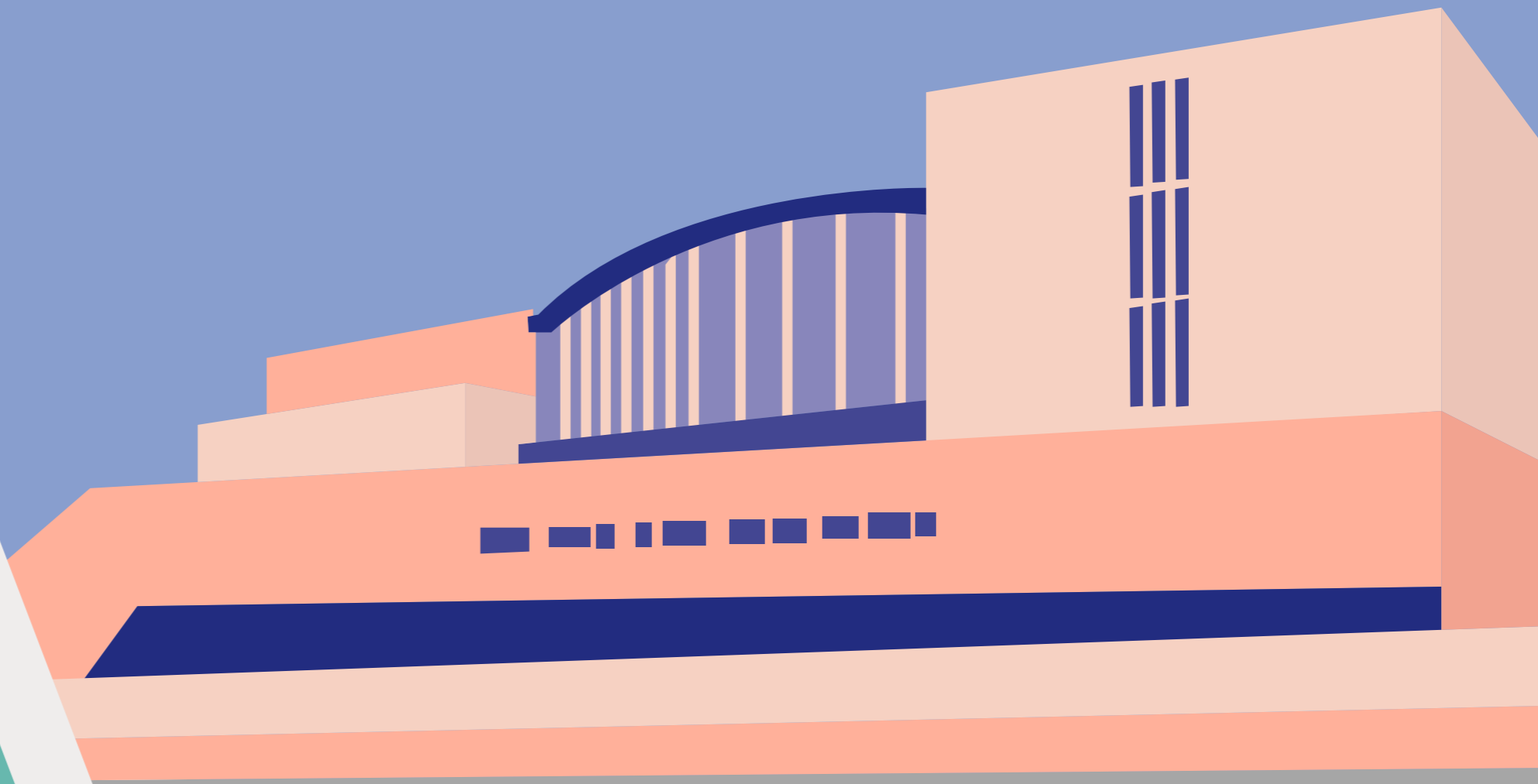




LEICESTER
STUDENTS'
UNION

Leicester Students' Union Representation Impact Report 2022-2023



We are an empowering, innovative and inclusive student-led Union championing your interests and providing a community that is home away from home.

University life is a truly unique experience, full of great people and amazing activities. That's why we're dedicated to making sure every one of the University of Leicester's 20,000 students we represent embarks on a journey that is nothing short of exceptional.

