

# UMSU and GSA

## Requirements for joint affiliation

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### Background

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA) maintain separate and independent affiliation schemes for the many and various student societies, clubs and groups that operate across the University's seven different campus and institutes.

UMSU and GSA supports these student groups, clubs and societies with separate funding and governs them with their [UMSU Clubs and Societies Regulations](#) and [GSA Graduate Group Procedures](#) respectively. It is possible for the group to maintain affiliation with both GSA and UMSU subject to current regulations and procedures as long as the constitution is based on UMSU's standard constitution. GSA's current requirements in its procedures do not conflict with the current UMSU Clubs and Societies regulations.

### Guidelines

To maintain joint affiliation with both GSA and UMSU, a club, society or graduate group should follow these guidelines:

1. Groups, clubs and societies must only have one constitution. More than one constitution is not compliant with GSA or UMSU requirements because it means that there are two separate groups and governance systems.
2. Any amendments to a group's constitution must be approved by **both** GSA and UMSU.
3. GSA's requirements do not currently conflict with the UMSU model constitution and regulations, except that GSA requires that:
  - ✓ 75% of the group's members must be graduate students; and
  - ✓ one of the group's aims must satisfy the required aims in the [Graduate Group Procedures](#).
4. The committee should ensure that the club, society or graduate group complies with the relevant regulations or procedures in dealings with both GSA and UMSU.
5. Any requirements in regards to notice periods, AGMS, and so forth, will be established in the group's constitution and remain the same in their dealings with both UMSU and GSA. GSA has [reporting obligations](#) which do not conflict with UMSU's requirements and standard constitution.
6. GSA and UMSU provide separate funding, and expenses and claims must be accurately reported. GSA and UMSU both have the power to audit as established in their governing documents.
7. Groups, clubs and societies must re-affiliate:
  - ✓ to UMSU by holding and reporting a compliant Annual General Meeting every year;
  - ✓ to GSA by meeting reporting requirements, which include a report on a compliant Annual General Meeting every year.
8. GSA does not require all committee members of a jointly affiliated club to be graduate students, but 75% of the group's members must be graduate students.
9. If in doubt, or if you are changing clauses between UMSU and GSA's model or template constitutions, always discuss your circumstances with UMSU Clubs & Societies or GSA Programs staff.

*This document is jointly approved by:*

