LEICESTER STUDENTS' UNION

2025/26 | Leicester Students' Union

IMPACT REPORT

We believe university should be about more than a degree. At LSU we create opportunities, experiences and communities that help students make the most of their time at University.

OUR VISION

A community where all students are empowered to thrive, belong and succeed.

OUR WHY

Students who engage with LSU are happier, make more friends and have better academic outcomes.

OUR HOW

Advocate for, support and create spaces for all students.

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HELLO!

What another incredible year at the Students' Union! We are delighted to present our 2025/26 Impact Report and give you a flavour of the work we do, our achievements, and what makes us tick. We're certain that involvement in the students' union has a life shaping impact and this year we've set about trying to prove it!

The incredible work delivered by the Students' Union is testament to the hard work of our brilliant members, our student leaders, our course, school and college reps, our full time and part-time officers and our hard-working staff team – all working together to ensure students have the best university experience possible.

This year, we entered the first phase of the delivery of our new strategic plan. We set out to build a community where all students are empowered to THRIVE, BELONG and SUCCEED. We believe that students who engage with the Students' Union are happier, make more friends and have better academic outcomes. So when we talk about impact – that's what we mean!

Throughout these pages we'll demonstrate the work we've done and celebrate the successes of each of our areas across the SU. This year we set out to engage more students than ever across the Union through clubs, societies, events, representation and peer mentoring. We've set key targets for our advice team in terms of their reach and the satisfaction of service users. We've committed to developing our physical and digital spaces and through use of data and trend analysis we've continued to better understand our members.

As we approach another academic year, we owe a huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of our journey this past year.

Our accomplishments are only possible due to the passion, drive and determination of our students, our staff and our partners.

Matt Schofield
SU President 2025/26

Liam Davis
Chief Executive Officer

THRIVE

We will support our students in achieving better personal and educational outcomes.

Students that are meaningfully engaged with the Union gain well-rounded development that enhances both their life and studies.

PEER MENTORING

250
MEET YOUR MENTOR EVENTS HELD

92%
OF MENTORS WOULD RECOMMEND SCHEME TO A FRIEND

272 UG MENTORS SURVEYED

LAUNCHED THE POSTGRADUATE PEER MENTORING SCHEME WITH

88
PEER MENTORS RECRUITED

PGT MENTORS: 65
PGR MENTORS: 23

493
UNDERGRADUATE PEER MENTORS RECRUITED

OUR SPORTS & SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BY THE END OF THEIR YEAR IN POST

91%

OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS FELT CONFIDENT TAKING ON LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

87%

OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS FELT CONFIDENT MANAGING COMPETING PRIORITIES

86%

OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS FELT THEY HANDLED UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES EFFECTIVELY

85%

OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS FELT THEY WERE ABLE TO INFLUENCE OR MAKE CHANGE WITHIN THEIR GROUP OR ORGANISATION

76%

OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS FELT THAT INVOLVEMENT IN THE STUDENTS' UNION HELPED THEM FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING

ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES, SUCH AS THE IDEAS SYSTEM, ELECTIONS AND LEICESTER100

279
STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED TO THE IDEAS SYSTEM

30%
WERE NOT ALREADY MEANINGFULLY ENGAGED WITH THE SU

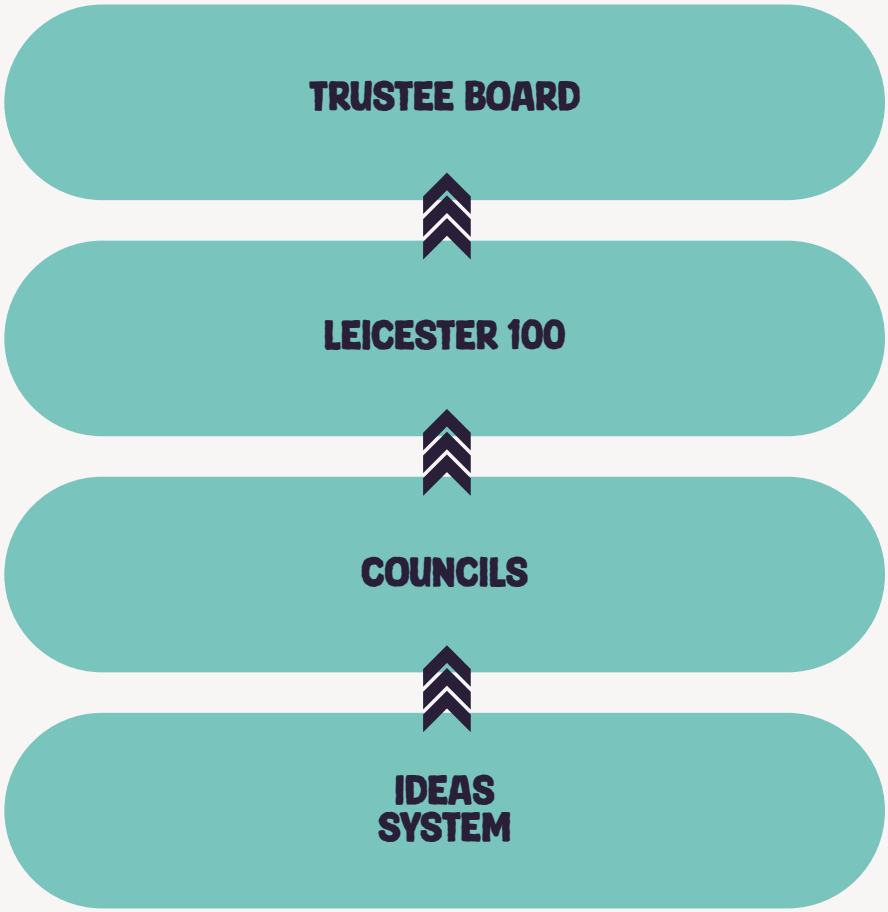
DURING THE ANNUAL STUDENT EXEC ELECTIONS:

2,219
STUDENTS VOTED

13,359
VOTES WERE CAST

4,354
STUDENTS VOTED IN AT LEAST ONE ELECTION

OUR DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE



THIS YEAR THE LEICESTER100 WAS A 98% REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE; ALLOWING KEY TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED. ONE OF THE TOPICS WAS:

TOPIC:
DEMILITARISING THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

OUTCOME:
REFERENDUM CALLED; WHERE 1,207 STUDENTS VOTED

AS A RESULT, THE UNION HAS NOW FORMALLY LOBBIED THE UNIVERSITY ON DEMILITARISATION ALONGSIDE CAMPAIGNERS

RAPID RESPONSE PROTOCOLS ALLOW US TO BE AGILE TO PROACTIVELY RESPOND TO STUDENT NEEDS

STRIKE ACTION & STRATEGIC REVIEW

OVER THE COURSE OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR, **101 STUDENTS FILLED IN OUR FEEDBACK FORM**, FROM ACROSS THE 6 SCHOOLS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE STRATEGIC REVIEW, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR CONCERNS.

WE WERE ABLE TO ACT QUICKLY, OPENING UP DIALOGUE WITH BOTH THE UNIVERSITY AND UCU EFFICIENTLY AND PROACTIVELY.

BELONG

We will build vibrant communities and networks to ensure our students have a place where they belong and can flourish as their authentic selves.

WE BOOSTED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNION, FOCUSING ON ACTIVE AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

36%

OF THE UNIVERSITY POPULATION ARE MEANINGFULLY ENGAGED WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION

AN INCREASE OF 7%!

82%

INCREASE IN MEANINGFULLY ENGAGED POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM 2024/25

WE CREATED ACTIVITY AND SPACES DESIGNED TO OFFER A HALF STEP INTO FULL STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OR LEADERSHIP

THROUGH ATTENDING FRESHERS AND OTHER WELCOME EVENTS, OVER 50% OF ATTENDEES BECAME A MEMBER OF A SOCIETY OR A SPORTS CLUB

WE DELIVERED A THRIVING CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY SUPPORTED AND DELIVERED BY OUR PTOS

THERE WERE 800 ATTENDEES TO OUR COMMUNITY-BASED EVENTS, OVER THE ACADEMIC YEAR, WHICH INCLUDED MIXERS AND STUDENT CAFES LED BY PART TIME OFFICERS AND STUDENT ACTIVATORS