Although we regularly collaborate with the University, we are a fully independent organisation made up of student elected representatives that work totally and completely for you. This report highlights the outputs, changes and work that your representatives have had across this Academic Year.

Key Stats



3,307

3,307 individual students cast 16,341 votes in the Spring Term Elections – the highest turnout for in a decade



16,341

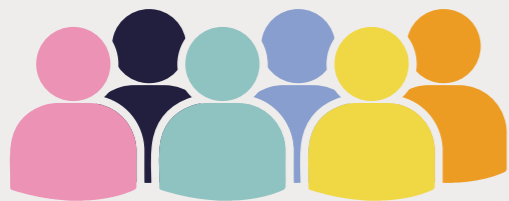


4,513

4,513 individual students voting in at least one election across the year is 24% higher than the number last year



24%



22 candidates ran for Executive Officer positions



189

189 students attended the Annual Members Meeting



4,064 students allocated a Mentor through the Peer Mentoring scheme with 157 Meet your Mentor Events held



706 students taking part in the two Strikes Polls held by the Students' Union

Your Executive Officers

Each year, a team of students are elected by you to work as your University representatives. Known as the Executive Team, six full-time officers are responsible for specific areas within the Union. One of the key areas they have been working on across this year is the Cost of Living and Exam Destress.

Cost of Living



Secured £13,000 to provide daily breakfasts from November 2022 to March 2023 with over 120 students attending daily



Successfully lobbied University to increase the Hardship Fund Allocation for this year whilst simplifying the application form



Thanks to the help of Sticky Campus, proposal for a free bus scheme was passed, allowing students to travel freely to and from Oadby with no expense, allowing us to keep our students safe and help their finances



Worked with the University to launch their new Financial Wellbeing Toolkit, now live and accessible via SharePoint

* blackbullion

Financial support kit BlackBullion introduced to students for free



70 students attended interactive session delivered by Utilita – were provided with energy efficiency, money saving tips and guidance whilst also been able to seek information about their own bills and finances



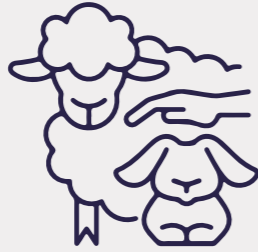
Successfully secured £5K proposal to help reduce the cost of Sports Awards tickets which enabled more students attend this prestigious event

Exam Destress – Wellbeing Officer and Education Officer



2000

2,000 students engaging with Mayv Destress



Secured £3000 from the University to deliver Petting Zoo (176 students attended) and Destress which 1400 students attended



New Medics Destress delivered with over 300 goodie bags distributed

Executive Officers



Nic Farmer

Black History Month

- Ran 8 events this year with an increase in engagement
- 90 students attending the Wellbeing Wednesday events

LGBT+ Allyship Training

- Delivered 10 sessions for students and 2 for staff with over 75% of participants rating the training as excellent

LGBT+ History Month

- In collaboration with School of Healthcare and Medicine ran a Rainbow Hours Pilot where LGBT staff members held designated hours for LGBT students to come and talk to them



New Liberation Space

- Opened new Liberation Space for dedicated societies and students to have their own space on campus to host events

Increasing inclusivity of Registration Process

- Students are now able to use 'other' to describe their gender identity during the registration process

Increasing Awareness of Liberation

- Visited Sir George Monoux Sixth Form to speak about the university and what I do as Liberation Officer
- Sponsored the Midlands Racial Equality Membership Conference (MREMC), including hosting a stall with over 300 delegates attending the Conference



JACK McDONALD

Empowering our Student Groups

- Academic Rep Societies provided with an additional £10,000 of grant funding
- Over £55,000 worth of applications for Grant Funding received – a record amount

- Simplified the room booking process, making it faster for students

Students established as a priority for the Attenborough Arts Centre

- New Handover document to facilitate a consistent committee handover between outgoing and incoming committee members
- Successfully lobbied the University to conduct a Performance Space Audit due to identifying a gap in performing spaces across campus



Sustainability

- 6 Green Bubble Sessions held empowering student to work on sustainability projects
- Series of sustainability events held as part of Go Green Week held as part of a wider RAG month
- New Sustainability Officer role introduced to provide a dedicated sustainability focussed role within the Union



