

The John Dawson Sciences Complex

Your Impact

Report

2024/25



Your SU trips

There's been so much to celebrate throughout 2024/25.



London Cultural Festival



Campus Vibrancy!



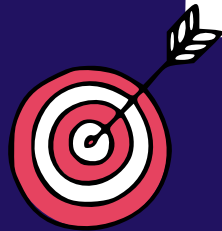


Our year in numbers!

There's been so much to celebrate!
Here's a brief summary of our successes in numbers!



Pizza & Games Nights



Engaged in

14,500

interactions with students,
across our services,
societies and events.



Increase of

20%

in society activities with over
320 student led events across
Sunderland and London.



Over

3,350

attendees at our
Freshers Week events
and activities.



Secured over

3,800

votes from
2,489 students in
SU Elections 2025.



Formed or continued

74

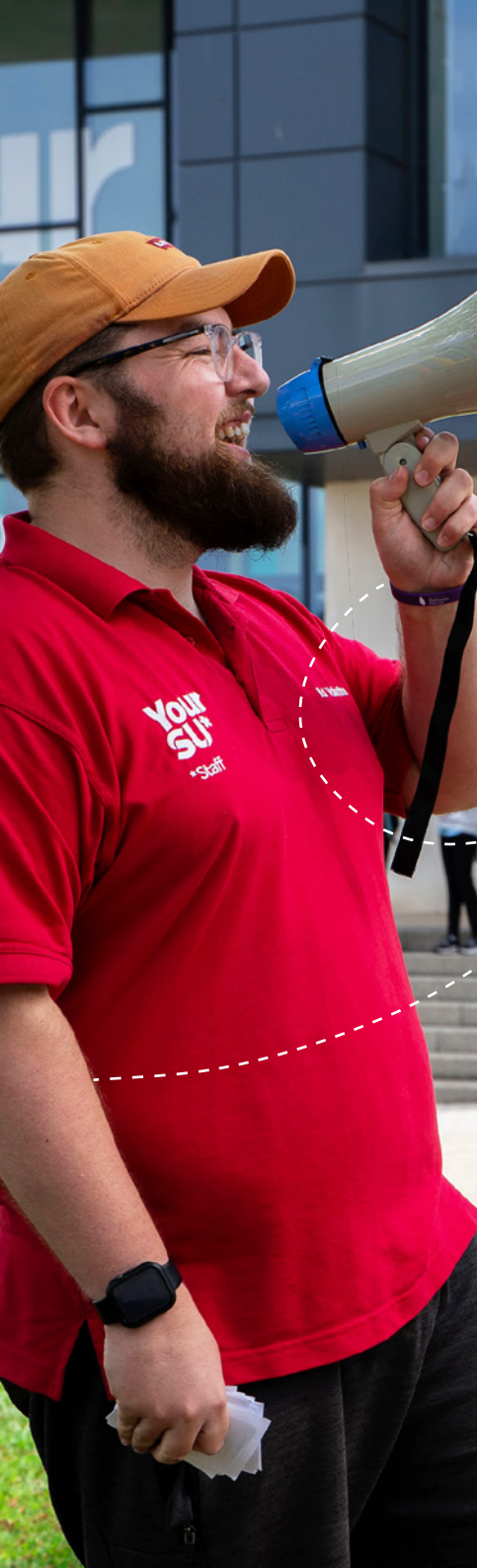
societies, working
with amazing student
society leaders.



Recruited and trained

459

Student
Course Reps.



Our year in numbers!

There's been so much to celebrate!
Here's a brief summary of our successes in numbers!



London Campus Students



Posts reach

100k

across our social media
platforms - with a 115% growth
on London Socials alone.



Over

8,600

attendees at our
SU-run events.



Given over

1,800

hours to Student Staff
working at our events, in our
shop and on campus.



Over

£23k

of generated income
with over 120 external stalls
adding vibrancy on campus.



Gio North East on Campus



Free Dominoes P



SU Crew



Welcome to **our** Impact Report 2024/25!

We're delighted to be able to share this overview of the impact that **Sunderland Students' Union** has made in the past academic year.

As a team of Presidents, we're proud to have been at the forefront of these efforts and achievements, working alongside incredible **SU staff, Trustees, SU Crew, student reps, society committee members, volunteers** and so many more!

Before we get into a snapshot of our impact as an organisation in the pages that follow, we'd like to briefly share some personal highlights.



**Your
Officers**

President: Activities

Prince Ikechi

The past year has been impressively remarkable with some impactful changes in my campaigns.

