

Welcome to your space on campus.

2025/26

Your Impact Report



**Your
SU**nderland*
*Students' Union





Alreet!



Welcome to **our**
Impact Report 25/26!
We have been up to
a canny bit over the
past year. Take a look...



Holi Colour Throw 26!



Live music on campus!





Our year in numbers...



Secured over
3,813
votes from
2,555 students in
SU Elections 2026.

Over
300
society activities
and events across
our **3** branded
areas.

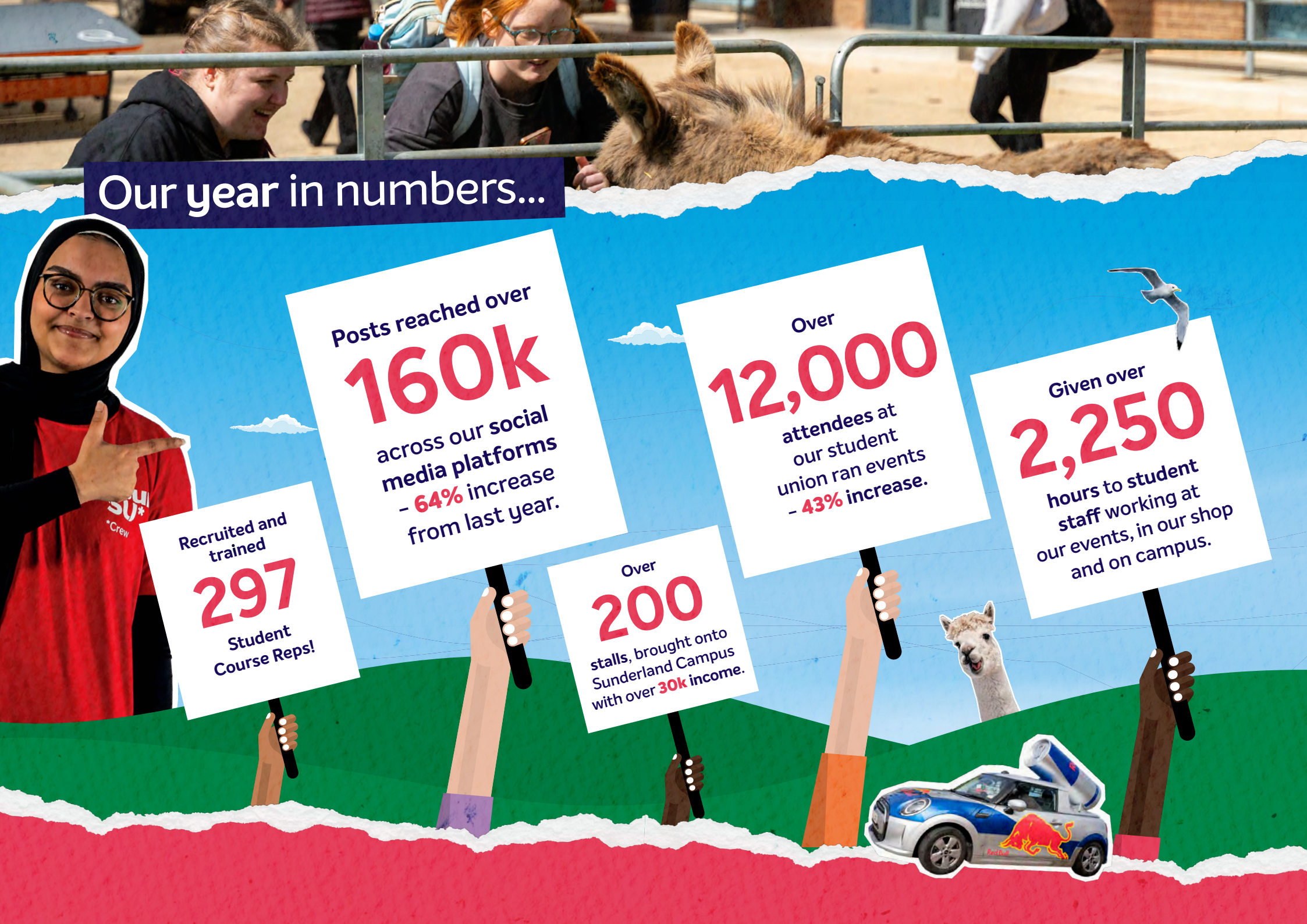
Formed or continued
98
societies, working
with amazing student
society leads.