Fundraising

- The first Leicester Strictly Come Dancing competition was organised by DanceSport Society and supported by the Students' Union which raised funds for Anthony Nolan, a local charity
- Movember – initiative for Mens Mental Health – organised with Students' Union support and led to our student groups to raise over 10k in funds for the charity
- The Big Sleep event – organised in conjunction with the Bridge – raised over £7000





Hoor Pathan

Sexual Violence Awareness Week

- 275 students engaging with Hook-a-Duck myth buster stalls
- 60 students leaving notes to survivors
- Information stalls facilitated by Jasmine House

International Students

- Enhancing pre-arrival and digital communication resources for International Students

Exam Destress

- Coordinated with the Education Officer the Exam Destress Campaign

Free Breakfast Scheme

- Secured £13,000 to provide daily breakfasts from November 2022 to March 2023 with over 120 students attending daily

SU activities for Global Event and Crisis Support

- This has included the Ukraine and Turkey-Syria earthquake
- Coordinate student fundraising activities within the SU
- Student fundraising drive for the British Red Cross and Disasters Emergency Committee
- Supporting students to establish student groups and societies to foster a sense of community on campus in the wake of tragic events



AnneMarie Deeb

Empowering our Academic Reps

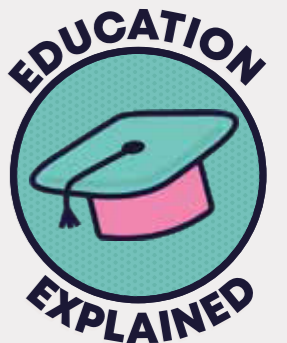
- New Reward system introduced
- School Reps Established
- Records level of engagement

Mitigating Circumstances

- Worked with the University to remove the requirement for evidence for a wider range of mitigating circumstances
- Enabling Student Support Services to provide supporting evidence
- Self- Certification has been rolled out allowing students on two occasions to extend their submission window for certain assignment (not exams)

Education Toolkit/Education Explained

- Launched in response to current academic queries received – this includes breaking down policies like Mitigating Circumstances and Academic Misconduct



Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

- 882 student respondents feeding into our TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) Student Submission and Action Plan

