

UUSU



# IMPACT

## REPORT

REPRESENT, SUPPORT & CONNECT YOU!



UUSU\_Online



UUSUOnline



UUSU\_Online



**CEO Foreword**  
**David Longstaff**

**Last year we launched our new strategic direction which aims to be flexible and mouldable to ensure we meet the needs of students. The 2024-29 strategy document was developed by engaging directly with students to understand your expectations and priorities for the Students' Union in the years ahead.**

The strategy is much more adaptive in its approach, allowing UUSU to be where students need us to be, whenever this is, however, will continue to build on the core pillars of UUSU that centre around representation, connectivity, and support.

UUSU continues to ensure we can represent our student community effectively and have increased our visibility and opportunities to engage across the campuses this last year. We are committed to students finding us on their normal campus journeys as opposed to having to seek us out for support. In the coming months we are aiming to launch a regular membership survey which will touch on key issues and provide a temperature check amongst students 3-4 times per year. Having this up to date and live information from our membership can only help us support you more effectively when relaying issues to stakeholders, both inside and external to the University environment.

We also are committed to continuing to support you and this year in the first semester alone our Advice service supported almost 250 student cases.



Such a service is critical in providing students with an external body that can support you with issues to improve or safeguard your university experience. We continue to look at ways to grow this service to support as many students as possible.

Despite the need to represent the membership, our student members are also at university for the wider experience and as such offering ways to connect with others and build life-long friendships is another core aim of the Union. Through our campaigns, events, and volunteering programmes we continue to build an eclectic mix of opportunities for our members to engage with one another. We remain mindful that our membership is diverse and preferences around engagement can vary so we continue to offer both traditional and digital ways to connect. The growth in digital preferences is clear with our Instagram following growing by 50% and the breath of our reach on the same platform increasing by around 120%. We are proud of this growth and will continue to offer a variety of ways for our membership to connect with one another into 2025-26.

We are looking forward to working on current and fresh priorities over the forthcoming year, with the aim of each to improve the experience of our membership. We will continue to offer more opportunities to engage and connect directly with us and are looking forward to representing the needs of the student body into the next year.





**President**  
**Ethan Davies**

**Hello!**

**What a year it has been! Not just for the Officer Team and UUSU but for all our students. It's difficult to fit all our achievements as a movement into a few paragraphs so this is just a snapshot of this academic year!**

#### **Lifestyle Hubs**

Led by our Campus VPs we have successfully lobbied the University for Lifestyle Hubs/ Pantries on each campus. This is a space where students can pick up foodstuffs, kitchenette goods or cleaning products that would typically impact a student's weekly budget. The student cohort has warmly received this and we're glad to see thousands of students benefit from this already.

#### **Charter Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls**

In March, we launched our Charter Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls. Led by our VP for Education, the enormously well-attended event was a landmark student event in the struggle to end violence against women and girls. Much more importantly, it gives UUSU the template and guidance to continue campaigning to end this disgraceful violence.



#### **Magee Taskforce**

As Magee grows from 5,000 to 10,000 students, your Union has been front and centre of the expansion. We have spent the year working proactively with students to identify key areas of concern for current students. We've raised issues that students have flagged, from car parking to student accommodation, and we have made those concerns a central priority of the Taskforce.

#### **Anti-Spiking Campaign**

The ongoing spiking epidemic has left students in Northern Ireland less safe and more anxious about enjoying one of the key elements of the university experience: nights out. UUSU has worked collaboratively with the Justice Ministry to lobby for anti-spiking legislation to be introduced. Additionally, through lobbying of local councils, additional anti-spiking materials were provided to students during Freshers and Club/Society Nights out.

We're here to **Represent** **Support** and **Connect** you while you are studying at UU. This year we have been working tirelessly for positive change for all our students and creating spaces for students to engage and get involved.



**Ethan Davies**  
President



**Favour Okpohs**  
VP Belfast



**Chris Murray**  
VP Coleraine



**Reece Armstrong**  
VP Magee



**Emily Roberts**  
VP Education



**Daniel Sanusi**  
VP Equality & Belonging



**Connor O'Hagan**  
VP Sport & Wellbeing

Let's give you a snapshot of what your Students' Union has been doing for students this year.





## Introduction

**It's been a fantastic year for UUSU and our members. We have achieved so much together as a strong student movement. Set against a backdrop of increasing daily living and housing costs for students, our students never cease to amaze us with their individual and group achievements both academically and non-academically. We have continued to Represent, Support and Connect our students helping to make their time at UU the best it can be.**

## In helping our students face these challenges we've been there to represent, support and connect.

Through tireless lobbying local government, the student movement is pleased that NI Students are Set to Receive 20 Percent Uplift to Student Maintenance Loans for the forthcoming 2025/26 academic year.



Emily Roberts (UUSU President elect) along with Student officers from Queen's Students' Union & St. Mary's Students' Union pose for photo with Economy Minister Conor Murphy MLA.