- ★ **Cost of Living** – Increased awareness and accessibility on cost-of-living (Hub) support services at the University. Ensuring the University's commitment to Agent Quality Framework (AQF) in tackling agent integrity and enhancing the experience of international students.
- ★ **Transportation** – Campaigned locally and nationally for student friendly travel policies to include discounted fares, improved public transport, affordability and accessibility for students within the NE region.
- ★ **Housing** – Advocated and supported national efforts for reforms within the Renters' Rights Bill. Also worked closely with Sunderland city council (Smart City) and the University for a development of a residential strategy to locally support student accommodation within the city.

One Highlight:

Good feedback from students and positive acknowledgement from the University on the implemented payment plan with a substantial reduction in debt related to student tuition fees.

One Challenge:

Reviewing the delays in how the University's finance team handles student-related issues, with the aim of streamlining processes and improving response times.



Your Refreshers 25



**Your
Officers**

President: Education

Dola Dada

The past year has allowed me to explore my campaigns more thoroughly and initiate meaningful changes.

I've remained focused on enhancing student academic integrity and success by pursuing three key priorities.

- ★ Introduce a Student Consultation Framework to ensure that student input is fed into all university decision making e.g. impacts to the student experience through faculty mergers and course closures.
- ★ Standardise and improve the use of the module feedback form, working with the University to achieve this.
- ★ Improving PGT employability by increasing opportunities for industry experience, placements, and sector skill-sharing.

One Highlight:

The ongoing work with the university on the Student Consultation Framework and the improved consultation and communication between students and the University so far.

One Challenge:

Ensuring adequate representation of our diverse and ever-changing student body. It's often difficult to make decisions that reflect the varied and evolving needs of all students.

Dola Dada



Your Refreshers 25



**Your
Officers**

President: London Felicia Udofia

It was a busy start to the year, and I packed a lot in before moving on to a new role working for Transport for London in January.

- ★ **Extenuating Circumstances policy** ensuring it was appropriate for London students and reduce waiting times on hearing back on Academic Misconduct Panels. The quality enhancement team reviewed and updated the EC policy, introducing possible resubmission and assessment boards dates.
- ★ **The Careers and Employability Team** working with them at the University of Sunderland in London to ensure that, where possible, there was opportunities for the university to engage with and create partnerships with local businesses to aid in students gaining work experience and graduate jobs.
- ★ **Celebrations for Student Volunteers** – have been working with the Students' Union to ensure that there are future opportunities to celebrate and recognise the hard work of our student volunteers.

One Highlight:

Our initiatives significantly boosted Student Engagement both in person and online, seeing hundreds more students attend our events and follow our socials!

One Challenge:

Timetabling and Inductions, always trying to make sure that as many students from as many different courses can attend and take in what the Students' Union has to offer as possible.



London Cultural Festival



**Your
Officers**



President: Wellbeing Babatunde Jimoh

This year, I've focussed on enhancing student wellbeing by encouraging student engagement through wellbeing activities.

- ★ **Charity Football Tournament:** Organised a tournament featuring 10 mixed teams of students, staff and charity representatives to promote both physical and mental wellbeing through friendly competition and community engagement.
- ★ **Mental Health First Aid Training:** Successfully organised a two and a half day training session for 12 students, including another SU president.
- ★ **Someone to Talk Too:** Planning is underway to establish a student focus group aimed at exploring their understanding of the University's wellbeing services and identifying ways to improve student awareness and engagement.
- ★ **Student Maintenance Loan Payment Campaign:** Actively advocating nationally for a shift from termly to monthly maintenance loan payments.

One Highlight:

One of my biggest highlights was successfully organising and executing the Charity Cup Football Tournament at the Beacon of Light.

One Challenge:

A key challenge I've encountered with the Student Maintenance Loan campaign is managing expectations around the pace of change. Balancing long-term policy change with short-term student needs have proven to be a complex but important part of this campaign.





**Your
Advice**

Here to support **you!**

Sunderland Students' Union Advice Service has provided invaluable support across Sunderland and London campuses throughout 2024/25.

Our free, confidential and independent advice primarily focuses on academic issues (such as academic misconduct, appeals, complaints, fitness to practise and progression issues), but Advisors have also been able to refer students to the right University services for other support, e.g. wellbeing.

