

Unanswered questions from Conference 2024

During the [live Business session](#) of the 2024 Students Association Conference we tried to answer as many questions from students as we could. Although we ran out of time to answer all of them, we know how important it is to have your voice heard and your questions answered. So below you will find answers to the questions that did not get answered on the day.

You can listen to all the other questions being answered during the live session [here](#).

Q: Are there any plans to offer Freshers events in the North? Not everyone can get to Milton Keynes. (Alison)

Thank you for your question Alison, our Freshers activities primarily take place online – with a programme of events at the end of September/beginning of October and January/February each year. Face to face events also happen across the country and can be found on the [events section](#) of our website. These generally rely on volunteer OU students to plan and run them, with support from our staff team. If you are interested in running a meet-up, please get in touch via oustudents-commuity@open.ac.uk.

Q: It's exciting to see that the Association's name is going to change. Do we have an estimate of how much the rebranding exercise is going to cost the charity? (Melanie)

Thanks for your question Melanie. The Association's Board of Trustees met on July 23rd and discussed the next steps for rebranding since Conference voted in favour. There are several options for how the rebranding may be approached, each with different implications for the cost. Whilst we cannot give details right now regarding the cost, we would suggest that you check in with the minutes from forthcoming Trustees meetings on the Association website to follow the progress on this exciting project.

Q: Is there a way of finding out about OU students or social meet-up in your area? I'm in Plymouth and have no idea of what is happening in my area. Thanks. (Isa)

Thanks Isa, yes, please check our [event listings](#) for face to face and online meet-ups.

Q: With the widely touted "campus 2030" project in full research, has the association started to work out how we will handle the transition to having students who are face to face as part

of our (by then) students union, and how will we handle such matters in terms of having “traditional” student faculties such as a bar etc? (Kathy)

We have had discussions with stakeholders within the OU to ensure that they are aware of the potential implications of the Association needing to provide services and activities for full-time face-to-face students. However, until further information is available on what the actual plans for Campus 2030 are, it is impossible to plan or project what any kind of transition will look like.

Q: I have a diagnosis of Irlen Syndrome but am being told it is not medical, I am sure there are others out there with the same situation. Is there any help out there for people like me? (Linda)

Hi Linda, a good place to start would be to contact your Student Support Team (find their details via the Help Centre), and also the [Disabled Students Group](#), where you may be able to find other students to connect with.

Q: Please can you talk a little about your engagement with postgraduate research students? (Melanie)

Hi Melanie. We attend the Postgraduate Research Students induction each year, to share opportunities to get involved. We also have Representative roles for Postgraduate Students available and share these through the Graduate School. There is definitely scope for the Association to do more to engage with Postgraduate Research Students.