## 'Don't Increase Our Fees!'

**Thanks to student pressure and serious lobbying from the Students' Union working alongside the national students' union NUS-UI - we've successfully stopped a proposed tuition fee rise of £1,000 more per year.**

In May 2025 the VC of Queen's University, Ulster University and The Open University wrote to political party leaders across the Northern Ireland. In the letter they called for a rise in undergraduate fees to £5,831 per year. They argued that the current funding model for HE is 'unstainable' and that this can be fixed by charging students more.

UUSU lobbied that putting the burden of a broken university system on students was not the answer. The result has been that Northern Ireland's economy minister has said she will not be increasing university tuition fees above the usual level of inflation.

Caoimhe Archibald said while she recognised the challenges facing universities, she did not wish to "push that additional pressure on to students".



**WE  
WON!**





## Student Achievement Awards Ireland

We are over the moon to have been recognised in the Student Achievement Awards Ireland organised by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). These awards are the annual opportunity for the student movement in Ireland to recognise the outstanding work of students and celebrate their contributions to the experience of their fellow students, and to wider society.



**Winner - Emily Roberts**  
Social Justice Campaign of the Year



**Winner - Chaudhary Hamza Riaz**  
ICOS International Student of the Year  
(Photo Courtesy of AMLÉ) (Daniel Sanusi accepted the award on Chaudhary's Behalf)



**Winner - Lee Doran**  
The STAND Student Activist of the Year



**Winners - Emily Roberts and Reece Armstrong**  
Gradam Feachtas Gaeilge na Bliana – urraithe ag Raidió Rí Rá



## Awards Won

Gradam Feachtas Gaeilge na Bliana – urraithe ag Raidió Rí Rá

**Emily Roberts /  
Reece Armstrong**

Social Justice Campaign of the Year – Feachtas Comhionannais na Bliana

**Emily Roberts IISI -  
The Tackling Violence  
Against Women and Girls  
(TVAWG) Charter**

The STAND Student Activist of the Year – Gníomhaí Mac Léinn na Bliana

**Lee Doran**

The ICOS International Student of the Year – Mac Léinn Idirnáisiúnta na Bliana

**Chaudhary Hamza Riaz**

## Awards Nominated For

The BICS Club / Society of the Year – Club / Cumann na Bliana Large SU

**UUSU Apprenticeship Society**

Individual Contribution to Student Media – Ionchur Aonair do Mheáin na Mac Léinn

**Caitlin-Rose Lowry**

Large Students' Union of the Year – Foireann Aontas na Mac Léinn na Bliana

**Ulster University Students' Union**

The QQI Education Campaign of the Year – Curadh Oideachais na Bliana

**Ulster University Students' Union**

The ECO-UNESCO Environmental and Sustainability Activism of the Year – Gníomhaíochas Timpeallachta agus Inbhuanaítheachta na Bliana

**Amensinor Favour Okpohs**

Student Media Outlet of the Year – Ardán Meáin Mac Léinn na Bliana

**Offshoot TV**



## Check out UUSU's actions on UU Students' Basic Needs

**At UUSU we believe that students need to have their student basic needs met before they can thrive at UU. Students' basic needs include food security, housing, health & wellbeing support, financial stability and personal safety. Being a student is about thriving rather than surviving.**

Being a student  
is about thriving  
rather than  
surviving.

For too many our students, these essentials – that in the past were taken for granted, today have become a luxury for many of our students.

### Students Basic Needs:

#### **Food security:**

Access to nutritious and sufficient food

#### **Housing:**

Safe, stable, and affordable accommodation

#### **Health & wellbeing support:**

Availability of medical and mental health services

#### **Financial stability:**

Resources to manage expenses and avoid financial stress

#### **Personal safety:**

A secure environment free from harm and discrimination



### Food Security

This doesn't exist separately from housing precarity or financial stress – these needs are interconnected challenges. We lobbied the University to provide the recently launched Lifestyle Hub offers non-perishable items, stationery, and hygiene products to all students facing food insecurity. We have continued the initiative whereby we collect pre packed sandwiches with a short shelf life from on campus catering and store them in Food Bank branded fridges within the Students' Union. The sandwiches are still within date and help greatly with students struggling to make ends meet. Not only does the initiative help students in hardship but also helps sustainability on campus.



### Financial Assistance

Our Advice Bureau encourages students to access various financial support systems including grants, bursaries, and financial assistance funds to help with tuition fees, living expenses, and unexpected costs.



### Community Building

We run Freshers, Halloween, Christmas, Refreshers & Campaign events. We ensure our SU spaces across our campuses are safe and inclusive, promoting a culture of respect and support. We want our students to know students' voices are heard and their needs are met, and they know that we're here for them.



### Housing

We launched our renters' rights leaflets with checklists for students to take with them to their house viewings. We understand that poor living conditions for students means poor grades and promoting in the first semester the NUS-USI petition calling for homes fit for students.