Engaged in
17,250
student interactions,
across our
services, societies
and events.



Over
4,463
attendees at our
Freshers' Week
events and activities
in Sunderland.





Our year in numbers...

Recruited and
trained
297
Student
Course Reps!

Posts reached over
160k
across our social
media platforms
- **64%** increase
from last year.

Over
200
stalls, brought onto
Sunderland Campus
with over **30k** income.

Over
12,000
attendees at
our student
union ran events
- **43%** increase.

Given over
2,250
hours to student
staff working at
our events, in our shop
and on campus.



Eeee, what's garn on here like?*



We're delighted to share this year's overview of the difference **Your SU** has made across our student community.

This year has brought exciting change to our officer structure. We moved from a team of four full time officers to a more focused model of two full time officers – **President: Sunderland** and **President: London** supported by four part time **Student Communities Officers** across both campuses.

We're already seeing the positive impact of this change. Our officer team are more than ever in the right rooms, at the right time, amplifying the student voice more effectively. We've seen an increase in student feedback, stronger engagement and growth in students stepping forward to shape change and enhance the overall university experience. Before diving into our impact over the past year, let's look at the highlights!



*This means... 'What is this all about?' in Mackem!



President: Sunderland

The past year has been a busy one as **adaptability** and **community organising** became the driver for my campaigns.

- **Transportation:** Successfully campaigned to secure improvements to the 700 and 701 bus services, ensuring they remain free and that students are included in future decision-making affecting the service.
- **Graduation:** Championed a student first approach to graduations during the move to The Fire Station
- **Student Loans:** Advocated and supported national efforts for student loan reform.
- **Democratic process:** Facilitated student involvement in non-partisan democratic process.
- **Housing:** Using the community organising model, provided support to students living in large occupancy private accommodation.