WE GREW THE NUMBER OF ACADEMIC SOCIETIES TO ENSURE GROWING SENSE OF COMMUNITY WITHIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

84% OF UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS NOW HAVE AN ACADEMIC SOCIETY ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, COMPARED TO 60% OF SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS IN 2024/25

WE SAW A RISE OF 21% OF ACADEMIC SOCIETIES SET UP, WITH 46 NOW IN OPERATION THROUGH THE STUDENTS' UNION

WE HAD A 35% INCREASE OF ACADEMIC SOCIETY MEMBERS, ADDING AN ADDITIONAL 977 ENGAGED MEMBERS TO THE STUDENTS UNION IN THE 2025/26 ACADEMIC YEAR

NSS RESULTS 2025/26

NSS
National Student Survey

STUDENTS' UNION POSITIVITY HAS RISEN ABOVE 80% FOR THE FIRST TIME!

FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING, THE 'STUDENT VOICE' THEME HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AMONG THE

TOP 20

INSTITUTIONS NATIONALLY

CLASSICS (ANCIENT HISTORY), RADIOGRAPHY, PHYSIOTHERAPY & HEALTH SCIENCES RANKED THE STUDENTS' UNION IN THE

TOP FIVE

NATIONALLY

FOR OVERALL POSITIVITY
FOR REPRESENTING THEIR ACADEMIC INTERESTS.

90% OF STUDENTS AGREED THEY HAVE THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE FEEDBACK ON THEIR COURSE

PTES RESULTS 2025/26

POSTGRADUATE
TAUGHT EXPERIENCE
SURVEY

OUR PTES RESULTS HAVE SHOWN AN INCREASE OF 13% IN PGT STUDENTS FEELING A SENSE OF BELONGING AT UNIVERSITY

THERE ARE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH OTHER POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS - 74%

I FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING AT MY INSTITUTION - 81%

I FEEL PART OF A COMMUNITY OF POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS - 78% POSITIVITY

A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO OUR STUDENT VOICE TEAM FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION ENSURING STUDENT VOICE IS REPRESENTED.

SUCCEED

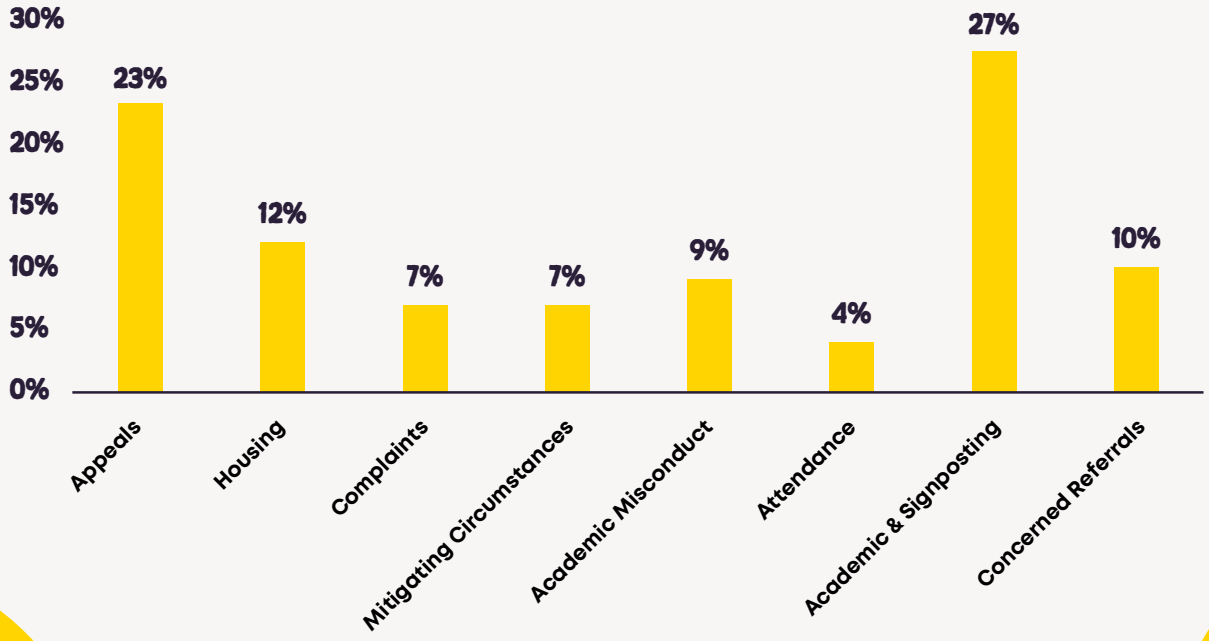
We will advocate on behalf of students by representing their needs on issues that can affect and impact their success and experience at university.