## Representation

Representing and lobbying on your behalf across the most important and influential University committees and working groups responsible for delivering a quality student experience, such as:-

Academic standards

Student support & well-being

University governance

Campus experience

Learning & teaching

Equality & belonging



In October we held our course reps and student council elections. The election of the student council is particularly important time of the year for UUSU because of the central role of Student Council in reflecting the views of our membership through the creation of UUSU policies.

This year we've had a fantastic level of academic representation with over 800 students taking up the course, school, and faculty rep roles. These students have dedicated over 24,000 hours to their roles, which is fantastic.

In March we held our leadership elections for the 2025-6 academic year. We had the highest ever turn out for our online elections. 16,859 votes cast! Your full-time student officers, faculty and school reps were also elected by you for the forthcoming academic year.

16,859  
VOTES CAST!

### Elected Student Executive Team 25/26



**Emily  
Roberts**  
President



**Amensinor  
Favour Okpohs**  
VP Belfast



**Chris  
Murray**  
VP Coleraine



**Catherine  
Mailey**  
VP Equality &  
Belonging



**Caoimhín  
Heaney**  
VP Sport &  
Wellbeing



**Rebekah  
Robinson**  
VP Education



**Lee  
Doran**  
VP Magee



## Representation



### Student Voice Coordinators

We were delighted to welcome two new Student Voice Co-ordinators in Semester Charlotte Doak focuses on Engagement and Paul Frazer works on Academic Representation.

Paul is a former Lecturer in English Literature (Northumbria University) with a background in learning support and postgraduate academic skills training. As Student Voice Coordinator (Academic Representation) Paul will oversee and support the largest group of student volunteers at Ulster University. They will ensure the collective opinion of students is heard across their learning experience through an established student voice structure managed by Ulster University Students' Union (UUSU).



Some of the UU community might recognise Charlotte as a former part time employee with the Students' Union. Charlotte's Student Voice Coordinator (Engagement) role will be centred on our membership and engagement through listening, evidencing and tracking collective student feedback which will drive UUSU strategic direction, actions, policy, stakeholder feedback, and campaigns. The role will lead and coordinate the official, collective UUSU representation structure for student sport at Ulster University. It will also drive and inspire UUSU student and researcher community networks, providing stronger links with their Students' Union and an additional level of support for our diverse student membership.

## Student Council

**This year Student's Council has been hard at work, making important changes to so many of our policies that we have held on our books!**

From changes to our Identity Policy and our work around Pronouns and acceptance of all of our students to our support for breastfeeding students ensuring that no one is left behind.

Our Student Council has once again been scrutinising our Officer's, holding them to account over four quorate Student Council meetings throughout the year. Alongside making sure our organisation remains fit for purpose through changes to our Bye-Laws and governance. This year our members of Student Council have represented



our students in University Senate to a greater extent than ever before, ensuring that the all-important views of postgraduate students and our international student community are heard at the highest level.

We look forward to seeing what comes next from our highest level Student-led body in UUSU.

## National Student Conferences

We hosted elections to select students to attend the AMLÉ – Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn and NUS-USI conferences.



## UUSU Survey

We want our members to be at the heart of our work and to tell us how they want to engage with UUSU and what they think our priorities should be.

Our end of year survey has just closed with over 1,254 respondents completing the survey. We will use the survey data to ensure our students' voices are heard in shaping our future work.



## Sports Survey

**Several years ago, there was a review into student sport which recommended that the governance of student sport move from the Students' Union across to the University. The governance of most student sport sits within the University rather than the Students' Union in most UK universities.**

However, the Students' Union still represent and supports the clubs via our VP Sport & Wellbeing and our Student Voice Coordinator Engagement. UUSU conducted a sports survey at the start of the academic year asking students about the support they received from the Students' Union and the University regarding sports.



The survey responses reflected a good campus balance and the views of fourteen different clubs. 80% of respondents wanted to give feedback to UUSU.

The main action from the survey is to establish Online Drop in Forums for each semester to gather club feedback to represent and support the clubs.

The main concerns from sports clubs are lack of funding which could in the future stop the clubs fulfilling their fixtures, buying sports equipment and/or being able to pay for enough coaching hours.





## Learning & Teaching Awards

**Congratulations to those recognised at the recent UUSU Learning & Teaching Awards! This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the Awards. It was a fantastic evening at the Ebrington Hotel, Derry~Londonderry celebrating our outstanding staff and academic reps supporting the student journey at UU.**

Many thanks to our student and PGR shortlisting panel. With over 575 submissions across categories this was no easy task.

What makes these awards stand out is they are completely student-led, organised, and managed through UUSU. Nominations come from students, with staff only eligible to submit in the Academic Rep category.