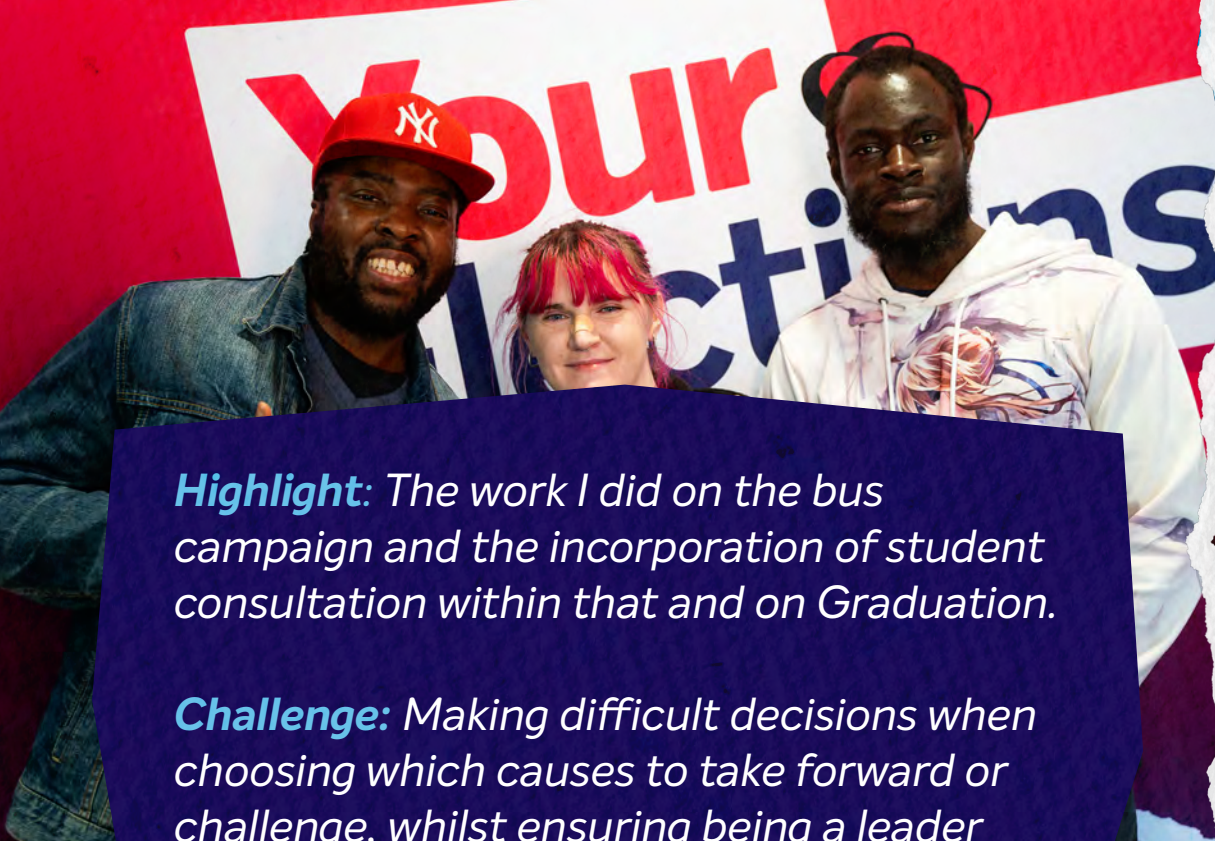
Aetize



Chatting with MFS



Clash of the Minsters!



Highlight: The work I did on the bus campaign and the incorporation of student consultation within that and on Graduation.

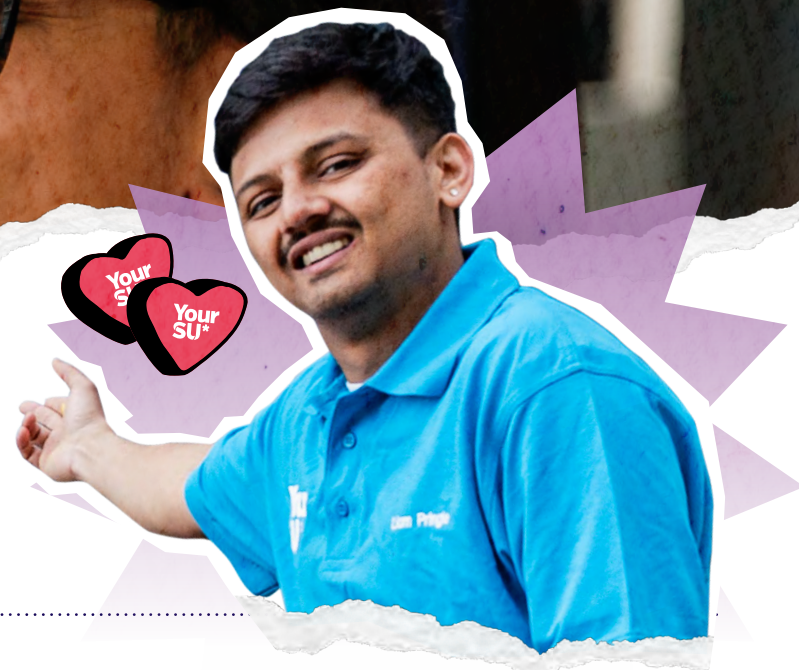
Challenge: Making difficult decisions when choosing which causes to take forward or challenge, whilst ensuring being a leader was my priority.



President: London

Ensuring every student was represented, despite multiple intakes, was **core** to my work this academic year.

- **Student Finance:** I tackled student finance head-on by running focus groups to understand where students were struggling most with money and access. I used that insight to advocate for better support, including pushing for a dedicated finance team and clearer credit control processes.
- **Feedback:** I ran focus groups and sports surveys to really understand what matters to students, from wellbeing, activities and overall student life.



