



NUS Conference **Guide for Delegates**

How to survive your first
day in Blackpool...

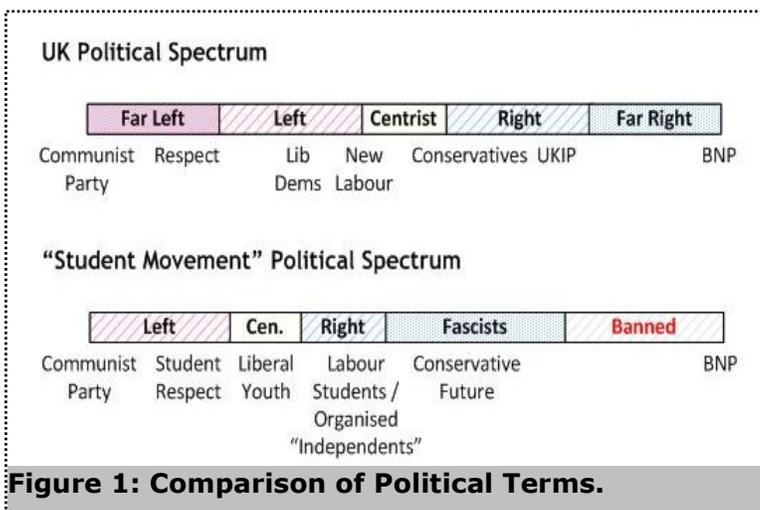
NUS Conference Guide for Delegates



Congratulations on being elected to take part in three days of partisan bickering in the delightful metropolis of Blackpool! NUS Conference can be a frightening and bewildering experience for those who have not attended before. In this short guide we aim to give you vital information and advice to ensure you know what to expect, and help you orientate yourself more easily.

Language

The language used within the student movement is slightly different to that used in mainstream UK politics. In 2007 a number of Imperial delegates were confused at being called “right wing insurgents” when they were members of the Labour Party or were sympathisers with Kenneth Stalinstone, elected Mayor of London. This handy diagram illustrates the differences in terminology in an easy-to-use format.



Please be warned that the variation in descriptions does not stop there. How you refer to various ‘factions’ (organised, co-ordinated groupings of people with similar aims/no ideas of their own) depends entirely on your own ‘faction’. The next page contains a table to help you find your way – simply select the column of the political grouping that most closely matches your views. If you do not wish to join a ‘faction’, then you are a ‘true independent’ so may simply sneer at those who have aligned themselves with a group and need not use the table. Whenever you encounter someone, find the row corresponding to *their* ‘faction’ (they will probably be wearing a t-shirt or badge which makes this obvious), so you know how to refer to them. For example, if you are a member of ‘Respect’ and you encounter someone else from ‘Respect’, you would call them ‘comrade’. If have Conservative-style political views, you would refer to them as a ‘trot’.

Pick your faction Subject of conversation	Respect/ENS/AWL	Labour Students	Conservative Future
Respect/ENS/AWL	Comrades*	Far Left	Trots
Labour Students	Extreme Right Wing	Future Cabinet Ministers	Useless Career Politicians
Conservative Future	Fascists	Right Wing	Well done, old chap!
Organised Independent	Labour	Nothing to do with us!	Labour
Students First	Conservatives	Conservatives	Nothing to do with us!
True Independent	Losers with no friends, no influence and no hope of getting elected.		

* This only applies if you are in the same faction. If you are in different factions, you do not speak to each other. For example, a member of Respect must not talk to a member of ENS or AWL. In conversation with others, you may refer to them as "backstabbers", and blame them for the lack of "unity in the left".

The Experience

You may have heard rumours about NUS Conference being one big piss-up. This is partly true, but it takes some doing. Conference business lasts until 11pm and Blackpool shuts down at 7pm, so places to drink are few and far between. However, it is good advice to stay out drinking as long as possible: most of the hotels are terrible and the alcohol will take the edge off the smell of damp when you get back. If you can, sleep in a pub or bar somewhere.

Things to Remember :

- You'll be told to get to conference floor by 9am in the morning. Don't bother. Most of the NEC don't bother to turn up on time, so why should you?
- Eat a large breakfast and keep lots of food rations handy. The queue in Burger King at lunchtime is not worth the wait; the chip shop leaves something to be desired and you can't live on free doughnuts from candidate's election campaigns.
- If the person you are talking to is overly interested in your point of view; agrees with everything you say and doesn't seem to ever stop talking they are probably standing for election.
- If the person you are speaking to is a member of the NEC they will display all of the above characteristics but also constantly contradict themselves depending on whether they are addressing people on or off the podium.
- You don't need to vote in elections – the factions have decided the results between them already. They have plenty of slave drones who will sit and vote, in such great numbers that you won't make a difference. Go to the bar instead.
- When you get the urge to kill yourself half way through the second day, remember: the third day finishes at 2pm!

Good luck and enjoy Conference!



This Delegate Guide is brought to you by *Live!*, the award-winning* Student News Website of the City and Guilds College Union at Imperial College London.

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*Best Student Website, Guardian Student Media Awards, November 2007.