We received over 570 nominations this year showing the impact of hundreds of individual staff members, teams and reps. The judging and shortlisting panel was made up of student reps from across Faculties and the Doctoral College. Thanks to all the students and staff who made nominations and to our student shortlisting panel.



**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR (AHSS)**  
Denise MacDermott | Applied Social & Policy Sciences



**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR (CEBE)**  
Philip Vance | Computing, Engineering & Intelligent Systems



**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR (LHS)**  
Felicity Hasson | Nursing & Paramedic Science & Marian McLaughlin | Psychology



**EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR (UUBS)**  
Helen McKenna | Business Engagement Unit  
Rosie McKenna (right) collects award on behalf of Helen McKenna



**DREAM TEAM AWARD: STAFF TEAM OF THE YEAR**  
Interactive Media Team | Communication & Media



**IGNITING STUDENT AMBITION AWARD**  
Darren Berkland | Communication & Media



**RISING AWARD: EARLY-CAREER EXCELLENCE**  
Ryan Adams | Sport



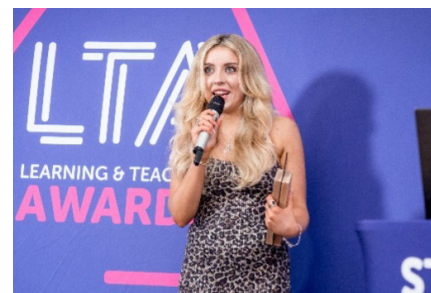
**PHD SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR**  
Helene McNulty | Biomedical Sciences



**CHAMPION FOR CHANGE**  
Muhammad Usman Hadi | Engineering



**HIDDEN HERO AWARD: NON-TEACHING EXCELLENCE**  
Magdalena Lederer | Commercial Services



**STUDENT ACADEMIC REP OF THE YEAR**  
Sophie Stevens | Law



**INSPIRATIONAL AWARD: TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES**  
Ian Thatcher | Arts & Humanities

## Mental Health Campaign



UBelong

We know that isolation and loneliness is one of the biggest factors in negatively impacting student mental health. Our student and society events create communities and offer spaces for students to come together.

We encourage students to find their social groups in societies and sports teams throughout the year particularly at the start of the new academic year through the freshers' fayre and the start of Semester 2 with the refreshers' fayre.



Our UBelong events and activities ensure that the support and opportunities are in place for students to thrive at UU.

As part of our stress-less campaign, UUSU provided tea, coffee and hot chocolate during our 'Brew Monday' sessions outside the library on each campus.

Kidz Farm on campus helped de-stress students around assignments and exam time. We also support the National Student Campaigns throughout the year which effect the general student body.

**UBelong**



## Advice Bureau

525 Student cases total for the year 01/06/25-31/05/25 200 plus general/basic enquiries- from UU Staff, Lecturers International, Student Wellbeing & Student officers

**Our small team of experienced advisors deal with cases & enquiries across all Ulster University Campuses. Main issues remain Academic Appeals & Course Matters, Housing & Tenancy issues, Cost of Living, Student Finance & Fees, International Student issues & University Complaints. Noted growth of disciplinarys and plagiarism/academic integrity cases.**

- Relevant networking meetings & links have also taken place with AB Staff/ UUSU Officers and UU Fees Dept, UU International & Global Affairs UU Student Academic Affairs Team & UU Student Administration & Neuro Network Training & Events.
- Development of cases & key working relationships with UU School of Medicine-Professors Harris and Debras and UU Doctoral college.
- During this reporting period UUSU Advice involvement wider membership in University Working groups including Leave of Absence policy review group, Academic Integrity, Consumer Protection group, Belfast Student Housing Coop & Advice NI Quarterly Managers group.

Through the Students' Union intervention we secured a University Early Exam board in December 2024 which saved 28 UU Business School student a Visa Extension & NHS Healthcare surcharge of approx. £700-£800 per person.

## Student Thanks

"I want to say how much I appreciated your help this semester, because at the start of the year I was uncertain if my finances were going to allow me to continue with my fine art course. I submitted the final essay for year two yesterday and just want to say a BIG thanks for your advice and guidance."

"My appeal is successful and this is possible only because of you sir. I cannot express my feelings; what you have done for me. This was not only my appeal, but this is also my future. Thanks, is a small word to say to you for this kindness. I will be grateful to you forever. Thank You So Much."

"My problem has been resolved. I can now focus on my other things related to the PhD. Again, thanks for taking the time to listen and actively helping me think of solutions. Finding professors and advisors that really support and engage makes the difference. I am so thankful to you and my supervisor who already know how I got out of this situation."

"Thank you so much for your valuable time in my challenging time. My appeal has been accepted, and I get a chance for resit. I really appreciate that. Thank you."

"Thank you for your support and guidance throughout the appeal process for my BME701 coursework. I am pleased to inform you that the appeal was successful."

"I just want to let you know that, with your guidance, suggestions and help regarding the appeal for resit has led me a successful appeal. I want to thank you heartfully for helping me through this entire process."

