

UPDATED!

8

How to start a CU

You're probably reading this resource because you may be thinking about starting a Christian Union where you study. We've put together '8 P's' to help you get started.

PRAY

If you want to start a CU – PRAY because:

God loves your College! John 3:16.

His desire is to bring lost sheep home. It's what He does!

Jesus is the Lord of your College! Col 1:16.

He's the King of the Universe and He is already at work in your College or Sixth Form.

He can do way more than we ask or imagine! Eph 3:20:

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..."

So:

- 1. Get Church praying** – Tell your Church/youth leaders that you hope to set up a CU at College and get your Church family praying!
- 2. Get Festive praying** – Email us at info@festive.org.uk and we promise to stand with you in prayer (and can offer advice, freebies etc along the way!)
- 3. Keep on praying** – Pray for God to lead you to other Christians where you study. Don't just pray as you start – keep on pouring out your heart to God and asking for His power to be at work in you and your College!



PURPOSE

What is a Christian Union? Why do I want to start a CU at College?

Make sure you know what you are aiming for as it is easy for Christian Union groups to go off track quickly!

Check out this resource: **What is a CU?**

And check out this one too: **What makes a great CU?**

Download them here: www.festive.org.uk/running-a-cu

PEOPLE

CUs come in all shapes and sizes. Some CUs are big – but most are 2 or 3 students strong. Some have help from a Chaplain, student worker or Christian teacher... others don't.

Read the Eph 3:20 verse from above again.

God is able to do incredible things through you – no matter how many of you there are and no matter what the circumstances!

If on-hand support is available – fantastic!

If it isn't – make sure you have support from the side-lines! A pastor, youth worker or local Uni CU could be great advisors/prayers.

You can get advice, prayer and support from us at info@festive.org.uk



PLACE TO MEET

If possible, try to find a place to meet that is:

- a. A central location
- b. Really easy to access by as many people as possible

Is there a Christian member of staff that could help you out here?



PERMISSION

To start a CU, you will need to get permission. If you don't know how to go about this, ask a friendly member of staff to help you. Chaplains, NUS officers, your tutor, or someone from Student Services are the best people to ask.

Great, but what do I say?

- a. Explain what the aims of the CU are in a sentence or two.
- b. Ask permission to be able to book a room to meet in each week
- c. Ask permission to advertise through posters, bulletins, College intranet/social media.

Email info@festive.org.uk for advice!
We'll try steer you in the right direction and help if you experience any problems.



PLAN

Make a plan for the first term!

- a. Keep it simple – pick one of our UFG Bible Studies to go through. “God’s first CU” in Daniel or “Authentic” in Philippians would be great!
- b. Pray – for each other, for opportunities to share Jesus and for friends!

Check out our ‘CU Term Planners’ packed with lots of ideas and a blank planner for you to fill in.



PUBLICITY

How can you let other Christians in College know about CU?

Contact Churches: email churches/ use social media to get the word out at churches where students go. Ask them to read details of the first meeting out!

Posters: Keep them simple and eye catching. Make sure the day, time and room you are meeting are there. Include a contact number/email.

Bulletin: Is there a bulletin you can advertise in?

Social Media: Set up a account for CU?

Website: Any gifted techies among you?

Check out festive.org.uk for some ready-made posters you could use with your own details.



PAYING FOR ALL THIS

You will probably need to pay for any publicity or event you do.

- Can some of you contribute to the costs?
- Could you make the need known at Church?
- Would the Student Union/Student Services be able to help?





There are small Christian Union groups in Sixth Forms and Colleges up and down the country. They can be fantastic places to meet with other Christians and spur one another on. They are also a powerful place to unite in reaching friends and students where you are with the Gospel.

Contact: info@festive.org.uk as we would love to pray for you and support you as you seek to start a CU!



www.festive.org.uk

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