

LEEDS TRINITY
STUDENTS' UNION

2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

ltsu

SUPPORTING YOU TO REACH YOUR POTENTIAL

Leeds Trinity Students' Union is a charity. We exist for the benefit of Leeds Trinity students.

We do this in five ways:

1. We act as a medium of communication between the members of the Union, the Governors, the University and other bodies.
2. We advance the education of our members and students of the University as a whole.
3. We represent the interest of our members and act as a channel of communication in dealing with the University and other bodies.
4. We promote and protect the welfare of our members through the provision of information, advice and activities.
5. We promote, encourage and co-ordinate student clubs, societies, sports and student activities.

How is the Union run?

The Union is led by two annual elected Sabbatical Officers - the President and Vice-President. As a charity we are led by nine trustees made up of two elected Sabbatical Officers, three student trustees and up to four external trustees. They are the first and final decision making body of the Union.

Political and policy decisions are made by the annually elected Student Council which includes the President and Vice-President. A staff team support the work of the elected sabbatical officers to support with the day to day running of charity services.

"As we reflect on the last year of our current strategy we look back at the three-year journey with pride. As a charity we have come a long way.

Our commitment to student voice has seen continued elections engagement from our members with a record number of nominations for positions. 'Student Say' continued to flourish with seventeen ideas submitted and the Student Council passing eleven policies.

Our commitment to an impartial SU led Advice service continues with students being supported with Wellbeing, Housing and Academic appeals. A further commitment of the service to our core value, personalised, saw over 100 individual students supported one to one by our Student Advisor.

We reflect this year on the launching a new social space, StUdio, and continue to support students whilst on campus through our shop. Both 'not for profit' services have our student members at the core of their existence. They were created after student consultation, continue to be led and run by students and provides much desired flexible employment opportunities.

At the beginning of the year we also launched a new website which has enhanced our ability to support our 148 volunteers. Congratulations to our 2019-20 volunteer cohort

who set a record-breaking recruitment of 616 members who took part in our 37 clubs or societies, 8 of which were newly formed during 2019-20.

We continued our commitment to the environment and sustainability achieving NUS Green Impact accreditation for the third year running. The past year has also seen a range of campaigns led by our Officers. Including efforts to simplify registration processes, whether it be for the local GP or for the National Elections. Climate campaigns were also a strong theme along with food choice, food price and social spaces.

Our campaigns and services aim to ensure students have the best possible experience whilst at Leeds Trinity University, helping them gain experiences and opportunities like no other. It's our inclusive, personalised, student first approach that means our students will never feel as if they are not represented or left bored.

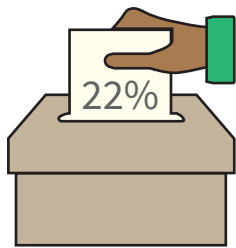
We continue to work in collaboration with Leeds Trinity University staff and thank them on behalf of students, our officers and staff team.

A huge thank you to Chris and Zoha along with all the President and Vice Presidents who have been a part of the Big Plan over the past three years.

They have been supported by our incredible staff team, student volunteers and trustees who continue to play an integral role in the charity's success."

ZOHA SHAH AND CHRIS DOW
STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT & VICE-
PRESIDENT 2019-2020





22% Turnout
in the SU 2020
Elections



285 votes through
'Students Say',
our online ideas
zone from 17
submissions



Academic
Interest
Award
nominations



64
**Course
Reps
Recruited**



11 New
Council
Policies
passed



9 SU on Tours,
with 246
Submissions: Our
way of sampling
the pulse of
student opinion



4 student
led staff
winners
awarded

Course Rep Conference

Student Course Reps met each other in February to discuss themes and share insight with Margaret House (Vice Chancellor, Leeds Trinity University). 15 Course reps were supported to feed back on course effecting topics.

"The Students' Union has been an amazing help to me this year. From the start of university, Union staff have made themselves known to new students and made the effort to get to know them and build good professional relationships. This has resulted in me feeling comfortable to approach the Union and utilise the support provided by the them. Having participated in many events run by the Union it created opportunities for me to meet new people and develop new skills! This March I campaigned in the elections and Union was very helpful and made sure all the candidates were well briefed and supported through the journey. The Union has made a very positive impact on me and I am sure will continue do so for me and many others alike."

- Vinay Verma, Primary Education Student



VINAY
VERMA,
Student Council
Chair
2020-2021

Chris Combats Climate Change

Green Impact

Projects that formed our Green Impact accreditation include :

- **‘Go Green & Fairtrade’ Week** - Our SU Shop sold items from Fair Trade.
- **‘Meat Free Monday’** - Reduced meat free meal offers in StUdio.
- **‘People & Planet Workshop’** - A guest speaker led a workshop for students.
- **‘Throw away Thursday’** - 3 Large bin bags of clothing were collected from our venues.

“Being involved in all the green impact campaigning has been fantastic and it is not just about environmentally driven change through things like recycling and the use of ebooks to reduce our carbon footprint, it’s also about engaging in social change and wellbeing.”

- Lauren Thomas, 3rd Year Forensic Psychology,
SU Sustainability Officer 2019-2020.

Divestment

Divestment is one way we can help to weaken the fossil fuel industry; it also shows the commitment from our University to a greener future. Our University has now pledged to never invest in Fossil Fuel companies and exclude the fossil fuel industry from their investment portfolio whilst introducing publicly accessible ethical investment policy.