"I just want to appreciate you for your support and effort towards the success of this appeal. You are such a genius. You really deserve an award on students' representation. Thanks a million times. This means so much to me."





## Sustainability

**Sustainability has been one of our long running campaigns directed by Student Council.**

Green Week in November included a host of events, including Wellbeing Garden activities, Vintage Clothes Sales Responsible and nature walks to name a few.



UUSU has pushed Sustainable Travel along with Translink

## Responsible Futures

Futures is a Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) whole-institution supported change programme and accreditation mark to embed sustainability across all aspects of student learning.

Favour Okpohs, VP Belfast has been on the Responsible Futures Working Group this academic year.



UUSU in conjunction with the University has been promoting Net Zero Challenge

## Wellbeing Garden

Our wellbeing garden in Magee has been going for several years. However, we've recently got a wellbeing garden up and running with volunteers in Coleraine. The Belfast well-being garden will be launched in September.



## Brew Monday

Our regular Brew Mondays have been run by our student officers across our three campuses.

These social events allow students to grab a free hot drink whilst chatting to their student reps.

Our student officers are keeping in touch with our members in an informal social way, finding out what is happening to students on the ground on a weekly basis.



## Sexual Health & Guidance Week

Sexual Health and Consent Education is vital. Sexual Health and Guidance Week continued this year. SHAG fayres featured local sexual health services and we had an incredible turn out for Sex Toy Bingo!



## Student Safety



Student Safety has been a long running campaign within UUSU. This year we focused on our stop spiking and strut safe campaigns. UUSU reps met with local politicians to lobby on anti spiking legislation including Colum Eastwood (MP), Naomi Long (MLA) and Cara Hunter (MLA). Through lobbying we secured a commitment from Naomi Long as Minister for Justice that when stand-alone anti-spiking legislation is passed in Westminster, she will bring a motion to Stormont to adopt the law here.



## Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025

Our Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 campaign provided opportunities for all students to get involved through Pop up Gaeltacht Brew Days, Film Night, Trad Soc Gig & Career Workshop & more!





**Equality, Diversity  
& Inclusion**



**UUSU  
NETWORKS**

## UUSU Networks

Emily Roberts, VP Education has been instrumental in establishing the Women Empowerment Network. Daniel Sanusi, VP Equality & Belonging has further developed the existing SWANN network.

The purpose of these networks is to function as a community which empowers students to advocate and lobby for meaningful change, on and off campus- further challenging society norms. Networks are vital to comment on, monitor and evaluate the formulation,

implementation and impact of university policies, action plans and strategies which may affect students.

UUSU Networks are communities based on mutual beliefs, interests and experiences. Our networks empower students to lobby for meaningful change, represent and uphold equality and advocate for student issues. Our networks bring together voices, inspire action and create impact.

### Women Empowerment Network



**Women  
Empowerment  
Network**

The Women's Empowerment Network (WEN) is a community for our students who have a passion for gender equality, addressing misogyny and lobbying for issues raised by the membership. Through this network, membership can raise awareness of societal or localised issues, promote organisations working in this area and lobby for positive change. Any

woman student/student who identifies as a woman at UU can be a member of the Women's Empowerment Network. Any person of other gender identities is welcome to hold ally membership to the network. Membership of this network is free of charge and students can join at any point throughout the year.

**SWANN**



**SWANN**  
STUDENT WITH ADDITIONAL  
NEEDS NETWORK

SWANN stands for the 'Students with Additional Needs Network,' it is one of our networks that specifically aims to provide students with additional needs with support and guidance from their peers.

The network is completely student led and consists of three local campus committees (in Magee, Coleraine, and Belfast) which meet regularly to help enact change on a local and regional level.



**Advancing Race  
Equality Awards**

## VP Equality and Belonging, Daniel Sanusi, was recognised at the Advancing Race Equality Awards!

Daniel took home awards in **TWO** categories:

Young Leader

Advancing Racial  
Justice and Fairness



This recognition is a testament to his dedication to creating change and fostering inclusivity.

Thank you to Northwest Migrants Forum for holding these important awards and recognising the groups and individuals working to advance race equality.





## Reclaim the Night



## Womens Charter

### **Tackling violence against women and girls in Northern Ireland: A students' union response.**

**This charter is the first of its kind. A collective Students' Union response to the increase in violence against women and girls in NI, striving to address issues around misogyny, sexual harassment and gender-based violence.**

These issues are impacting the wider community and so, we have posed a collective response based on our collective responsibility to address this serious problem.

In March UUSU came together to sign the Women's Charter, representing a commitment to action. This is a commitment to societal change, a commitment to our fight to end violence against women and girls.

UUSU were joined by local politicians Claire Hanna (MP), Diana Armstrong (MLA) and Connie Egan (MLA) who answered questions from our attendees and student members, recognising the need for change at all levels.