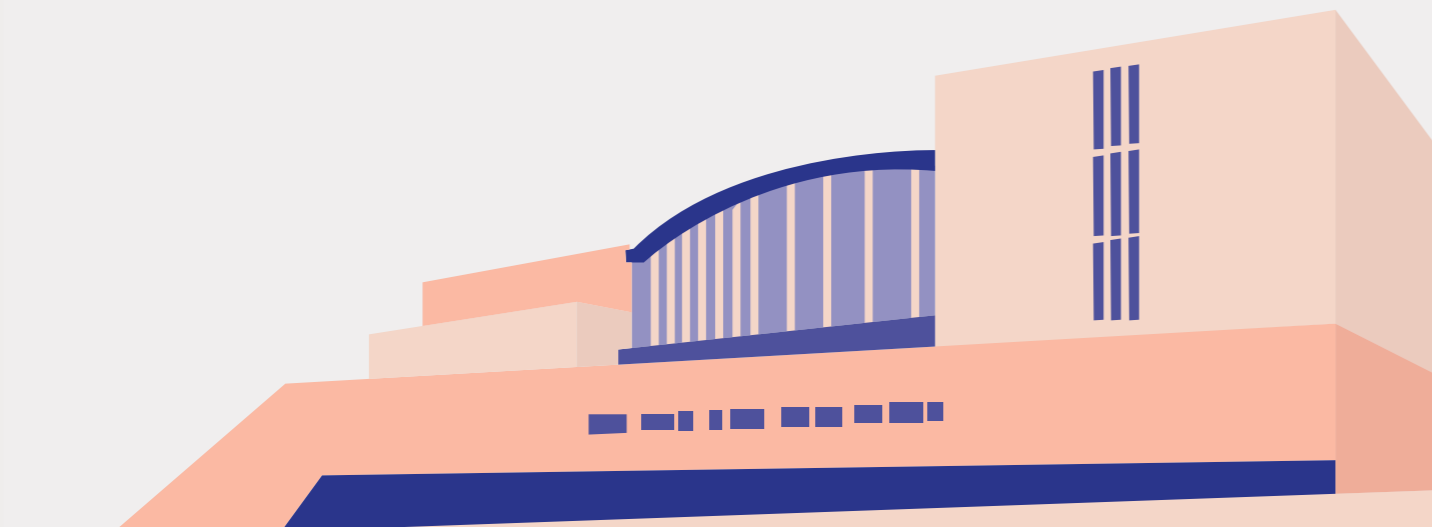


882



Postgraduate Engagement and Representation

- Focus Groups and Conference Sessions held with over 30 students in attendance





ARCHIE ROBINSON

Parasports Week

- Creating the Universities first ever competitive Parasport offer
- Over 3 days this event was taken part by over 100 students took part in the events, showing passion and desire for parasports at our university.



Free Bus Scheme

- Led to the successful partnership with Leicester Tigers and their wheelchair rugby team.

- Utilising the Sticky Campus Project my proposal to introduce a free bus scheme, allowing students to travel freely to and from Oadby was successfully introduced

Successful Varsity

- Over 1000 students attended the Rugby Varsity event
- Many sports having over 500 students in attendance
- Created #ThisBodyEnablesMe campaign that ran alongside Varsity, a campaign to support body neutrality at our university. This gave support to students to help them feel more included in our sporting community

Recognising athletes, clubs and volunteer achievements

- Introduction of Sports Person of the Month
- Fixture of the Week
- Secured £5,000 worth of funding to help reduce the cost of Sports Awards Tickets to help students attend this prestigious event



Sports Council Adapted and Relunched

- Giving 12 students an opportunity to be a leader in sport



Rhiannon Jenkins

Sticky Campus

- 400 ideas provided by students on what improvements they'd like to see on campus
- 70 students and staff in attendance at our November conference
- £347,000 spent on student experience improvements on campus



- Gaming lounge opened, 2 new multi-use spaces developed
- £100k budget granted for 23/24 year to continue this important work, which will allow for extended gym opening hours, continued free breakfast provision, return of Night of Culture, new society storage and return of Global Café
- Introduced new full time Events member of staff to focus on student events

Student Experience

- Introduced a centralised group in the University to deliver student experience
- Developed new student experience service principles to encourage improved customer service across support services
- Appointed 12 Student Experience Mirror Board representatives to feed directly into University processes
- Made Student Council more accessible leading to the most consistent attendance in years
- Persuaded University to develop 5 year support growth plan to match student number growth plans for the first time
- Restarted the Sexual Violence Working Group and got Students' Union representation back on conduct panels



Your Part Time Officers

Part-Time Officers are seen as crucial to the future development of the Union and their key responsibility is to ensure that the group they represent receives the support and services they require.

International Officer

Accessibility Officer

Sustainability Officer

Postgraduate Officer

Trans and Non Binary Officer

LGBT+ Officer

Women's Officer

BAME Officer

Mature and Part Time Officer

Distance Learning Officer

Their activity this year has included:

- Creating a resource guide for students with disabilities that will include information about relevant support services across campus.
- Ensuring Disable bays are kept free from contractors and other University utility/maintenance workers.
- Hosted the first Black Experience Gala that celebrated the wins of Black students
- Hosted a number of successful Distance Learning Mixer events.
- Distance Learning welcome/induction events been developed.
- Raising concerns with regard to the Accessibility of the University Shuttle service particularly for wheelchair users.
- Gender Neutral toilets identified and map is currently been developed.
- Improved the LGBT+ Safe Space, including working with the LGBT+ society to find out their needs and to create a new space within the Percy Gee Building that could be utilised by all Student Groups.
- Ran an Art Focussed Workshop/event as part of the LGBTQ+ History Month.
- Developing a guide on gender identities to help education and encourage more understanding within the student community.
- Working to establish a fund to help provide transitioning students with gender affirming items.
- Ran an event for students who are veterans to connect with others and to find a support network at University.



