

What is it?

The Student Opportunities Framework is a diagnostic and development tool for students' unions. It has two parts:

1. Essentials – the fundamentals required for a legal, safe and functional student opportunities service
2. Features – what makes your student opportunities unique, what do your students need from the service, and how can you develop in the future

"Student Opportunities" is the holistic term for societies, sports, physical activity, student media, student fundraising, student volunteering, student development and student enterprise.

Going through a Student Opportunities Framework review, a students' union will take a close look at each area with the help of a Student Opportunities specialist. The review will highlight areas where your students' union lacks a key policy or could be doing something differently and shines a light on the things that you're doing well. You'll come away with a bespoke report identifying a 'to-do list' of areas for development and celebrating your areas of excellence.

Our long-term intention is to formalise the Framework and turn it into a national standard of good practice. In undertaking a Student Opportunities Framework review, you'll be part of a pioneering set of students' unions shaping what good looks like in Student Opportunities.

"We engaged Organised Fun to undertake a review of our Student Activities department, they were easy to work with, extremely knowledgeable and gave a thorough assessment of our current position accompanied by detailed recommendations for improvement". – Jon Russ, UCLan SU

How has the Student Opportunities Framework been developed?

The criteria for the Framework have been developed using our experiences of working with students' unions and the wider higher education sector. We reviewed current good practice in the student engagement, volunteering, fundraising and media and considered how this translates into Student Opportunities.

We also evaluated the existing frameworks, development tools, research pieces and standards to create the themes of the Framework. For example,

- NUS Quality Students' Unions
- Advice Quality Standard
- Investors in Volunteering
- NUS Governance Code
- #iwill campaign principles for quality social action
- NUS Barriers to Participation in Student Opportunities report
- NUS Student Fundraising Guide
- NUS Student Media Guide

The Student Opportunities Framework is complementary to these other frameworks and standards, rather than competitive. IE. you could undertake both within the same year.

"Organised Fun set a clear timescale and plan for how the review would work and was open throughout that the Framework was in development and feedback would be welcomed. The review and recommendations have been transformative for our opportunities provision." – Kate Little, Christ Church SU

What does the Framework cover?

The Student Opportunities Framework themes span across both Essentials & Features packages.

Student Opportunities Framework themes

1. Operations & Governance

*Is the students' union working legally?
Does the students' union governance
match the policies and procedures?*

2. Student Leadership & Democracy

*Are students encouraged to influence
and make change at all appropriate
levels of the student opportunities
service?*

3. Student Development

*How do you develop a student's skills,
confidence through opportunities?*

4. People

*Are the people working and
volunteering with Student Opportunities
doing appropriate activities? Are staff
and volunteers developed, coached,
and supported effectively?*

5. Collaboration & Partnership

*Is there a strong strategic relationship
with the institution and other partners?*

6. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

*How are Student Opportunities
designed and supported to be
inclusive, equitable, and diverse?*

7. Engagement & Participation

*Is the service responsive to student
feedback and priorities? What
strategies are employed to increase
participation?*

8. Impact & Strategy

*How do you measure and evaluate
impact? Do the opportunities have a
double benefit?*

9. Specialisms

*Student media, student fundraising,
sport*

(not applicable to all students' unions)

Essentials review

Ensure your Student Opportunities service is running efficiently, legally, and safely. The *Essentials criteria* follow legal frameworks and guidance and are reviewed annually.

We are experts in Student Opportunities rather than legal specialists. We won't ever give legal advice but will flag areas that may need investigating or where professional legal advice is required.

You will receive a bespoke *Essentials* report with a simple red, amber, green matrix highlighting risks, development areas and good practice. This provides you with a clear action plan for improvement.

The *Essentials* review cost is £4,000+VAT

Features review

What makes your student opportunities unique?

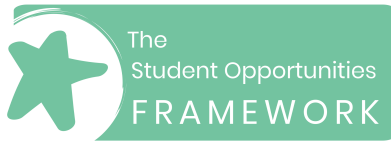
What do your students need from the service?

How can you develop in the future?

For our *Features* review we consider the current setup of your student opportunities service and make recommendations to develop it, based on your SU strategy, student engagement data and other factors.

The *Features* part of the Student Opportunities Framework review can only be conducted alongside an *Essentials* review. We can't look at the *Features* elements alone as our specialists require full understanding of your service to enable us to appropriately advise on your development. We review the *Essentials* criteria first and add detail for your *Features* report.

You will receive a bespoke *Features* report of high quality analysis of your service, broken down into the themes of the Student Opportunities Framework. Our specialists



will share ideas for improvements and make clear recommendations for more complicated areas.

