanding of how a national charitable organisation is run.

[Click here to get in touch with Az, Chair of our National Council](#)

**Board of Deputies Representatives (6 positions)**
The Board of Deputies is the representative voice of British Jewry nationally. It compromises nearly 300 deputies, elected by synagogues, youth movements, communal organisations and charities. UJS has 12 deputy positions and you hold this position until you graduate.

[Click here to get in touch with Elana, one of our Board of Deputies Representatives](#)

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In order to run you can either email the Returning Officer in advance at democracy@ujs.org.uk or you can speak to Steering Committee on the day of Conference.

You are highly recommended to attend conference if running for a position. If you are unable to attend you can submit a 90 second video or speech to be shared on your behalf.
Giving Speeches at Conference

During conference you can make different speeches. Here is your guide to speeches at conference:

Types of speeches
• Motion (for and against) - 90 seconds
• Summation (summary at the end of debate) - 30 seconds
• Amendments (for and against) - 60 seconds
• Parts (for and against) - 60 seconds
• Procedural motions (for and against) - 30 seconds
• Policy Lapse (for and against) - 90 seconds

Top tips for giving a speech
• Posture and body - stand up straight and be natural
• Vary your tone – be passionate and engaging, use your tone to emphasise the key points
• Be clear – naturally you will speak faster so make sure to slow down
• Prepare what to say – keep it focused, explain your position and stick to the main points
How the debate works

Motion is presented to Conference

Student speaks FOR motion

Is there an amendment to the motion?

- YES
  - Speaker FOR amendment
  - Speaker AGAINST amendment
  - Vote on amendment
    - PASS
      - Amendment added to motion
    - FAIL
      - Motion doesn’t become policy

- NO
  - Student speaks AGAINST motion
  - Chair decides on another round of speeches
    - YES
      - Another round of FOR & AGAINST
    - NO
      - Vote on motion

Motion becomes active UJS policy

DOESN’T PASS

PASS
**Amendment**
A change suggested by any delegate over the wording of a motion.

**Baskets**
All policy submitted to UJS Conference is assigned to one of three baskets - CA (Campus), CO (Community) and UJ (UJS and J-Socs.) You decide the order in which to debate these baskets in the priority ballot at the start of Conference.

**Conference Floor**
All participants at Conference are referred to as the floor.

**Chair**
The person in charge running conference. Their role includes selecting speakers, timing debates and ruling on votes.

**Guillotine**
As conference is run within time constraints there is a need to limit the length of some debates. As the end of the allotted time period nears, the chair will make Conference aware that the guillotine is about to fall and the debate will be moved to vote.

**Motion**
A change in UJS policy, constitution or structure suggested to Conference to be debated.

**Parts**
If a motion has several parts, and you wish to vote differently on these parts (for example, to pass a motion but without a certain line, word or phrase) then you can take parts on it. Raise this with the Steering Committee. Please note, if Parts are taken on a motion and it falls, this becomes policy regardless of whether the motion passes or not.

**Policy lapse**
All policy holds within the Union for three years unless overturned.
**Point of information**
A question raised specifically over the wording of a motion.

**Point of order**
A question raised specifically over the running of the event.

**Priority ballot**
Since a large number of motions have been submitted to Conference, at the start of the day we vote on which basket and which motions to debate first.

**Procedural motion**
Raise these with the Steering Committee if you would like to break away from the usual procedure of conference.

**Returning Officer**
The returning officer oversee the running of all elections. They also announce the winner of the Presidential Election towards the end of Conference!

**Steering Committee**
The body that ensures Conference is run according to the UJS Constitution. Inform them at any time if you wish to raise a point of order/information, procedural motion or a vote of no confidence.

**Vote of no confidence**
If at any point you believe the Chair or a member of Steering Committee is unfit to remain in position then you may call a vote of no confidence. In this case the Chair’s Aid will temporarily take over and this will become permanent if the vote passes. Should a vote of no confidence be raised, the chair will gauge interest from the floor before allowing the case to be made by the proposer.