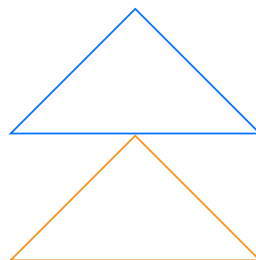
In the next few months the charter will be adopted by other Students' Union in Ireland rolled out by AMLÉ – Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn.



## Project Pink



UUSU attended Reclaim the Night Belfast & Foyle as well as the Pink Walk with Walkie Talkie Girlies in Belfast & the Rally for Women's Safety in Derry/Londonderry. We have been committed this year to standing up against gender based violence.



## Key Principles

1. Students' Unions will stand up and speak out on incidences of violence against women and girls. We will take responsibility for calling it out both as individual representatives and as organisations.
2. Students' Unions will develop policies and practices that highlight and address the ongoing issues of Violence Against Women and Girls, discrimination, and inequality, ensuring such policies have achievable actions on how to combat these issues on their campuses.
3. Students' Unions will take steps to actively involve women and girls in all aspects of Union life, from securing leadership roles, to holding council seats, to becoming academic reps, and being involved in societies/networks.
4. Students' Unions will work to establish active bystander training schemes/programmes for all universities and colleges across Northern Ireland.
5. Through education, campaigns, and other work Students' Unions will strive to reduce stereotypes, stigma and barriers for women and girls in Northern Ireland.

**Signed and sealed, these are the principles your Union will adhere to, with the aim of ending Violence Against Women and Girls.**





## Lighthouse Project Magee Campus

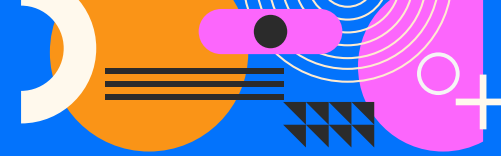
The Lighthouse Project is a collaboration between Foyle Search and Rescue and Danny Quigley which provides a central database of support services in the Derry city and district. The support services are advertised on their website: <https://lighthouse.foylesearchandrescue.com/>

Yellow stickers tapped by mobiles take the user straight to the website database. Connor O'Hagan, VP Sport & Welfare has been working with Foyle and Rescue to get these stickers installed throughout the Magee campus.

The promotional stickers have been installed in all Magee restrooms, changing rooms, library and noticeboards. Stickers will also soon be installed in the Duncreggan Student Village Accommodation. The Foyle & Rescue Service had an awareness stall at the Refreshers

Fayre to promote the Lighthouse Project to students and to recruit student volunteers. Dawn from Foyle & Rescue Service also set up with student officers at Brew Monday in February to increase awareness among students of the support service.

The Foyle and Rescue's up and coming promotional video will be promoted by the Students' Union website and socials. Connor O'Hagan has also begun implementing the Lighthouse Project on the Coleraine campus. The plan is that the incoming VP Sport & Welfare will implement on the Belfast campus during the 2025-6 academic year. In September the Lighthouse Project will also be promoted by the incoming officers to the new Freshers cohort.



Social Media

**Our membership is diverse so we use a number of ways for our students to connect with us. The popularity of our Instagram platform is clear with Instagram following growing by 50% and the breath of our reach increasing by around 120%.**

**7,429**  
**followers on**  
**Instagram**







Connect

Through our clubs and societies students can make friends and connect with their fellow students.

### Activities and Societies

Throughout the academic year the Student Activities team hosted a variety of events for students to enjoy in addition to supporting societies. Societies have gone from strength to strength, leading on key events throughout the year including Freshers, Halloween, and Christmas.



Surgical (Magee)



### Campaign Events

We've co-hosted campaign events and ensured that our student spaces are safe and inclusive areas where you can kick back, learn new skills, embrace new interests, celebrate faith and share in cultural celebrations.



History (Coleraine)



Illustration (Belfast)



GES (Coleraine)



KPOP (Belfast)



Paramedicine (Magee)



Construction (Belfast)



Sustainability (Belfast)



D&D (Belfast)



CU (Belfast)



Apprenticeship (Belfast)

Truly the best year of my life! As a committee at the start of the year we were strangers, now we are family for life!

Being in a society is one of the most rewarding roles I've ever experienced. It has taught me a lot about myself and improved my skills in finance.

I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to become the president of the society.

As an international student, my only worry was if I'll be able to survive in a new country. However, this society helped me to make connections and make other students like me feel at home.

109 active societies.

522 registered committee members

2377 members signed up

275 payments processed since September

Events - 39 weekly events ran across all 3 campuses from different societies & have had 193 one off events planned and ran to date across the 3 campuses.

## KPOP Society

Thank you all so much for your support, kindness and belief you gave to both our society and to myself as both a committee member and as a student of UU. I can comfortably say that my experiences with the UUSU staff, societies and events has truly transformed and heightened my experiences in university, and the friends I've made along the way make every effort I've put in so much more worth it.