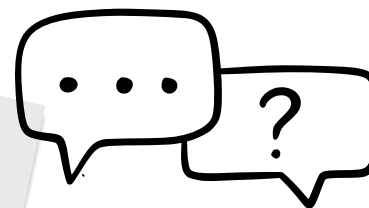
Students who provided feedback on the Advice Service overwhelmingly agreed that the team was extremely helpful and supportive, would recommend the service to a friend and were satisfied with their experience with the Service.

Student Feedback 1:

I just want to take a moment to sincerely thank you. Your support, guidance, and reassurance made such a difficult process feel a little more manageable. Knowing that someone was in my corner truly meant a lot and I will always be grateful for that.

Student Feedback 2:

I am deeply grateful for your instrumental role in resolving my academic misconduct case. Your swift response and willingness to listen to my concerns greatly alleviated my anxiety/fear. Your expert guidance throughout the appeals process was priceless, and I appreciate how you advocated for me.



112

**Appointments across
Sunderland and London**

Your Voice



459

Course Reps:
299 Sunderland, 160 London

27

Student Voice Reps:
21 Sunderland, 6 London



Rep Round Table 24

**Have your
voice heard!**

Student Voices at OfS Board Meeting

Sunderland's Student Voice Reps Kai Longstaff and Laura Merrison joined a panel of six student reps at the latest Office for Students Board Meeting. They shared experiences with Director for Fair Access and Participation, John Blake, highlighting challenges faced by students entering higher education through non-traditional routes. Key topics included university choice, assessments, work-life balance, and educational innovation.



BA (Hons) Community and Youth Course Reinstated

When the University indefinitely paused the traditional BA (Hons) Community and Youth Work course, I, along with fellow students and course reps, challenged the decision due to rising demand for youth workers and government support. I met with senior University staff and NYA CEO, and authored a letter to the Dean—signed by over 100 students, alumni, and professionals—outlining concerns and financial solutions. As a result, the University agreed to reopen recruitment for the course in September 2026.

Ansh Shah



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



LGBTQ+ Society



Working together!



Cosy Corner Society



Getting Involved: Student Views...

The SU has been a great opportunity to develop myself for future employment. For example, being able to lead a campaign, being a role model for Course Reps that they can confidently confide in if they (or other students) need support and so much more! Furthermore, to my previous point, now being apart of the Board of Trustees, I like to think that being a Student Trustee will provide me with very valuable skills for future employment, and voluntary services.

Jamie Young
Student Course Rep and
Student Trustee in Sunderland

I've had so many wonderful memories, but one that stands out the most is Induction Week. There was something so special about being part of that initial excitement and making sure students felt comfortable and supported. It reminded me of how I felt when I first joined the University, and I was proud to play a role in creating a positive atmosphere for them. I highly recommend joining SU Crew! It's an amazing opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. You'll gain valuable experience in areas like event management, communication, and teamwork, while also making a positive impact on other students.

Mostafa Doklajja
SU Crew in London



Hi, I'm Jamie!



Hi, I'm Mostafa!



Community Organising

Lord's Cricket Ground

This trip was made possible through the determination and community organising of our students.

Why Lord's? Lord's Cricket Ground was my dream as a child. It is a temple – the Home of Cricket. It is the place where cricket originated and an incredible venue that international cricketers play.

How did you make it happen? I have been passionate about students getting involved in cricket and having more sports opportunities on campus. I started the International Sports Society to show that there was an appetite from fellow students.

As a Society, we applied for the Society Development Fund which any student group can apply for. We wanted the trip to be available to as many students as possible, but we still wanted students to contribute to show their commitment.

Favourite part? My past 9-year-old self was so happy and proud to see the ground. I loved seeing the Balcony out the Long Room, the 1983 Trophy and the original Ashes in the museum.

Animesh Jaswant Kaushal
London Student



The Home of Cricket!

What a day!



Community Organising

Free Period Products

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After the University undertook a financial review, we were informed that it could no longer support the provision of free period products on campus.

As the initial campaign – launched by the outgoing President: Wellbeing – was nearing the end of their term, we shifted our focus toward a community organising strategy to ensure its continuation.

We mobilised key student groups, including FemSoc and the LGBTQ+ Society, who in turn activated their networks, bringing in other student-led groups like the Cosy Corner Society.

Together, they coordinated efforts and shared powerful personal testimonies in letters to the Vice-Chancellor, outlining why continuing the free provision would be a point of pride for the University.

At the same time, our Students' Union CEO engaged with Alumni to explore sustainable funding models for the initiative.

Thanks to the collective pressure and collaboration of our student community, we secured a renewed supply of free period products.