- **Community:** I delivered a packed programme of events that brought people together, creating spaces where you could celebrate.



Your Elections 2026!

London Team!



Ryan



Highlight: Seeing students from completely different backgrounds come together, connect, and build a real sense of community was the most rewarding part of my year.

Challenge: Managing large numbers of students across multiple intakes. With so many of you joining at different points in the year, I had to find ways to keep everyone engaged, informed, and included, but it also showed just how diverse and vibrant our student community has become.



INGREDIENTS

RED TIKA
WHITE RICE GRAINS
VERMILION POWDER
YOGURT & SUGAR
NAMARA = CORN & BARLEY
GRASS



A collage of student photos serves as the background. At the top, a group of four students (three women and one man) are smiling and posing. On the right, a large portrait of Rachel Mammen is featured, with a purple starburst graphic behind her. In the center, a Polaroid-style photo shows four students sitting around a table, with the handwritten text 'Student Voice Meetings!' below it. At the bottom right, another photo shows a large group of students posing together.

Rachel Mammen

Student Community Officer: Faculty of Health Science & Wellbeing

It has been an incredibly productive year dedicated to enhancing the student experience within the faculty.

My focus to create a supportive environment that prioritises mental health, builds strong professional networks and empowers students to lead and shape their own university experience.

My focuses this year:

- **Integrated Wellbeing and Social Connection:** Co-created weekly 'Wellbeing Wednesday' sessions and hosted social events like *Pizza & Peers*, *Faculty Mixer* and *Student Leader Social*.

Student Voice Meetings!

- **Academic Advocacy and Student Voice:** Led course rep recruitment via lecture shout outs and established a flexible 1:1 SVR engagement model.
- **Strategic Representation and Leadership:** Represented the SU at the *Winter Graduations 2025*, *Freshers and Refreshers Fair*, maintaining high visibility through regular catch ups with Uni Exec Leadership and Faculty Academic Support Leads.
- **Resource Advocacy:** Gathered vital student feedback on campus wide objectives including transport, car parking costs and affordable housing.



Highlight: My proudest moment was seeing our faculty community really come together. By combining the serious work of student advocacy with more relaxed social mixers, I saw a real change in how students interacted.

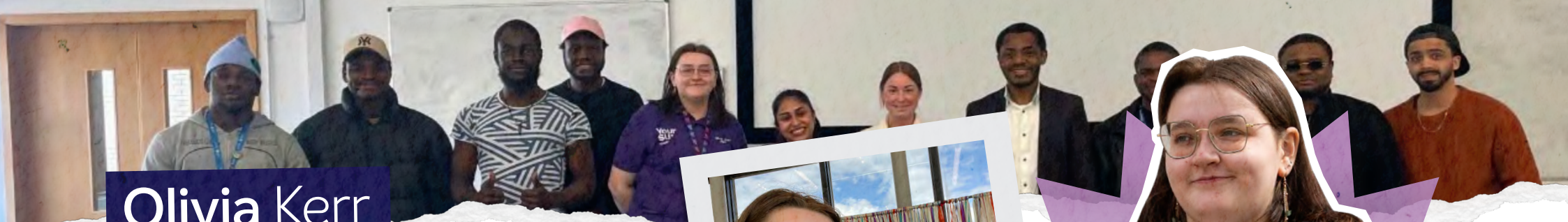
Challenge: One of the toughest parts was finding time that worked for everyone, but I learnt that meeting students and student leaders where they are is what counts.



Listening Activities!



Course Rep Roundtable!



Olivia Kerr

Student Community Officer: Faculty of Business & Technology

From when I started this role in January, I have prioritised the student voice in all aspects of my work. I centred my projects on creating a supportive environment for students, that strengthens employability opportunities and creates community within my faculty.

My focuses this year:

- **Student Wellbeing:** Delivered weekly Wellbeing Wednesdays alongside Meg, creating a space for students to relax and recharge during term-time. Alongside this, I have worked with staff to improve communication around student support plans and contribute to a more accessible and inclusive campus environment.



