

Appeal for New Club Application re Hope International Fellowship

On June the 3rd 2008, we have attended the New Club Committee interview to set up ourselves 'Hope International Fellowship' as a club, but our proposal was rejected by the committee.

1. Who are we?

Our vision is to fulfil Jesus' Great commission by training strong and biblical students to pioneer and run strong and biblical Hope International Fellowships in every university in United Kingdom.

Hope international fellowship is a multi-national and multi-cultural group catering to a wide range of local and international students regardless of race, culture or religious background. We help students adjust to their new life on campus, create ways for them to meet new friends, help them to find accommodation, and anything else we can help them with. Hope International Fellowship is also for people who want to develop their personal relationship with God and have a desire to learn about His plans and purposes. We encourage people to live their daily life according to Biblical principles and to help others in their faith by participating in local community activities.

For your information, we have been meeting for 9 months already since October 2007 under the blessing of the chaplain, Rev. Andrew. He has provided us with all the conveniences and allowed us to use the chaplaincy for our weekly meeting on every Tuesday, as well as listing our group on the chaplaincy [weekly program](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy/events/weekly) (<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy/events/weekly>).

We are affiliated to an international Christian movement called [Hope of Nation](http://www.hopeofnations.com/hope-network.html) (<http://www.hopeofnations.com/hope-network.html>). Student ministry and church planting have always been the core focus in that movement.

In UK, we are under the Hope International Fellowship UK, student ministry of [Hope Church London](http://www.hopelondon.org) (<http://www.hopelondon.org>) who is overseeing the leadership of Hope International Fellowship as well as providing financial support. Under Hope International Fellowship UK, we have now seen establishment of societies in University of Aston, Birmingham; University of West England, Bristol; University of Nottingham and University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield. Currently, we have one internet link to the society page of [University of Hertfordshire's student union](http://uhsu.herts.ac.uk/index.php?page=activities/societies/hope_fellowship) (http://uhsu.herts.ac.uk/index.php?page=activities/societies/hope_fellowship)

The other Hope International Fellowship societies mentioned above can be found on our facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=12881967902>.

Furthermore, the campus work by the Hope of Nation movement, also stretches down under in Australia and New Zealand, and the students' societies are registered under the name of Christian Campus Movement in many universities, namely in [Brisbane](http://www.ccmbrisbane.com/about.html) (<http://www.ccmbrisbane.com/about.html>) , [Auckland](http://www.ccm.hope.org.nz/about.htm) (<http://www.ccm.hope.org.nz/about.htm>) and [Sydney](http://unicentre.uow.edu.au/getinvolved/clubs/UOW033129.htm) (<http://unicentre.uow.edu.au/getinvolved/clubs/UOW033129.htm>).

2. **What do we do?**

Part of our university life is to share fun-filled moments with friends, with that in mind, we have our calendar packed with events and activities throughout the academic year to ensure that our campus life is memorable. As all of us attend the Sunday service at Hope Church London, Hope International Fellowship at Imperial College provides us with a platform to interact and support each other in our holistic well being.

Our weekly gathering at the chaplaincy, on Tuesday evening allows us to fellowship. During the gathering we have exciting ice-breakers, heart-felt songs, inspiring preaching, intimate sharing of life testimonies, as well as delicious refreshment after the gathering. Once a month, we will break off from the normal weekly gathering to go for a meal, movie or outings. Many of our friends join us because we are hospitable, warm and welcoming.

We run leadership training sessions fortnightly according to biblical principles to equip people in running the Hope International Fellowship gatherings, individual character building as well as team building. We cover topics such as Christian living, evangelism, disciples-making, growth management, counselling as well as communication. We also train the members to be skilful in musical instrument, computer and other interests.

All the leaders/chairs from all Hope International Fellowship societies will meet once a month to discuss on the progress and development of each Hope International Fellowship. We also discuss on the collaboration of activities such as annual sport day, outing, camps and tours.

3. **Responses to the points made by New Club Committee (NCC)**

The major reason for NCC to reject our proposal to officially setting up Hope International Fellowship was there was already a Christian Union society which has the same aims and objectives.

In fact our main focus is not only on Christian but as our name indicated; we welcome people of all national and various cultural groups, to a wide range of local and international students regardless of race, culture or religious background to fellowship and explore life together. The other differences between Christian Union and Hope International Fellowship are the style of leadership and methods of administration.

Regarding room-booking (for bigger venue when we grow), we are sure that the Chaplain, Rev. Andrew would not mind helping us to book but in the long run, this is not his job responsibilities as a Chaplain. As for requesting the Christian Union to book the room for us, we try to eliminate the risk of falling into 'society politics' or conflicts which might see Christian Union to ask us to conform to certain forms of conditions.

As mentioned earlier, we aim to train strong and biblical students to pioneer and run strong and biblical Hope International Fellowship in every university in United Kingdom. We hope to be recognized by the student union in every university in facilitating our growth.

It will be a privilege for us to be recognized as a society under Imperial College student union. This is what all members of Hope International Fellowship Imperial College hope for. We will continue to pray and fight for it until we succeed.