We can shape the focus of the report based on your priorities as an SU. For previous reviews we have focused on aligning their student opportunities service to their strategy, for others we have considered the service against a particular goal.

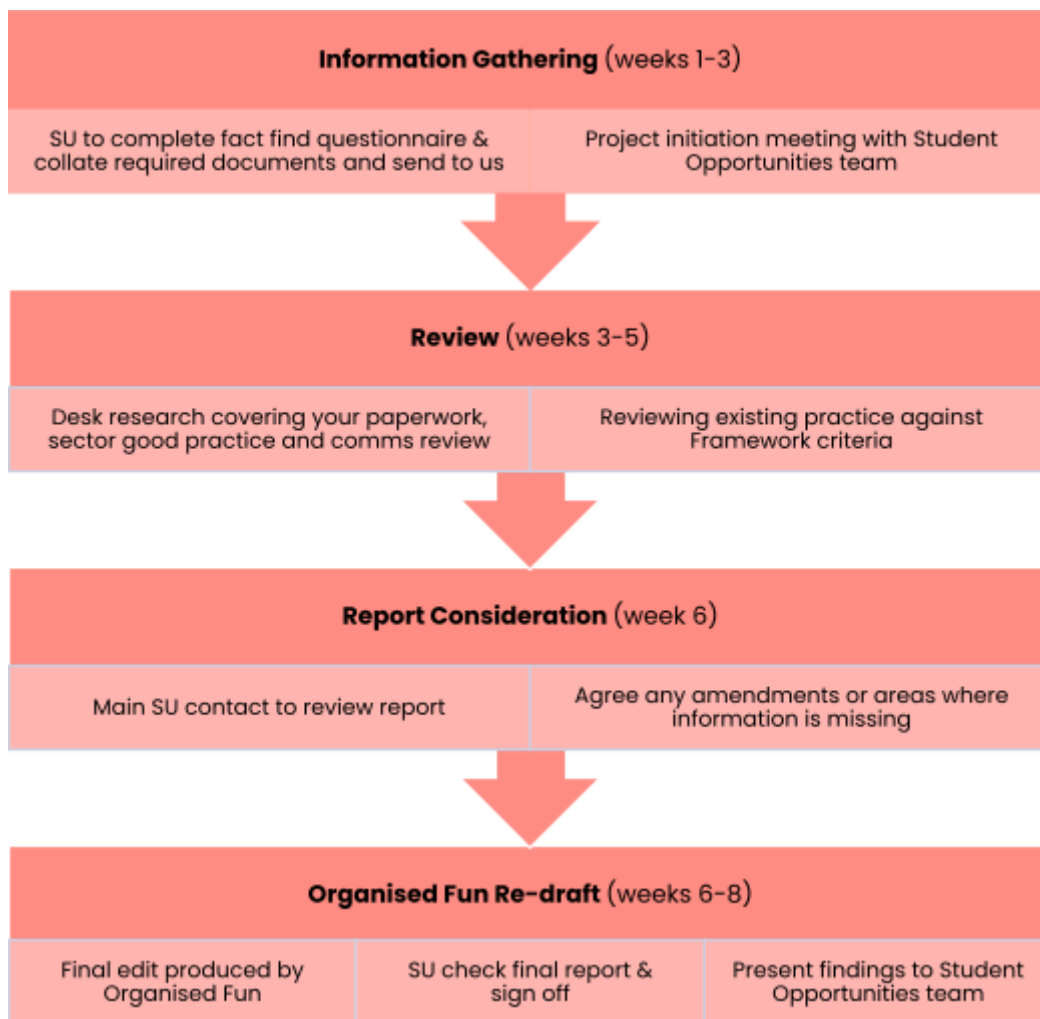
This option also includes an implementation meeting with your team where we run through our recommendations and support with planning for next steps.

The *Features* review cost is £7,000+VAT (includes the *Essentials*).