ADVICE

1346

CASES OPENED UP TO AND INCLUDING 30 JUNE 2026

AREAS OF SUPPORT



87.5%

WOULD RECOMMEND THE ADVICE SERVICE TO A PEER

OUR REPS

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

COLLEGE REPS – JOSH AND KATIE

(UG) Josh's work this year has been focused around finalising and releasing the Scholar's Hub (a space where students can share peer-to-peer resources, support and guidance). He worked with a team of Course Reps, School Reps and student volunteers to moderate, post and maintain the site and has focused on ensuring there are students willing to continue to maintain the space after he graduates. Josh has also worked with Academic Council to improve the sense of community for Mature Students, putting on an event in term 1 to bring them together and give them a space to talk about their experiences.

(PGR) Katie's projects this year have covered: improving the community across CSE for PGRs and making sure that the handover system for PGR reps is more robust. To improve the community in her College, Katie organised and ran a number of events across the academic year, ranging from quiz nights and board game nights to tea and talk events. For the handover system, Katie has developed an extensive document including FAQs and a cheat sheet of resources for incoming representatives to use as well as sections for outgoing reps to fill in information on what they have done and tips for how to succeed. Alongside this, Katie has worked tirelessly on making sure that PGRs in Chemistry, Geography and Geology have been represented to the university by keeping the executives informed of feedback and updates throughout.

School Representatives have explored student engagement across multiple schools and a correlation between attendance and grades was investigated and shared with students. A mental health guide was created for students, and admin improvement was pushed to ensure standardised content across respective schools.

Course Representatives lobbied for changes to personal tutor sessions, timetabling, assessment deadlines, and practicals for Postgraduate students have increased. After requests, feedback is more justified, assessment rubrics are more detailed and students now have access to mock exam questions.

COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES

COLLEGE REPS – FATMA AND FAEZEH

(UG) Fatma has focused this year in one main area: careers experience and opportunities for students in CLS. She worked with staff in the School of Biological Sciences on a careers fair, making sure students had access to plenty of opportunities. But her larger project was around creating a Research Assistant Scheme where Undergraduate students can apply to work with a Postgraduate researcher over the summer to help them with their lab work whilst gaining vital experience for their future careers. This project also supports PGRs in giving them experience with teaching and management which has been frequently requested.

(PGR) Faezeh's main focuses this year were on inclusivity in supervision and cultural awareness for supervisors. Through these ideals, Faezeh has worked with the Doctoral College and secured iREACCH funding to put together a toolkit to go alongside sessions running every march on EDI and culture for research. Faezeh has also worked on improving how prepared Postgraduate Researchers feel for their progress review by working with the PGR director for the College of Life Sciences to run progress review master classes in January, February and April, as well as café sessions planned for June.

School Representatives launched 'Agony Ally' to allow the healthcare cohort to share worries and stories about their time on placement. A spreadsheet of all deadlines was created for the convenience of students and 'Study Well' sessions were held to support students with their transition into university.

Course Representatives have requested for deadlines to be more spread out across the semesters, Postgraduate careers support has improved by running more relevant career fairs, and a focus has been made to improve engagement in healthcare academic and social societies.

ULSB

COLLEGE REPS – PRAGNA AND LE

(UG) Pragna's focus this year has been on community – from building a strong network with the representatives in her college, to tackling behaviour in lectures and seminars, and finally to working on the Society offer in Business, Pragna has been busy this year! She has ensured the library book return in Brookfield was finally implemented, and focused on how students can better engage in teaching. Her work on the Code of Conduct, in collaboration with key staff from her college, has been a long-term goal for this year, and is something that will hit the ground running in the new Academic Year!