Wellbeing Wednesdays!



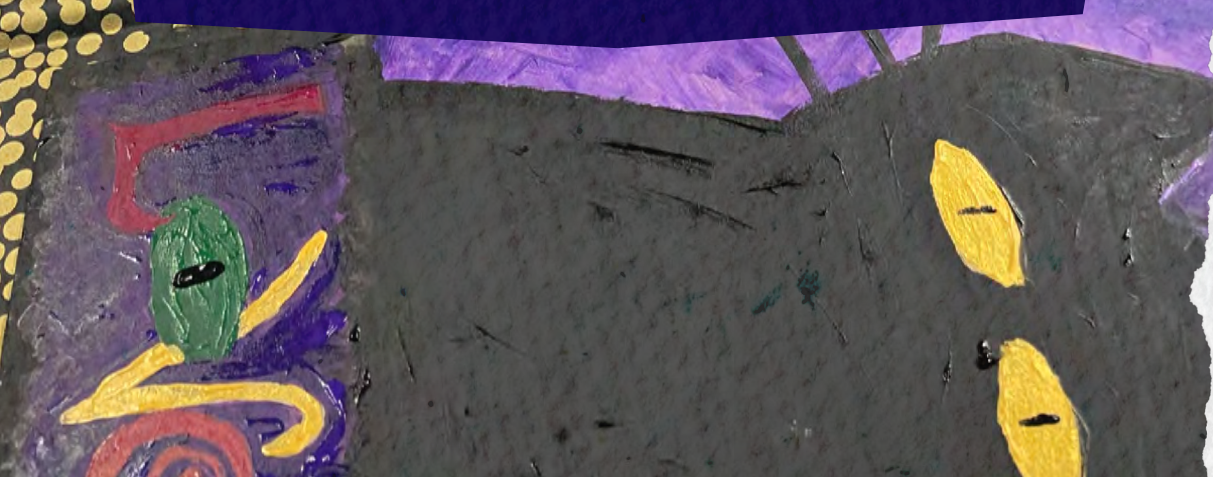
- **Employability Events:** Organised an alumni panel event, allowing students to connect with graduates, gain valuable insights into career pathways, and build their professional skills while studying. This event helped bridge the gap between academic life and future employment.
- **Developing Community:** Fostered an open and supportive environment where students feel confident reaching out for guidance and information. By encouraging engagement and actively seeking student feedback, I have ensured that student voices are heard and represented across the faculty.



A close-up view of an art workspace. On a dark table, there are various art supplies including bottles of acrylic paint in different colors (yellow, blue, black, white), brushes, and a palette. A hand is visible on the left, holding a brush and painting on a pink sheet of paper. In the background, there are more paint bottles and a box labeled 'colouring pages'.

Highlight: Gaining insight from student feedback and effectively incorporating the student voice to enhance the overall student experience, particularly in relation to wellbeing and inclusivity.

Challenge: Promoting representation across all students and courses within the faculty. Engaging those who attend less frequently, or study online can be particularly challenging.

An abstract painting on a dark, textured canvas. It features bold, expressive brushstrokes in yellow, green, and red. A prominent yellow shape, resembling a stylized eye or a leaf, is in the center. To the left, there's a green shape with a black dot, possibly representing a face or a figure. The background is a mix of dark grey and black with some lighter, textured areas.



Meg Campbell

Student Community Officer: Faculty of Education, Society & Creative Industries

This year has been incredibly challenging but also full of hope. I've seen first hand how **passionate, skilled, and caring** our students are, and how dedicated our student representatives are to our community. I wanted to be where students are and follow their lead in this role, asking how I can help them feel like they belong and have ownership in their spaces.

My focuses this year:

- **Priestman Cafe:** This once vibrant space lost its café when services were removed last year. As a result, students gathered here less and struggled to access hot drinks and food while on campus. I helped the **Feminist Society** open a **Pay What You Can Coffee Station**.