As someone who's in the minority of doing classes remotely at Ulster, I was initially worried that I would lose so much of the social aspect of university, where I wouldn't see students in classes, hanging out between lectures or have some spontaneous nights out, which is

why I was so drawn to joining the societies in 2023. Never would I have thought two years later: I'd be nearing the end of my masters, as a chairperson of an award winning society, surrounded by award winning friends. I can truly say without a doubt that my experience with university was forever changed by the UUSU, and even more so by the staff in it.

Thank you so much, to each and every one of you, and especially you Karen, who has been there every time I've been uncertain, concerned and anxious. You have been a beacon for me and my Committee and we wish for all the kindness you've given to us to be received back tenfold.

**Katie Sweeney**  
(KPOP Chair)





## Teddy Bear Hospital

### Child Health Society held their second Teddy Bear Hospital recently at the Waterside shared village in Derry/Londonderry.

The student society partnered up with the Altnagelvin parents group and Western Health and Social trust. The day was a massive success with two groups of children arriving with their 'sick' teddy bears to help them get better at the hospital.

The students are passionate about paediatrics and wanted to help alleviate the fears of children who spend time a lot of time in hospital. They children at the teddy



bear hospital had complex medical needs and this event really helped to get them involved in different medical procedures and make it fun and engaging.

Apart from the event being a great success it also attracted a lot of media attention. BBC news, UTV, Derry journal and Ulster University PR team all getting involved on the day.



## CASS Musical Show

Coleraine Arts and Stage Society's annual celebration of music theatre and community spirit took place in March in the Riverside Theatre. This year's variety show was an enchanting evening filled with captivating musical numbers and beloved popular songs showcasing a blend of timeless classics and modern musical hits. Audiences enjoyed a vibrant mix of solos duets and ensemble pieces all performed by talented local students dedicated to bringing the magic of the stage to life.



## Ready to Shine? Into the Spotlight

The Musical Theatre Society in Magee held their Ready to Shine? Into the Spotlight Musical Theatre Showcase in the Millennium Forum this semester.







## SU Awards

In this year's SU Awards we recognised and celebrated those students who contributed so much of their time, energy and expertise to improving the student experience.



Society Member of the Year -  
Winner Faith Downey - CU Belfast



Most Impressive Online Presence -  
KPOP (Belfast)



Jordan Kennedy Charitable Contributor Award -  
Katie Hagan

SU  
Awards '25



New Society of the Year -  
Sustainability Society (Belfast)



Student Voice Legend -  
Lee Doran



Committee Member of the Year - Rachael Doran  
(Computing Belfast)



Course Based Society of the Year -  
History Society (Coleraine)



Most Improved Society & Best Society Event -  
Paramedicine Magee



Outstanding Society sponsored by Prestige Student Living -  
Apprenticeship Society (Belfast)



## 2024-25 Champions

Congratulations to the students and clubs for their achievements and success this year.



Jodie McKeown	Archery	Irish Indoor Varsity Recurve Beginner Champion
Kathryn Morton	Archery	Irish Indoor Varsity Elite Barebow Champion and British Universities Indoor Elite Champion
Magee Ladies Basketball		NBCC Division 3 Champions
Caitlin Murray	Boxing	Irish Intervarsity U57kg Intermediate Champion
Connie Gibbons	Boxing	Irish Intervarsity U54kg Elite Champion and British Universities U54kg Elite Champion
Fionn Duffy	Boxing	Irish Intervarsity U63.5kg Elite Champion
Jon McConnell	Boxing	Irish National U71kg Elite Champion
Josh Muckian	Boxing	Irish Intervarsity U80kg Elite Champion
Shauna McAnaulty	Boxing	Irish Intervarsity U81kg Intermediate Champion
UU Camogie		Division 3 league and Fr Meagher Cup Champions
Coleraine Ladies Gaelic		HEC Division 7 League Champions

Belfast Ladies Gaelic		HEC Division 6 League Champions
Magee Ladies Gaelic		HEC Division 3 League Champions
UU Ladies Gaelic		HEC Division 2 League Champions
Magee Mens Gaelic		Division 3 League Champions
UU Freshers Men's Gaelic		Division 3 Championship Winners
UU Hockey		Denman Shield Champions
Cormac Kernaghan	Judo	Irish Intervarsity U73kg Novice Champion
Ewan Murray	Judo	Irish Intervarsity U66kg Elite Champion
Shay Delaney	Judo	Irish Intervarsity U90kg Elite Champion
Bee Greenberg	Surf	Irish Intervarsity Longboard Champion
Adam Colgan	Swimming	Irish Open 200m Individual Medley Champion
Alana Burns Atkin	Swimming	Irish Open 200m Butterfly Champion
Daniel Edgar	Swimming	Irish Intervarsity 50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly Elite Champion
Danielle Hill	Swimming	European 50m Backstroke Champion, Irish Intervarsity 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly Elite Champion





## Volunteering

### Charity of the Year

**Student Council nominated The Women's Aid movement as our charity of the year.**

The Women's Aid movement in Northern Ireland began in 1975 and is made up of eight local Women's Aid groups and Women's Aid Federation.

