



Earn Your

Society Stripes!



Do you feel your club is leading the way? Do you want recognition of what your committee has achieved? A stripe is accreditation in one of the following areas: Sustainability, Development, Inclusion and Community and can be awarded for fulfilling any of the suggested criteria or anything else that can be evidenced to justify the recognition. Once achieved they can also be used to add extra detail to applications for Community Zone grants and the annual Clubs and Societies Awards as well as showing members and the student body how well you're doing in developing your club/society in certain areas of work!

Contacts

The following people will be able to help you with any problems that may occur with applying for accreditation. They can also offer advice at any stage so don't hesitate to get in touch.

- Vice President Communities – communities.union@stir.ac.uk
- Student Activities & Volunteer Coordinator – alban.dickson@stir.ac.uk

Step 1: Decide on a stripe.

Firstly, your Club/Society needs to decide which stripe you want to try and achieve. If you have the evidence, there is no limit to the number of stripes you can apply for. You have the choice of; Sustainability, Development, Inclusion and Community.

To help you with the decision, information on the different stripes has been included on the following pages.

Step 2: Fulfil Criteria.

Take a look at the criteria for each stripe on the following pages. To attain an award, you must demonstrate a minimum of:

- **3 points to achieve Bronze Level,**
- **5 points to achieve Silver Level** and
- **7 points to achieve Gold Level.**

If you believe that you have achieved the stripe but not through the examples given, tick 'other' and provide the evidence.

Once you've fulfilled the criteria (or ideally as you go along), you need to fill out the 'Clubs and Societies Stripes Application Form'. This is a very simple form to help you review what you have done. It can be accessed from the Union's website and to apply, just e-mail this form to the VP Communities or Student Activities & Volunteering Coordinator as listed above.

Step 3: Accreditation.

Once the application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by Community Zone executive committee. If approved, you will be informed and your stripe will appear next to your name on the Clubs and Societies board. You will also receive a logo to use on any literature or marketing that you see fit.

Step 4: Review.

Applications can be received at any point during the academic year, but we recommend you submit yours before either the 1st December (for Autumn semester) or 1st April (for Spring semester) to ensure your society receives the award ahead of Freshers and Refreshers weeks and the Clubs & Societies Awards Ball!

To maintain your stripe, a new application has to be submitted every year and we would suggest you take this opportunity to apply for a higher award. If you decide to maintain at the same level, you can still change criteria and evidence new initiatives your society has undertaken.

Inclusion

The Inclusion stripe is awarded to clubs/societies who have:

“Taken positive steps to increase membership and include as many members as possible. They have made specific efforts to include students that don’t traditionally engage, without ignoring or neglecting their current membership or other student groups. These students include but are not limited to disabled, international, post graduate, parent or carer, mature, satellite, non-campus. In regards to clubs/societies who target a specific demographic, they have worked on expanding their membership and raising awareness of the issues that affect them to the wider student body.”

To achieve this, the club/society must meet at least three (bronze level), five (silver level) or seven (gold level) of the following criteria and must submit a form to state how they have met this:

1. Taken steps to help new members or freshers settle into their society.
2. As a society, have actively participated in one of the Students’ Union’s participation and engagement campaigns. (GIAG?)
3. Provided evidence of attempting to include minority groups in society events.
4. Made an effort to encourage new members throughout the year (not just at society sign ups as lots of less engaged students don't attend).
5. Taken steps to encourage minority groups to join the society without isolating the societies traditional membership groups.
6. Worked to raise awareness of what the society does to different groups of people.
7. Made changes to society activities to open them up to a wider membership (for example looked at the timing, nature or type of activity)
8. Attempted to increase membership.
9. Explored innovative new ways to promote the club
10. Taken any other steps that they feel have helped to make them more inclusive. (Please provide additional details on form.)

Sustainability.

The Sustainability stripe is awarded to clubs/societies who have:

“Made an effort to reduce the carbon footprint of their society and its members. They have actively tried to operate in a sustainable manner in regards to resources and activities and in doing so (or through separate campaigns) have increased environmental awareness to their members and the wider student population.”

To achieve this, the club/society must meet at least three (bronze level), five (silver level) or seven (gold level) of the following criteria and must submit a form to state how they have met this:

1. Actively participated or volunteered in one of the Students' Union environmental or sustainability campaigns.
2. Made an effort to reduce their carbon footprint as a society. This could include printing less, reducing mileage and recycling more.
3. Created their own environmental campaign to inform fellow students of the importance of acting sustainably.
4. Created awareness of how society members can reduce their carbon footprint.
5. Have publicised the sustainability work that they have engaged with as a society.
6. Have assisted with delivering the Students' Union Environmental Projects (For more information, contact Laurelin van der Molen on laurelin.vandermolen@stir.ac.uk)
7. Supported a union policy to help improve the sustainability of the Union and all students on campus.
8. Have used the Students' Union Green & Blue Space to host a regular society meeting or a one-off event.
9. Helped launch a new workshop or initiative as part of the Green & Blue Space
10. Taken any other steps that they feel has helped to make them more sustainable. (Please provide additional details on form)

Development

The Development stripe is awarded to clubs/societies who have:

“Taken active steps to develop themselves and built on successes of previous years or worked to maintain the high standards of previous years in differing circumstances. They may have dramatically increased membership, developed new ideas or different events and activities or made necessary changes to the operational side of the society.”

To achieve this, the society must meet at least three (bronze level), five (silver level) or seven (gold level) of the following criteria and must submit a form to state how they have met this:

1. Put in place new events or activities.
2. Reviewed previous events and activities and as a result of this process made improvements to an activity or event.
3. Gained special achievements in fundraising and obtaining funding (not including the club grants).
4. Actively participated in the Students Union democratic process such as actively participating in Community Zone meetings or by submitting a policy proposal.
5. Shown evidence of increased membership through new campaigns or marketing changes.
6. Increased awareness of the club/society aims and objectives to the student population.
7. Submitted a year plan (available from communities.union@stir.ac.uk).
8. Won a Clubs and Societies award.
9. Ensured that all committee members have participated in all club/society meetings and/or sessions.
10. Taken any other steps that they feel has developed the society. (Please provide additional details on form)

Community

The Community stripe is awarded to clubs/societies who have:

“Taken active steps to make a positive impact in the community. This can be through involvement with activities and events at Stirling University, but they will also have made an impact on the wider community by engaging with activities, campaigns and events at a local, national or international level. They may have engaged with community groups and have helped to promote Stirling students are valued members of the community.”

To achieve this, the society must meet at least three (bronze level), five (silver level) or seven (gold level) of the following criteria and must submit a form to state how they have met this:

1. Have made meaningful links with at least one community organisation outside of the Students Union.
2. Have been involved with supporting or participating in an event in the local community.
3. Have opened up their activities to the wider community on at least one occasion.
4. The society has at least one associate member who is not a Stirling University staff member or student.
5. The society has worked on an activity, event or campaign with another local institution such as a local school.
6. Have been actively involved in a large scale event at Stirling University such as the Students Union Charities Week or other similar event.
7. The society actively promotes relevant volunteering opportunities to its membership.
8. The society can provide evidence that it actively encourages its members to be responsible and engaged members of the community.
9. The club/society has worked with a Sports Union Club on a project beneficial to its members.
10. Taken any other steps that they feel have benefited the community. (Please provide additional details on form)