Your Academic Representatives



Academic Rep Successes publicised to students through Blogs, Videos and direct school based emails

Your Academic Rep of the Month Winners

- Sophie Owen**
Human Resource Management
Year 3
- Sayeedaa Hussain**
Biochemistry
Year 3
- Anika Dossa**
Medicine
Year 4

- Daud Malida**
Nursing and Mental Health
Year 2
- Tom Stannard**
MA Digital Media and Society
- Amisha Soni**
International Management MSc

They Have

Handling large amounts of feedback and been proactive in addressing student concerns, including communicating with staff about safety concerns their peers had

Dedicated to their role, a welcome and supportive face who worked with the School of Business to get a Defibrillator on Brookfield Campus

Taken the initiative of organizing trips and ice-breaker events, which have received very positive feedback and have been a safe space for all the students

Met with the University Accommodation Team to ensure that 4th year Medical Students had accessible accommodation during the end of year exams

Spoke up for over 100 students who were unable to submit their online exam answers, Amisha spoke to the Dean and was able to advocate for an uncapped resit for her peers

They are an exceptional rep with helping everyone and making sure they are getting their voices heard

Your Academic Reps successes include

- Additional signposting and materials on blackboard
- Printer fixed and moved to a more accessible location
- Secured media element to their careers fair
- Expanded First Year Reading Lists
- Defibrators introduced into Management School
- Essay deadline moved in the face of strike disruption
- Assessment Rubrics Made Clearer
- Review of Calculator Policy
- Muslim students able to take breaks during labs
- Increased time allowance for examinations
- Comfort breaks introduced into labs
- Improvements to RKCSB Common Room
- Accessible Accommodation for Medical Students during their end of year exams
- Blankets and improved heating in the Library
- More loanable laptops for hire from the Library
- Increase contact between students and project supervisors
- Extended Library Desk hours



STUDENT VOICE – AWARDS –

The Student Voice Awards were held as part of the Students' Union Awards on 24 May 2023 to celebrate and recognise the hard work of student representatives, campaigners and activists who have worked to enhance the academic experience of current and future students

Best Academic Rep Researcher

Lara Tritton

Following on from a major Post Graduate survey, Laura took on board the results and worked with their School and College, the doctoral college and the wider university to fully understand the reasons for the student dissatisfaction. This included consulting PGRs and staff across the university to discover and share good practice enabling positive local action to be taken

Community Focussed Academic Rep of the Year

Victoria Boulton

Victoria worked with the Union and the University to bring pressure to bear on the local bus company to provide a more reliable and accessible bus service enabling students to participate fully in their courses, activities and university community

Campaign of the Year

Sophie Owen

Sophie worked tirelessly to have a defibrillator placed at the Brookfield campus and has introduced a series of practical measures to increase awareness amongst both students and staff on site around heart disease and cardiac arrest

CSE Academic Rep of the Year

Caitlin Hanna

Active in the Student Staff Committee ensuring access to functioning facilities and lavatories for the school, Caitlin was also involved with busses to allow students to travel safely and easily to and from the Space Park. This is alongside being a constructive academic rep focused on teaching, learning and assessment opportunities for students across the school

Part-Time Officer of the Year

Sheeba Asad

Sheeba works with a group of students often marginalised in Higher Education, and helps them to create community and peer support via virtual mixers. As a distance learning student themselves they understand the tensions between studying and events at home. To quote, these events “made an impact with students in the short term but also will help to make a difference in the long term, they deserve this award for her effort and determination to make things better for students often left out of initiatives.”

Peer Mentor of the Year

Oluwaseun Orimogunje & Darrell Njogu

Having “shown great independence as well as team work.... They are always willing to help and have a great level of commitment and enthusiasm about the Peer Mentoring Team” They have interacted well with their mentees and had wider involvement with the Student's Union (council meetings etc). while using and developing many skills such as presenting and recruitment. They have also supported the broader peer mentoring team over this academic year

Rising Star

Eoin Hodgkiss

Eoin has taken their role as a student rep seriously, and as the nomination states “A voice of balance and reason in SSC meetings, showing maturity beyond his years. He was always able to see both sides of an argument and keep perspective. His chairing of SSCs was always calm and showed good people management.”

Outstanding Contribution

Manika Ghattarody

Manika has been a course rep for 4 years... which in itself is a huge contribution. She has always gone above and beyond to help students. "Friendly and approachable, she deals with matters as swiftly as possible and really cares about the experience we've had..." They have dealt with lots of challenging feedback over the years, some of which has been beyond their role, especially during the covid year!

