



# OBSERVERSHIP OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS STUDENTSNS?

Students Nova Scotia (StudentsNS) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance of postsecondary student associations in Nova Scotia.

As the largest student advocacy organization in the province, we provide a united voice for over 20,000 students, helping to set the direction of postsecondary education by researching issues, identifying solutions and sharing recommendations with decision makers and stakeholders. StudentsNS is founded on the belief that postsecondary education plays a fundamental role in allowing both the individual and society to realize their full potential.

### Our membership:

- Acadia Students Union
- Cape Breton University Students Union
- St. Francis Xavier University Students' Union
- Saint Mary's University Students Association

### Our key values:

- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Quality of education
- Role of the student voice

## WHAT DO WE DO?

StudentsNS influences the provincial government's policies related to postsecondary education on behalf of our member organizations, and students across the province. **StudentNS advocates for students by:**

- meeting directly with MLA's, Ministers, and political staffers
- collaborating regularly with other provincial and federal student advocacy organizations
- working with non-governmental organizations in the postsecondary sphere
- identifying areas for shared policy priorities in an effort to magnify our voice in government
- regularly publishing research and policy that highlight the stances of our organization to further our advocacy in the provincial media stream

**Interested in our results? Check out our [Wins page](#)**

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN OBSERVER?

Observership provides an opportunity for Student Unions/Associations in Nova Scotia to gain a better understanding of StudentsNS' operations, policy & advocacy goals, and to experience the organization's conferences and events. Observers have the opportunity to be with StudentsNS for two years allowing you to engage with a dynamic and enthusiastic team, and to experience the impact of StudentsNS's advocacy.

Observership also allows StudentsNS to further engage with the association/union and learn about their structure, priorities, and how these may align with StudentsNS' own mission, values, and approaches. Observers are encouraged to participate in discussions, ask questions of member schools to engage in lines of inquiry that help clarify for themselves the nature of StudentsNS' operations, policy approaches and advocacy goals.

## BENEFITS

Access to high quality training opportunities with sessions related to advocacy, policy & governance, media training, political landscape & more! Inclusion in member discussions including policy priority consultation and annual campaign strategy.

Attend conferences including:

- Maritime Student Congress
- Transition Conference
- Annual Planning - AGM
- Advocacy Week

Receive training on:

- Student Advocacy
- NS Political Climate
- Media and News
- Governance & Policy

## COSTS

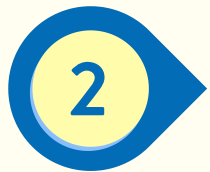
Observership status has no direct cost! Certain conferences may have higher fees for observers than members, as member's fees are collected to lower conference costs for StudentsNS members.

Observers and members alike are expected to cover all travel expenses including: gas expenses, meal per-diems, accommodations, etc.

## Decided that StudentsNS observership is right for your organization?



Review and sign the Observer Framework and Agreement and send a letter of intent to our Chair, [chair@studentsns.ca](mailto:chair@studentsns.ca).



StudentsNS' Board of Directors will review the letter and decide on the approval and ratification of your request to join as observers.



The Chair of StudentsNS will forward the decision of the Board alongside the signed agreement (if applicable), in writing within 14 days from when the decision is made.

### POLICY PRIORITY



Once the agreement is signed by both parties - **YOU'RE IN!** The Chair and Executive Director will schedule a check-in and onboard you to the team as new observers.

At any point during the observership, the observers can choose to become full members. At any point throughout the agreement, either party may withdraw the observer status.

At the end of 2 years, the observers must decide whether to join as members or end their observership status, which cannot be renewed until a full calendar year has passed.

### QUESTIONS? EMAIL US!

[chair@studentsns.ca](mailto:chair@studentsns.ca) | [director@studentsns.ca](mailto:director@studentsns.ca)