UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX STUDENTS' UNION'S
COOKIE POLICY

1. INTRO

The University of Essex Students' Union (Union)) uses cookies on our website. This policy explains how we use cookies, when you visit our website, and online applications (our "sites"). By accessing, browsing and using our sites, you confirm that you accept this cookie policy and that you consent to our use of cookies on your computer or smart device, as set out in this cookie policy.

2. WHAT ARE COOKIES?

A cookie is a small file, typically of letters and numbers, downloaded onto a device when the user accesses certain websites. Cookies are then sent back to the originating website on each subsequent visit. Cookies are useful because they allow a website to recognise a user's device.

Broadly speaking, cookies are either 'session-based' or 'persistent'. The former is deleted when you close your browser. The latter is more likely to collect a greater amount of personal information, such as browsing behaviour if so-configured, and is deleted manually or on its expiration date.

3. HOW WE USE COOKIES

Strictly Necessary Cookies

These cookies are essential in order to enable you to move around the Website and use its features, such as accessing secure areas of the Website.

ASP.NET_SessionID
Stores a temporary unique identifier for your session – no other information is stored. This cookie is removed when you close your browser. Expires on exit of browser.
This cookie is strictly necessary for the functioning of the logged-in site and the user should not disable these if they want a logged-in browsing experience.

ASPXAUTH
When you are logged in, this cookie stores a value that identifies you to your site. This value is encrypted and can only be read by the server. If you use the Remember Me function this cookie remains on your computer for 3 months, otherwise it is removed when you log out of the site. Expires on exit of browser or 3 months (optional)
This cookie is strictly necessary for the functioning of the logged-in site and the user should not disable these if they want a logged-in browsing experience.

Session Cookies

AntiXsrfToken
This cookie helps prevent Cross-Site Request Forgery attacks. It's a session cookie so is removed from your device once you close the browser. This cookie is strictly necessary.

NREUM
Used by New Relic (performance monitoring) as a workaround for browsers that do not support the **Navigation Timing API**. Expires on exit of browser.

Analytical Cookies

Google Analytics Cookies
These cookies are used to collect information, which is non-personal, about how visitors use our sites. We use the information to compile reports, which will help us monitor our sites performance and enable us to improve them, where necessary. This cookie collects information in an anonymous form, including the number of visitors to our sites, where visitors have come from, the length of time they have spent on our sites and the pages they have visited.

Google Analytics has been assessed as posing a very low level of intrusiveness to you, however, they have produced a plugin for browsers that helps you opt out of this form of analytics, if you do not wish us to use it. For more information, please visit:

- About the 'opt out' tool: https://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout
- About Google's privacy policy: https://support.google.com/analytics/topic/2919631?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=1008008

_utma
Used by Google Analytics to capture and determine unique visitors and the frequency of views. __utma is written to the browser on your first visit to a site (from the browser being used). 2-year expiry

_utmb
Used by Google Analytics to establish and continue your session on the site. Each time you visit a page it is updated to expire in 30 minutes. It expires if you spend more than 30 minutes on a single page. 30-minute expiry.

_utmc
Previously used by Google Analytics javascript to define a session status. 6-month expiry.

_utmz
Used by Google Analytics to store the type of referral used to reach the site; e.g. direct, link, web search, etc. Expires on exit of browser.

4. DISABLING COOKIES

Should you choose to, you can disable the cookies from your browser and delete all cookies currently stored on your computer or smart device. You can find out how to do this for your particular browser by clicking 'help' on your browser's menu or by visiting: http://www.allaboutcookies.org/manage-cookies/index.html.

However, please be aware that should you choose to disable cookies from your browser, it may prevent you from taking full advantage of our sites and some of our sites may fail to work properly, which could impact on your use of our sites. You will see from this policy that most of the cookies we use are recognised as being essential cookies, which are required in order to make our sites work.

5.   UPDATING THIS POLICY

We may update this Cookie Statement from time to time in order to reflect, for example, changes to the cookies we use or for other operational, legal or regulatory reasons. Please therefore re-visit this Cookie Statement regularly to stay informed about our use of cookies and related technologies.

The date at the bottom of this Cookie Statement indicates when it was last updated.

6.   CONTACTING US

If you have any questions about our use of cookies or other technologies, please email us on sudata@essex.ac.uk

This Cookie Policy was last updated 3rd March 2023