(PGR) Le co-organised a workshop on artificial intelligence for PGR students across multiple Colleges within the university. Le has also led a series of activities designed to strengthen the PGR community within the College. One of these activities is a research picnic day for PGR students across the university, which Le and other fellow PGR Representatives have secured funding for. Looking ahead, Le will be organising the second ULSB PGR Conference this summer.

School Representatives focussed on community building within the School of Business. They explored students' behaviour and levels of engagement across the school as well as implementing excel basic sessions to support learning.

Course Representatives requested that all lectures be recorded and staff resources be made available and comprehensible for note taking after lectures. Module structures are being reviewed to support the lead up to Year in Industry, and facilitation of Postgraduate industry internships are being explored.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, ARTS AND HUMANITIES

COLLEGE REPS – GRACE AND NICOLE

(UG) Grace's work this year has been focused on two main areas: Improving Alumni connections and making sure students know 1) how to choose their modules and 2) what modules they are actually choosing. From working closely with the University's Careers and Alumni teams to transform Sir Bob Burgess for an evening into a busy Alumni event, to going to College Education Committee Meetings to roll out her proposed policy on Module Selection, Grace has been hard at work, dedicated to improving the student experience in CSSAH. This is all on top of her work with the new CSSAH Foundation team to help students feel more knowledgeable, and build a vibrant rep community across the College.

(PGR) Nicole's efforts have been vast in purpose this academic year. With some of her work being focussed around the improvement of the academic environment of postgraduate students with considerations such as living spaces, pre-graduation networking and celebratory events, and business training for postgraduate career success. Nicole has also focussed on mental health by creating and progressing the growth of the Support Squid Initiative to combat feelings of isolation in a complex, changing environment. Finally, Nicole explored discussions around safe accommodation, opportunities around GDPR Training as well as Postgraduate Research Tax Training.

School Representatives ran a successful 'Year in Industry' event which featured an Alumni Graduate panel. A handbook for year abroad students has been created and an FAQ document will now be passed to future cohorts of Course Reps.

Course Representatives have encouraged a feedback/feedforward system for more personalised feedback and students are working on getting infohub access for joint honours students. Deadlines dates are in the process of changing and assessment guidance will be provided earlier on in the term and better referencing support has been created.

OUR SOCIAL IMPACT

For the 2025/26 Academic Year, an external company, Social Impact Southwest, conducted research to help us understand and explore our social value.

FOR EVERY £1 WE INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS, WE CREATE £7 OF SOCIAL RETURN

AN INDEPENDENTLY EVIDENCED SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT ASSESSMENT FOUND THAT FOR EVERY £1 INVESTED IN THE STUDENTS' UNION IT GENERATES £7 OF SOCIAL VALUE FOR STUDENTS.

THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT STUDENTS WHO ENGAGE WITH THE UNION EXPERIENCE GREATER CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE, BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

THANK YOU AND GOODBYE FROM THE 2025/26 OFFICER TEAM

Matt Schofield
SU President 2025/26

- Ran the rapid response action group for affected strategic review schools
- Lobbied the University to increase the number of student employment opportunities
- Lobbied the University on a minimum level of compensation for students affected by the strikes

Cleo Cornou
Communities 2025/26

- Renovation of the Level Up Lounge and launched the new SU Lounge with pool tables
- Finalised the Student Remuneration policy and the new Personal Relationships policy with the University
- Lobbied the University to retain a free bus service
- Launched the Red Flags campaign and introduced the Library Safety Working Group

Aishwarya Kote
Education 2025/26

- Student Loan and Pay the Placement Campaign
- Led on January Destress
- Worked with the University on reviewing the mitigating circumstances policy
- Built communities for Postgraduate students and brought in more PGT representation within the Academic Rep system

SU Awards Night

Peer Mentoring Distinction Lunch

SU Carnival

Freshers Fair

Distance Learners Day

Elections Results Night

LEICESTER STUDENTS' UNION

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