



Affiliating with the Trades Union Congress. What does it mean for NSEAD? A Consultation Document

The Society has been investigating the implications and benefits of affiliating with the Trades Union Congress (TUC). Currently the Society operates, as indeed many trade unions do, independently of the TUC and its activities.

The main thrust of the Society's work in this context is representing members (with Full Membership status) across the UK in formal meetings and giving advice and guidance by phone and email. The General Secretary and the Trade Union Advisor undertake this work. A lawyer is kept on a retainer for legal advice.

This area of our work is increasing, as are the unintended consequences of government policies on our subject.

The Trades Union Congress is the organisation that represents the wider trade union movement. There are currently 54 trade unions affiliated to the TUC representing just under 6 million people from a wide range of occupations. The TUC builds links with all political parties, local communities, business, and campaigns for a fair deal at work and for social justice.

We believe that the Society will benefit from becoming a member of the TUC. The TUC aims to be an authoritative voice in political debate and frequently meets ministers at all levels of government to include Secretaries of State and the Prime Minister. We believe affiliation will give us more visibility and influence on behalf of our members and our subject.

1. Who has made this decision?

The General Secretary has had preliminary discussions with senior officials at the TUC, and the General Secretaries of other trade unions to include the ATL, NUT, NAHT and Artists Union. The General Secretary, members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Council of NSEAD have debated the potential benefits of affiliation. At the NSEAD Council meeting on Sunday 25 June 2017 it was agreed that affiliation with the TUC would be a positive step forward for the Society; that the Society will consult with members (with Full Membership status); and with the agreement of the majority of those members, apply for affiliation of the TUC in 2018.

2. How would we affiliate?

We will only affiliate after consultation with NSEAD members (with Full Membership status). After consultation with those members that provides the Society with a clear steer that affiliation is appropriate we will formally apply to the TUC by letter in December 2017. After consideration and acceptance of our application the TUC will welcome us formally at the TUC Conference in September 2018.

3. What are the criteria for affiliation by the TUC?

That we know who our members are by maintaining an up-to-date database.

That we are a teaching union.

That we consult democratically with our members.

That we have a certificate of independence from the certification office.

The Society can assure the TUC that these criteria are in place.

4. What will NSEAD gain from affiliation?

We can send one formal delegate to TUC Conference which meets annually for four days in September.

We will have voting rights at TUC Conference.

We can send other members as observers or visitors to TUC Conference.

We can submit two motions and two amendments to TUC Conference.

At TUC Congress we will have the opportunity to network, listen to a wide range of speakers, have a stand and host fringe meetings.

We will be entitled to stand for election to the General Council. If not elected, we would still be able to attend as an observer and able to participate, but not vote.

We will gain greater visibility amongst other trade unions, to include teaching unions.

We will have access to TUC consultants who would support us in capacity building and organisational development.

5. What will NSEAD members gain from affiliation?

The Society will gain more visibility for the concerns of its members by engagement at TUC Conference which will allow us both networking and voting opportunities.

Members who choose to formally represent the Society in their workplace will benefit from access to the TUC Education programme which delivers courses to and for the workplace representatives of affiliated unions.

6. Will NSEAD get involved in the TUC's campaigns?

Yes, but only if appropriate to our work and values. We will be able to contribute to campaigns, and, if elected to Council, influence the campaign strategy of the TUC.

7. Is this a UK wide decision?

The TUC is a UK-wide organisation, but education is devolved within Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland. We will speak separately to the Scottish TUC and Irish Confederation of TUs when UK-wide affiliation is in place.

8. Does this mean the Society will be affiliated to the Labour Party?

No, the TUC is not affiliated to the Labour Party, nor any other political party. The TUC has dialogue with all of the major political parties. As a membership organisation NSEAD will continue to remain politically independent, respecting the views of all its current and future members.

9. Will the Society remain as a subject association and learned society?

Yes. The Society will continue with the three distinct strands to its work. Our time and commitment to our role as a learned society and a subject association will be undiminished and unaffected.

10. Could the TUC tell us to go on strike?

No. A trade union can only call members to take industrial action following a successful ballot of their members. It is NSEAD members only who make that decision.

11. Who will make this decision?

After consultation with members the General Secretary of NSEAD will formally write to the General Secretary of the TUC seeking affiliation.

12. What do you need to do now?

Do you have more questions about the implications of this decision? If so, please do not hesitate to contact the NSEAD General Secretary Lesley Butterworth at Lesleybutterworth@nsead.org or T 01225 810134 or M 07817416089

Are you content with affiliating with the TUC? Then you need do no more.

Do you not wish the Society to affiliate? Please alert the NSEAD General Secretary Lesley Butterworth before Friday 24 November 2017 at Lesleybutterworth@nsead.org or T: 01225 810134 or M 07817416089