- **Wellbeing Colouring Sheets:** I worked with second-year Design students to design colouring sheets for use in our students' spaces and for SU activities. They now have work for their portfolios, hours added to their work experience, and some will have their work credited and used by the SU to enhance the student experience.
- **SSP Representation:** When my students reported that their SSPs weren't being properly understood or followed, I worked in collaboration with staff and students to begin to resolve this. Staff are being offered training in following SSPs and what they mean for students as a first step, and all staff members have been reminded that plans must be followed. This case isn't closed, I'm still working with staff and students, but there is great promise here.



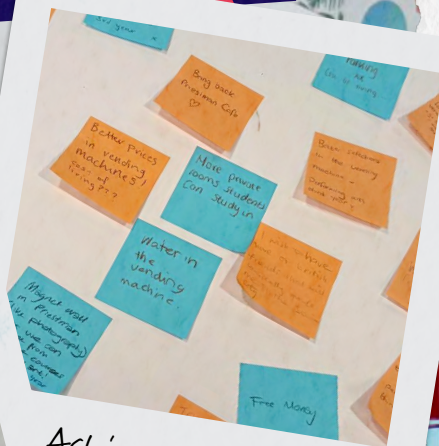
My B



Pay what you can!

Highlight: I've been happy building connections in the School of Education, learning about their needs, working with their reps to support their projects to enhance their experiences.

Challenge: Finding times and venues that work for students who have placements or simply cannot afford to spend their time outside of lessons on campus.



Asking Questions!





Here to support **you!**

Your Advice Service has continued to provide invaluable support to students across **Sunderland and London.**

Free, confidential and independent the service has been a vital resource for students facing a range of academic challenges. From **academic misconduct, appeals, complaints, fitness to practise and progression issues.** Beyond this, our advisors have also played an important role in connecting our students to wider support when needed, including signposting to Wellbeing and University services.

This year, we've taken an exciting step forward by expanding the team, with a dedicated full-time advisor based in London. This means London students can now access face to face appointments alongside our existing online support, making our service more accessible than ever.



Book with Tony!

260

Appointments across
Sunderland and London -
132% increase.

Feedback 1: *"Tony has been exceptional! Supportive, knowledgeable and genuinely invested in my student success. He consistently went above and beyond to provide clear guidance, thoughtful advice and encouragement".*

Feedback 2: *"The SU advice service gave me all the information I needed and guided me through the process of my complaint. I had all my options laid out for me and had support every step of the way".*

Feedback 3: *"Tony has been one of the biggest sources of support for me this year. I have been under a huge amount of academic pressure and stress, especially after failing one of my exams and Tony supported me through every stage."*



Have **your** voice heard!

We have
306
Course Reps:
170 Sunderland,
136 London



We have
25
Student Voice Reps:
19 Sunderland,
6 London

Changes to the **LLB Law programme** made as a direct result of Course Reps and SCO

Medical Law and Immigration Law modules were discontinued for the year ahead. **SCO (Juliet)** and **Course Reps (particularly Xanthe and Souphia)** felt a lack of student consultation and got in contact, as they wanted to focus their dissertation on medical law and immigration law.

Through student consultation a medical law workshop was offered exclusively for third year students every Thursday led by Kieran Doran.

REP WIN
2026!



This specifically helped students choosing it for their dissertation that was impacted by the discontinuation of the modules.

Immigration law module had been formally removed from the programme to ensure alignment with the new LLB structure. **Suzette Scharschmidt** a guest lecture has been delivering this module throughout the year, also supervising dissertations.

Getting Involved:

Christiana Anim-Addo

Being a SU Buddy has been incredibly rewarding. It's been a pleasure supporting students as they settle into university and having someone they can rely on. This experience also encouraged me to get more involved. I've taken on roles as a Course Rep, Student Trustee and Developer Society Leader. These experiences have built my confidence, leadership and communication skills while positively impacting other students.

I'd encourage others to get involved - it's a fantastic way to grow and give back.



A STUDENT
VIEW!

