# Cookie Policy for Heriot-Watt University Student Union

**Last Revised:** 16th April 2018

This is the Cookie Policy for Heriot-Watt University Student Union, accessible from www.hwunion.com

**What Are Cookies**

As is common practice with almost all professional websites this site uses cookies, which are tiny files that are downloaded to your computer, to improve your experience. This page describes what information they gather, how we use it and why we sometimes need to store these cookies. We will also share how you can prevent these cookies from being stored however this may downgrade or 'break' certain elements of the sites functionality.

For more general information on cookies see www.allaboutcookies.org.

**How We Use Cookies**

We use cookies for a variety of reasons detailed below. Unfortunately in most cases there are no industry standard options for disabling cookies without completely disabling the functionality and features they add to this site.

**Disabling Cookies**

You can prevent the setting of cookies by adjusting the settings on your browser (see your browser Help for how to do this). Be aware that disabling cookies will affect the functionality of this and many other websites that you visit. Disabling cookies will usually result in also disabling certain functionality and features of the site.

**The Cookies We Set**

Our website uses the following cookies to operate and maintain the user experience:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ASP.NET\_SessionID** | Stores a temporary unique identifier for your session – no other information is stored. This cookie is removed when you close your browser. | Expires on exit of browser |
| **ASPXAUTH** | When you are logged in, this cookie stores a value which identifies you to your site. This value is encrypted and can only be read by the server. If you use the Remember Me function this cookie remains on your computer for 3 months, otherwise it is removed when you log out of the site. | Expires on exit of browser or 3 months (optional) |
| **AntiXsrfToken** | Implements a preventative mechanism against Cross-Site Request Forgery attacks (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-site_request_forgery> for further details) | Expires on exit of browser |
| **NREUM** | Used by New Relic (performance monitoring) as a work around for browsers that do not support the [Navigation Timing API](https://docs.newrelic.com/docs/browser/new-relic-browser/browser-agent-apis/navigation-timing-api). | Expires on exit of browser |

**Third Party Cookies**

In some special cases we also use cookies provided by trusted third parties. The following section details which third party cookies you might encounter through this site.

* This site uses Google Analytics which is one of the most widespread and trusted analytics solution on the web for helping us to understand how you use the site and ways that we can improve your experience. These cookies may track things such as how long you spend on the site and the pages that you visit so we can continue to produce engaging content.

The cookies used are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **\_utma** | Used by Google Analytics to capture and determine unique visitors and the frequency of views. \_\_utma is written to the browser on your first visit to a site (from the browser being used). | 2 year expiry |
| **\_utmb** | Used by Google Analytics to establish and continue your session on the site. Each time you visit a page it is updated to expire in 30 minutes. It expires if you spend more than 30 minutes on a single page. | 30 minute expiry |
| **\_utmc** | Previously used by Google Analytics javascript to define a session status. | 6 month expiry |
| **\_utmz** | Used by Google Analytics to store the type of referral used to reach the site; e.g. direct, link, web search, etc. | Expires on exit of browser |

* We also use social media buttons and/or plugins on this site that allow you to connect with your social network in various ways. For these to work the following social media sites including; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (via Snapwidget) will set cookies through our site which may be used to enhance your profile on their site or contribute to the data they hold for various purposes outlined in their respective privacy policies.

**More Information**

Hopefully that has clarified things for you. If you are still looking for more information then you can contact us by emailing hello@hwunion.com.