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**FemSoc, LGBTQ+
and Cosy Corner Society**
Sunderland Students



Meg (FemSoc)



Products on Campus!

**Your
Societies**

**Find your
community!**

74

Societies formed
or continued.
69 Sunderland, 5 London.

21

Academic Societies
started or continued.
18 Sunderland, 3 London.

1,426

Society Members:
1370 Sunderland, 56 London
– 30% Increase.

24

**cultural and
faith-related societies:**
22 Sunderland, 2 London.

31

new societies
created and launched
– 55% Increase.

328

student-led activities:
319 Sunderland, 9 London
– 20% increase.



Student Paramedics



Student Society



**You can make
a difference!**

Volunteering with the SU is a great way for students to meet new people, learn new skills and boost their CVs.

Our students get involved in opportunities on and off campus, making a real impact on their peers through our SU Buddies and Wellbeing Champions schemes, and in the local community through enriching one-off volunteering opportunities with external organisations and charities.

75

student volunteers across the SU's different roles and opportunities in Sunderland.
- 20% Increase.



SU Buddies Social

68

SU Buddies supporting students to help them settle in Sunderland.
- 134% Increase.

75

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

49

volunteering opportunities with organisations and charities in Sunderland.



12

Wellbeing Champions supporting and signposting students to Wellbeing Services.



2025

Your Awards





Your Awards

Your Awards, the SU's annual awards took place on **Tuesday 6th May 2025** in **Your SU @ Riverside**. It's where we recognise, celebrate and thank so many of our students for their fantastic contributions and engagement.

Throughout the evening, we celebrated students across six areas including **Societies, Representation, Academic Societies, Volunteering, Wellbeing and Community**. We also handed out our **Presidents' Award** choosing a student who has stood out to them in 2024/25.

A full list of the award categories, and our wonderful winners and shortlisted nominees, is available on the next slides.



CEO Katherine Cooper



Your SU @ Riverside

Your Awards

Society of the Year

Winner:

★ *Malaysian Society*

Shortlisted:

*Myanmar Society and
Cosy Corner Society*

Society Committee Member of the Year

Winner:

★ *Cristina Correa Segade*

Shortlisted:

*Nina Ulseth and
Georgie Woodburn*

Society Event of the Year

Winner:

★ *Lunar New Year
(Chinese, Malaysian,
Myanmar and
Indonesian Societies)*

Shortlisted:

*Vital Signs
(Cardiology Society) and
Palestine Information
Evening (Islamic Society)*

Academic Society of the Year

Winner:

★ *Neuro Society*

Shortlisted:

*Biosciences Society and
Paramedic Society*



Society of the Year!





Your Awards

Student Voice Rep of the Year

Winner:

★ *Joseph Sotimirin*

Shortlisted:

*Kai Longstaff and
Laura Merrison*

Course Rep of the Year

Winner:

★ *Jood Jibril*

Shortlisted:

*Hilary Nwaja and
Olivia Medley*

Outstanding Contribution to Wellbeing

Winner:

★ *Cosy Corner Society*

Shortlisted:

*Jessica Cook and
FemSoc*

Outstanding Contribution to Community

Winner:

★ *Than Thar Thet*

Shortlisted:

*Paediatrics Society and
Ashley Liddle*

The Katherine Lavendar Award for Volunteering

Winner:

★ *Marrow Society*

Shortlisted:

*Meg Campbell and
Christiana Amin Addo*

Presidents' Award

Winner:

★ *Joshua Richardson*



Our student spaces!



Shout out to our two fantastic branded spaces at Sunderland: **Your SU @ CitySpace** and **Your SU @ Riverside**! Plus, exciting news from our London campus – we've moved buildings and added a stunning new branded events space in **HX4**.

This new space allows the London team to run more events and connect with students more frequently, in a branded space that attracts students.

Speaking of space, due to high demand from external partners and a **40% increase** in numbers, Refreshers 2025 was moved to the sports hall at **Your SU @ CitySpace**.

With more students visiting our pop-up stalls (and loving the freebies), the extra room was a must!

Welcome to
your space
on campus.



Music @ HX4



Movies @ CitySpace



Elections @ Riverside



Refreshers 2025



Our spaces in numbers!

Your Events

There were

40

cultural events,
held in our spaces.

34 Sunderland, 6 London
110% Increase.



There were

328

student-led events.
23% increase to
last year.

Your Events

Over

170

events held in
our spaces.

143 Sunderland, 32 London.



Drag Bingo on campus



Holi Colour Throw



F



De-Stress Exam Fair