Chidera Wosu

Getting involved with the SU started as a simple "why not?" decision to step out of my comfort zone but it quickly became one of the most rewarding parts of my university experience. From helping run events (and surviving the organised chaos of pizza and games night) to working closely with staff and supporting students, I gained skills that strengthened me both academically and professionally.

Open days were a real highlight and being able to talk to prospective students about how the SU can shape and enhance their university experience was especially rewarding.



More than anything, the SU was one of the most welcoming and safe spaces I found on campus which made it easy for me to grow on so many levels.

That experience came full circle when I secured an Administrative Assistant role within the SU, not bad for something that also looks amazing on a CV. For anyone looking to not only boost their CV but also build a community, I totally recommend getting involved!

Community
organising is
at the heart of
what we do at
your SU!



Planning is key!



Community Organising

London students identified food insecurity, loneliness and the lack of connection across campus communities.

Together with students, founding members **Deborah Joda** and **Hannah Eliona** established **FreeBreakBite**, a student led initiative that provides free food, reduces waste and strengthens community connections.

After gathering feedback from their peers, they identified that many students were struggling in private, they needed practical support and spaces where they could connect with others. **FreeBreakBite** started through students recognising how food brings people together, with the first event seeing huge demand and quickly ran out of food. Students and Alumni then organised donations to ensure the initiative could continue sustainably.

LONDON
CAMPUS!



The impact of **FreeBreakBite** has continued to grow with these clear outcomes:

- Students have access to free food, snacks and support on campus.
- Students from diverse cultures and backgrounds are brought together, helping tackle loneliness and isolation.
- Students feel more confident asking for help and support without judgement or shame.



Students together!



Welcome to
your space
on campus.

CitySpace

Community Organising

SUNDERLAND
CAMPUS!



Sunderland Students (unorganised) sent complaints and queries about the bus service, ran by City Transport.



Your President: Sunderland and your Sunderland SCOs did further listening around bus stops, collecting student insight on the issues – it was also highlighted in WYCW campaign.

Your President: Sunderland, Ade then organised these students to help with feedback across communities, to change and improve the service. Ade along with an SU staff member had a meeting with Catherine Winn to discuss issues and concerns with a brief made confirming three asks:

The three asks...

- Sunderland Connect service must remain free at the point of use for members of the University community. The request for improvement reflects the vital nature of this service, which is why it must remain free – **WON!**
- Updates, tracking, signposting and feedback information must be in a centralised place which is accessible to the student body – much like the Welcome Hub. This will help students feel informed and empowered to act within the appropriate channels – **WON!** Now in the UoS Digital app and GNE is providing tracking for the new service.
- Equity and Diversity training should be provided to drivers, focussing on social norms within the context of our student body at Sunderland, and especially our international student community. In turn, there should be clear signposting of encouraged etiquette and behaviours on display on buses and around bus stops for students – **WON!**



Find **your** Community!

Bond over books. Watch Anime together. Share crochet patterns. Whatever **your** passion, **your** people are here!

98

Societies
formed or continued.
83 Sunderland,
15 London.



54

Academic Societies
started or continued.
47 Sunderland,
7 London.



Biomedic Society!



31

New societies
created
and launched!



Give us a song!

14

Cultural and
faith-related societies
- **10** Sunderland,
4 London.



1285

Society Members
- **1062** Sunderland,
223 London.

333

student-led
activities
- **321** Sunderland,
9 London.





You can make a difference!

Volunteering with Your SU isn't just something to add to your CV, it's where **connections** are made, **confidence grows** and **new skills come to life**.

From on campus to the wider community, our students are getting stuck in to opportunities that genuinely make a difference. Whether its supporting fellow students through our **SU buddies** and **Wellbeing champs** scheme or simply being there when it matters most.

Our Rotaract Society is taking the lead, creating exciting student led volunteering opportunities with external organisations and charities. Its students driving change, building networks and shaping a better future together.



75

SU Buddies supporting students to help them settle in Sunderland.

59

students paired with SU Buddies to access this support network across Sunderland.

38

Wellbeing Champions supporting and signposting students to Wellbeing Services.

