

Introduction to The ISSU.

A basic and comprehensive guide to The Union.

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Purpose

The ISSU is a student-led organisation which focuses on connecting students from different schools in order to create a better high-school experience.

This is done in two main ways: **Events** and **Opportunities**.

Events are gatherings in which several schools participate or compete. Two examples of this are a sports match between schools or a debating competition.

Opportunities are options and resources which students have access to. Examples include leadership positions, scholarships, or internships.

The ISSU organises several events and provides students with multiple opportunities, but <u>any student can create their own events or opportunities</u> if they chose to do so, making the ISSU a platform for endless possibilities.

Structure

The organisation is structured in three main levels: **The Student Body** of the member schools, the elected **Student Boards** from each member school, and **The Union**.

The student body supports and gives life to the organisation. Students elect their school's student board, participate and organise events, apply to internal positions in the organisation, and promote improvements in the structural and organisational aspects of the ISSU - they hold the democratic control of the organisation.

Student Boards are composed of three students: the Representative, who acts as president of the board and represents the students; the Secretary, who deals with the organisational aspects of the board; and the Treasurer, who is in charge of funding and sponsorships. The student board of each school is democratically elected every six months.

The Union allows representatives to communicate freely with one another, creating inter-school cooperation for the organisation of events. The Union also provides students with several opportunities such as scholarships and internships, as well as prizes and awards to incentivise student participation.

Students who adopt leadership positions in the ISSU are expected to fulfil their representative duties. If students are unhappy with their elected representatives, they can summon a <u>no-confidence vote</u> and elect new representatives.

Events

Events are broken into branches depending on the topic they deal with. There are six branches:

Sports: As the name suggests, this branch deals with all sorts of sporting events. Examples include X-country running, basketball competitions, or golf championships.

Academics: Events involving the classic academic disciplines, such as natural and social sciences, maths, and languages. Examples include physics olympiads or creative writing competitions.

Extra Curriculars: This branch covers extracurricular activities which don't fall into any of the other branches. Examples include chess tournaments, debating competitions, programming hackathons, and many more.

Creative Arts: Regarding visual art, music, acting, or any other form of artistic expression. Examples include a student art gallery, a music competition, or a short-movie festival.

Careers: This branch encompasses events that deal with career choices or university. Examples include university fairs, or conference talks by entrepreneurs.

Charity: Includes any event that has a charitable purpose or outcome. Examples include Christmas food collections, or a raffle to raise funds for refugees.

Note that event branches might overlap at times – and this is ok. For example, a student concert which raises funds for charity would be an event in which the Creative Arts and Charity branches overlap. Branches are simply mechanisms that help organise events more efficiently and allow students to find events that interest them.

Another extremely important aspect of events is that any student in the ISSU can organise one, regardless of whether they are a member of their school board or not. This gives students the ability to use the ISSU as a platform to organise, collaborate, or participate in events.

Opportunities

Opportunities are broken into two categories: Positions and Resources.

Positions: These are opportunities which involve carrying out a task or job. Examples include internships, work experiences, or ISSU leadership roles.

Resources: Benefits that students can access or apply to. Examples include scholarships, funds from the ISSU to organise events, or academic guidance.

Positions and Resources are further broken down into two categories: **Internal** and **External**.

Internal Opportunities are directly issued by the ISSU or one of its members.

External Opportunities are offered through a collaboration between the ISSU with an external organisation, which provides the positions or resources that make up the opportunity.

Let's illustrate this with some examples below.

	Positions	Resources
Internal	ISSU Board Treasurer	Funds for an event
External	Internship at Tech. Startup	Privately-funded scholarship

Just like Events, any student can create their own opportunities. For example, a student might want to recruit other students in order to start a project regarding the construction of a car. This would constitute an Internal (provided by a student in the ISSU) Position (students would be carrying out tasks to build the car).

Join the ISSU

Is your school still not part of the ISSU? Contact us and set up a Union Branch at your own school, gaining access to all benefits that The Union provides.

You can find out more on our website issunion.com, or contacting us via the different ways listed at the end of the guide.

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