KEY DIFFERENCES STUDENT COUNCILS & SOCIETIES

Student Societies

Student Societies give students a platform to showcase their talents and explore new interests alongside their studies. Each Society is built around a distinct field of interest. Some offer hands-on experience and professional skills through structured internship programmes, while others support personal interests, hobbies and talents.

Core responsibilities of every Society include:

- maintaining a structured programme of activity aligned to its field, kept purposeful, consistent and current with developments in that field;
- organizing training sessions, guest talks and skill clinics that deepen members' subject-specific expertise; and
- keeping records of activities and outcomes, managing membership, and reporting periodically to the Student Affairs Department and college administration.

Societies currently active at ZU:

- VFAHT (Volunteer Force Against Hepatitis Transmission), ZU Chapter
- Welfare Aid
- Public Speaking Society
- IGA (Interest Group Allied)
- Mission Brain Neurology Society, ZU Chapter
- USC (United Soul Circle)
- SPEC (Spiritual, Emotional, Physical Comfort)
- Aerospace Medicine Association (AMA)
- Student Oncology Network (SON)
- Ophthalmology Interest Group (OIG)
- Gastroenterology Interest Group (GIG)
- YPDC (Young Peace and Development Corps.), ZU Chapter, part of a youth-led national initiative under the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and the "Uraan Pakistan" movement, with over 130 university chapters across 42 cities

Councils and Societies: Key Differences

A Council is organized around a college or faculty and serves its whole student body, whereas a Society is organized around a single field of interest. Both are student-led and accountable to the Student Affairs Department.

	Student Councils	Student Societies
Basis of formation	One Council per college or faculty (16 in total)	One Society per field of interest (12 currently)
Primary role	Liaison between students and the administration; planning and delivery of campus activities	Sustained engagement in a specific field or interest
Scope of activity	Broad: extracurricular, co-curricular and community engagement	Focused: training sessions, guest talks, skill clinics and, in some cases, internships
Working style	Operates independently within its college, following a common three-portfolio structure	Maintains a structured programme aligned to its own domain
Student benefit	Leadership, event management, representation and civic responsibility	Field-specific expertise and professional skills, or a space for personal interests

In short, Councils provide breadth and representation, while Societies provide depth in a chosen field. The two complement each other in building well-rounded students.

Common Structure and Membership

Councils and Societies share the same recommended leadership structure: a five-member Executive Board supported by a General Body.

Office	Role
Patron	A faculty member of Ziauddin University
President	Chief Executive Officer of the Council or Society
Vice President	Oversees the General Body and member engagement
General Secretary	Records, correspondence and liaison with Student Affairs
Treasurer	Financial head of the Council or Society

Recruitment is open to students of all colleges and is fair, transparent and merit-based, with the Student Affairs Department approving each process and its criteria beforehand. Applications are invited after induction, shortlisted against set criteria, and followed by an interview before a panel of Student Affairs officials, the current President and the Patron. Final selections are recorded with reasons and announced to applicants by email.

Together, Student Councils and Societies are a vital pillar of student life at Ziauddin University, contributing to students' personal growth, leadership and professional readiness.

Student Affairs Department, Ziauddin University