Each Women's Aid group offers a range of specialist services to women,



children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. They are all members of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.

The Ulster University Students' Union, and its members are committed to supporting Women's Aid NI to challenge attitudes, structures and systems which perpetuate domestic abuse and to ultimately enable women, children and young people to live free from violence and abuse.

This year UUSU ran a number of fundraising activities to help raise money as well as awareness for Women's Aid NI.

### Mission Christmas

For a number of years UUSU has been volunteering for Mission Christmas. Mission Christmas is an annual project driven by the charity Cash for Kids. They help children across the UK who need it most, especially those affected by poverty, illness or neglect. Every year Mission Christmas aims to create a Christmas for every child.

Students, Students' Union and University staff spent a day volunteering at Mission Christmas headquarters in December 2024.



## Coleraine & Magee

**Our artwork wall in Coleraine bar, as voted for by our members, was installed at the start of the 2024-5 academic year.**



We installed five new digital screens across the Magee and Coleraine Students' Unions.

These screens are an effective tool in our student communications regarding our student services, campaigns and events.





RAG

We brought RAG (Raising & Giving) back after 10 years. We donated the money raised to three incredible charities to make a real difference! We've dedicated a worthwhile charity to each of our campuses, and every penny raised went to support these amazing causes.



RAG  
Charities



Coleraine - Kevin Bell  
Repatriation Trust

The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust aims to alleviate the financial hardship of bereaved families repatriating the body (bodies) of loved one(s) who have died abroad in sudden or tragic circumstances back to Ireland.



Movember

Connor O'Hagan (VP Sport & Wellbeing) and Reece Armstrong (VP Magee) held a Spinathon to raise money for Movember. They also hosted charity matches, 5k and a 5-a-side tournament.



Belfast - Women's Aid NI

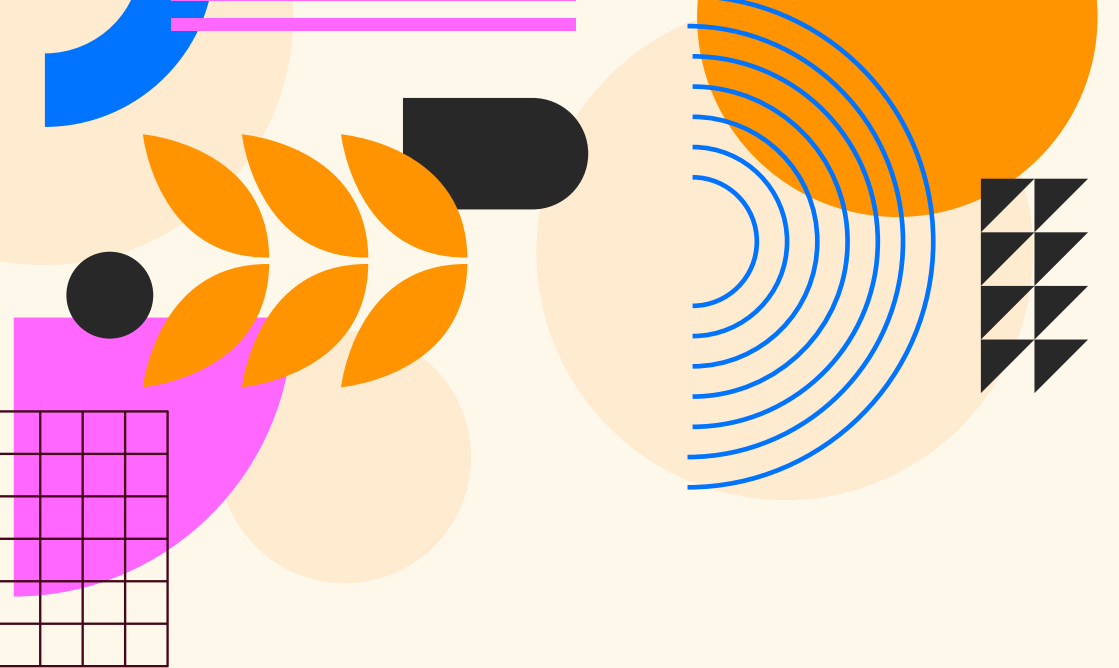
UUSU Charity of the Year. Women's Aid NI is dedicated to supporting women and children affected by domestic abuse. They provide a safe space, vital services, and advocacy to help those escaping violence and rebuilding their lives.



Magee - The Odd Balls  
Foundation

The OddBalls Foundation is on a mission to raise awareness for men's health, particularly in the fight against testicular cancer. Through fundraising, education, and support, they aim to break the stigma around discussing men's health issues and encourage early detection.





UUSU