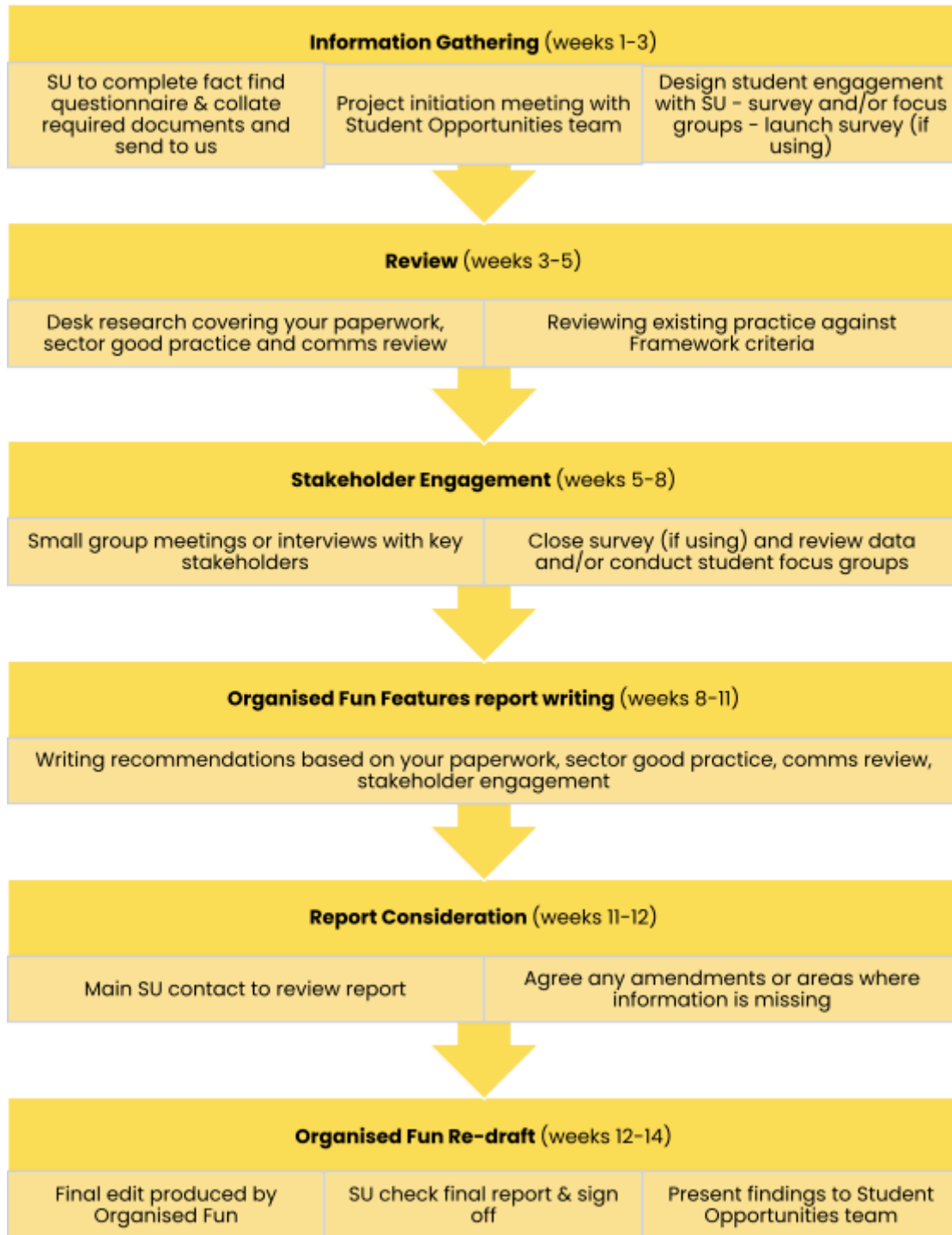
What's the Student Opportunities Framework review process?

The review process timeline is dependent upon the level of stakeholder engagement required, the availability of your team and our availability. We have given an indicative timeframe, but this will be agreed in advance between the SU and Organised Fun at the start of the process.

Essentials review



Features review



About Organised Fun

Formed in 2019 Organised Fun are the only national specialists in higher education student opportunities: societies, clubs, student media, fundraising, volunteering, and student development. We offer services to students' unions, universities, and the charity sector. We believe that student opportunities should be inclusive, enjoyable, and impactful.

Organised Fun operate in two areas:

1. Providing expert **Student Opportunities Consultancy**

We have a team of specialist Student Opportunities consultants who can support project management, strategy development and training.

We have created the [Student Opportunities Framework](#); a development tool to holistically evaluate a student opportunities service.

Our [experienced consultancy team](#) has worked with over 70 different clients, predominantly higher education students' unions. [Read some testimonials here](#).

2. Supporting the **Student Opportunities Community**

We bring together the professionals, volunteers and leaders of societies, clubs, student media, fundraising and volunteering. Supporting a community of people who love Student Opportunities as much as we do.

Organised Fun created the [National Societies & Volunteering Awards](#) and the Student Opportunities Festival – both free to access community building events for student volunteers, sabbatical officers, and staff in student opportunities.