102

student volunteers across the SU's different roles and opportunities in Sunderland.
- **36%** increase.

32

volunteering opportunities with organisations and charities in Sunderland.



SU Buddies Social



Your Awards

Your Awards

NEW HAT
VIBES!!!

Your Awards, the SU's annual awards took place on Tuesday 12th May in Your SU @ Riverside. It's where we **recognise, celebrate** and **thank** so many of our students for their **fantastic contributions** and **engagement**.

Not only this we held our **first ever Your Awards in London** which took place on Wednesday 21st January in Your SU @ HX4.

A full list of the awards and our wonderful winners is available on the next slides.

Your Voice. Your Place.

Guests Arrive!

Showing the love!

SHORTLISTED
The Outstanding Leadership Award
for Volunteering
Gavin Hughes

Your Awards



SUNDERLAND
WINNERS!



Society of the Year:

★ **Anime Society**

Academic Society of the Year:

★ **Glass and Ceramics Society**

Society Event of the Year:

Sunderland Games Club

★ **Nationals Trip**

Society Committee Member
of the Year:

★ **Jade Chia**

Student Voice Rep of the Year:

★ **Adam Slassor**

Course Rep of the Year:

★ **Ella Hird**

Outstanding Contribution
to Community:

★ **Arlo Howard**

Outstanding Contribution
to Wellbeing:

★ **Hannah Garrett**

The Katherine Lavender Award
for Volunteering:

★ **Clyde**

Your Presidents' Award:

★ **Rotaract Society**



Your Awards



LONDON
WINNERS!



Course Rep of the Year:
★ **Glory Raghunadhan Nath**

Global Citizen Award:
★ **Hassan Muiz**

Academic Society of the Year:
★ **Nursing Society**

Wellbeing Champion Award:
★ **Muhammad Aummar**

Community Organising Award:
★ **Free BreakBite Society**

Student Voice Rep of the Year:
Shahrukh Khan
★ **Abdul Aziz Sheikh**



Winners Vibes!



Live Performances!





Election Stats!

The most important time in the **Your SU** calendar. Where **you** vote for who will represent **you**, champion **your** ideas and make change happen.



3,813
Votes!

2,555

Voters
The most individual voters on record!

9.79%

Student Turnout.
Our highest overall engagement yet!

30

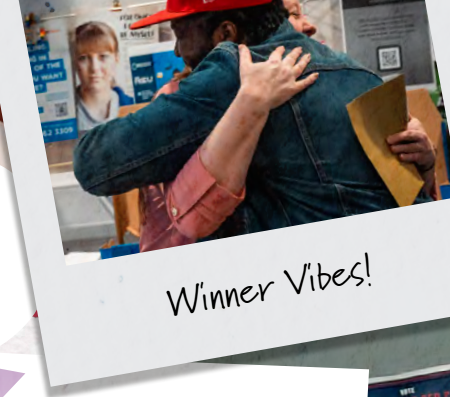
Candidates
22 London students and **8** Sunderland students!

11

Candidates
who previously held a SU student leader role.
5 London & **6** Sunderland.



i WON AN iPad!



Winner Vibes!



Your Elections
London



Democratic Engagement

This year our democratic engagement has gone from strength to strength, with our officers making sure **student voices are heard** in the right rooms.

We even welcomed **Lewis Atkinson**, the MP for Sunderland Central, into our SU Office in Sunderland. On Friday 3rd October 2025, he and his team sat down with our students to listen, learn and have honest conversations. From **job opportunities** and **immigration** to **accessibility for disabled people** across the City, it was a powerful moment of connection and influence.

Our impact didn't stop there, **Ade** stepped onto the national stage

and got involved in the **NUS student loans campaign**, attending both the lobby day and the All-Party parliamentary group in Westminster.

Closer to home our students have also been shaping their communities, taking part in **Citizens assemblies** linked to local elections. Ensuring they play an active role in the future of their city. It's safe to say, it's been a busy year so far and we're only just getting started!

Making change!

Collaboratating!

Learning from each other!