Champion for Change

Daud Malida

Daud "works incredibly hard on behalf of his cohort and other nursing cohorts, but also for other professionals within the School of Healthcare. He'll never shy away from speaking up to champion change and often goes the extra mile to ensure the student voice is heard. He is also a great team player and will happily support any other course rep or student within the school. There can often be animosity between different professions within the school, but he alleviates this with positivity and a visible desire to make change for all students, not just nurses."

CLS Academic Rep of the Year

Anika Dossa

Ankita has been active in building an affective relationship between the Medical School and the Students' Union. This culminated in the medicine students being fully incorporated into the exam distress activities and receiving a goodie bag after their final written exams, which made them feel "recognized and happy!"

CSSAH Academic Rep of the Year

Nur Fitriah Zakiah B Misnal

In addition to being an active advocate for their course-mates, they worked hard to build a social community across the School. By arranging a trip to Bradgate Park and a Christmas social among other activities and actively welcoming the January intake Nur demonstrates what a "professional, approachable and pro active" rep can achieve

Most Impactful Rep

Gurkamal Kaur Dhaliwal

Gurkamal was identified as being helpful, kind and friendly. She was deemed to be particularly valuable for first years navigating their way into the university, by recalling her early experiences. Additionally, she was commended for offering helpful insights around the UCU strike action to newer students

Student Activist

Ashton Mallard

Ashton has worked tirelessly over the past year to ensure the voices of transgender and non-binary students are heard. Through events, statements and working on campaigns during LGBT History Month and Transgender Day of Remembrance with the Liberation Officer, they have gone above and beyond in some cases to advocate for the Trans and Non-binary community

Community Focussed Academic Rep of the Year

Victoria Boulton

Grace organised of a highly successful ball and dinner event that included a beautifully decorated venue, three course meal, DJ, and a raffle which raised over £500 for charity while increasing awareness. She organised the event with plenty of notice, so that alumni could also attend therefore building community. This event is seen as a great success by all those who attended

Liberation Advocate

Claire-Elise Willems

Claire-Elise is a Curriculum Consultant for their School and did their project on how to support neurodiverse students with mental illness to have a successful and positive degree experience. This is now being developed into a school-wide project, undoubtedly developing good practice to share across other parts of the university



The Superstar Awards are run to celebrate exceptional staff members at the University. These awards exist to recognise members of staff who have gone above and beyond in their role, or who have made a significant contribution to a student, or school. We received 267 nominations this year from students for staff with the winners been announced as part of the Students' Union Awards:

Best Lecturer

Kevin Paterson

Truly goes far beyond in the assistance provided to students, uploads extra material to assist with the understanding of a topic, takes time to speak to students to understand, and even to repeat a lecture when realisation that some had not recieved an invite due to a time table error. Lectures are engaging and they are approachable and supprtoive outside of the lectures

Best Academic Support Staff Member

Russell Knifton

Through their efforts distance learning has felt as though I was studying physically at the University, responding to queries in a timely providing relevant information at all times

Best Supporting Staff Member

Helena Gorse

Constantly campaigning for accessability in the university whilst being a big support during university life. Helena has helped me on a wide array of issues and I can always go to them with related problems

Best Supervisor

Claire Brook

Excellent job in making me feel comfortable as an international student, guided me and gave me direction that made me feel confident in my work and in myself. Claire has also helped to guide me in my writing, applying for academic funding, and also getting accepted into 3 academic conferences this year!

Best Implementer of Student Feedback

Sarah Gretton

Cares about individual students and their outcomes/experiences. Works hard to implement changes raised in Student Staff Committees, those changes that are possible to make within the same academic year are made ASAP, those that are not tend to be made for the next academic year

Most Inclusive Practice

Carlo De Lillo

Material has been uploaded in blocks as opposed to week by week on Blackboard, this allows for students to plan ahead. For those with caring responsibilities where anything could pop up, it saves time and also removes a level of possible stress. For those that benefit from printing material or organizing it, it allows for early preparation which assists with students feeling more prepared. This simple act is inclusive for all those with and without accessibility or caring variables