“Getting our University to divest from fossil fuels is such a big achievement I never thought could happen at a small university like ours. This goes to show the impact the SU has and how it cares about the future of us students today and the students of tomorrow.”

- James Austin, 3rd Year Secondary Physical Education
and Sports Coaching



Chris Combats Dehydration

Exam Stress

During January exams and deadlines we handed out over 1000 Volvic (recyclable) water bottles with Chris' Top 5 Tips to relieve exam stress. This was to support students during their studies reminding them to take breaks for their mental health and wellbeing.

"During my January deadline I was stuck in the library constantly and stressing about my deadlines and then comes along Chris with a bottle of water and his top tips. You don't understand how much these helped me relax and realise what I needed to do to help myself. The presence around campus the SU has helps in so many ways that they probably don't realise they have, just from the friendly faces to the freebees."

- Lucy Povah, 2nd Year Primary Education Early Years

Emma Stevenson

(Representative for institute of childhood and education) provided us feedback from her department's students.

They wanted more water coolers around campus. The idea was posted by her on 'Student Say'.

It got enough likes to be raised at Student Council. It passed and the idea was actioned by the President.

Through discussion and collaboration with University staff the idea became reality.



Chris Combats Health and Equality

Cabin Fever & Weekly Quiz

During the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK's lockdown we put together a series of exercise videos for students to join in with and engage with during the lockdown. This gave students a friendly face and daily activity to do. As well as this we produced a weekly interactive live quiz night. The engagement seen over 6,000 views on Facebook from our followers for these activities.

Rainbow Laces

4 in 10 LGBT* people don't think sport is welcoming. Sport has an amazing power to bring people together. So, to help bridge this we support all our clubs and societies as inclusive as possible. To support a national campaign the SU purchased over 350 rainbow laces for our members who wore them in support of LGBT* in Sport.

"The rainbow laces campaign really helped unite teams throughout sports bringing awareness and inclusivity across the university. Not only did it unite teams but gave individuals the power to let them know it's okay to show their true colours without fear of rejection."

- Rachel Ward, 1st year Criminology and Policing Student

GP Dual Registration

Was a collaboration with Leeds Citizens to solve students' problems with registering with their local GP's. The campaign achieved a specific "University Students" page, which now has links to the relevant page on LTU and Students' Union website. The practices website was upgraded to allow online registrations and students can now access forms.



Zoha Addresses Food Choice



Food Choice & Value

StUdio began to cater for students with inclusive food requirement since September but our new January menu had 22 Halal and 4 different vegan options.

“As a Muslim student I use to find it hard to eat on campus in my first year, although I lived on campus, I never ate on campus. This year, thanks to Studio, I’ve spent more time on main campus with my friends.”

- Fizza Masood, 2nd Year Student

“The SU shop is amazing, it’s so cheap compared to the rest of campus and even the local shops, it gives me a place to grab my lunch, a drink and sometimes even essentials. Its saved me so many times with its supplies of stationary!”

- Robbie Dyson, 2nd Year Sports Coaching

“Being Vegan means it can be hard to eat out sometimes and in recent years it’s been hard to eat on campus, but since the opening of StUdio it has meant I don’t have to worry about not bringing a lunch in as they always have options for me and at a cheap reasonable price.”

- Laura Pickering, 2nd Year Primary Education Early Years

Chris and Zoha Combat Voting

National Elections

So many students lose their voice when coming to University by not being able to vote from their new address. We supported our members ability to register at their secondary university address incentivising with 300 advent calendars and 200 muffins all with a handy polling day reminder.

“Over the Past Year the SU has done a great job at providing more events on campus and to create social spaces, such as StUdio, to help more people feel a part of the Trinity Community. Along with this the campaigns the SU have ran have helped students gain a better understanding of different situations and what part they could play. Chris’ register to vote campaign is a great example of this. Educating students on the importance of their vote and the difference they could make.”

- Frances Bridgewater, 2nd Year Physical Education

“The SU helped me realise I could be registered at two addresses and that I could vote here at university as I was worried I would not be able to vote due to me living so far away and not able to get home in time to place my vote. Other incentives such as the Taxis and free food on the polling day helped me get down to vote.”

- Charlotte Parker, 2nd Year Media and Marketing

National Elections 2019 (Polling day)

The Union supported voter turnout with taxis to the local polling station with 83 students taking advantage of free food in StUdio for making the walk down the hill to vote.

“During the National Elections our Students’ Union made a massive push to make sure students were registered and ready to vote. They offered free rewards such as advent calendars and snacks just for registering. I thought it was fantastic that they also educated students on the elections as for many it would be their first General Election where, they were eligible to vote.”

- Jamie Heron, Journalism Masters





110

students supported one to one



25

students supported with academic related issues



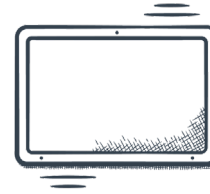
2/3rd

undergraduates trained in mental health awareness



100+

students attended Housing Fair



12

health related screenings



New

Launch of new Sexual health services



Free

sanitary products available via SU Shop



4

events held Black History Month



10

Virtualised Events/Videos/ Posts for Mental Health Awareness Week



3

Wellbeing Outreach events



20

student referrals through SU Shop



3

collaborative events for World Mental Health Day



5

students supported with hardship vouchers via the SU Shop

"The Students' Union have always been there, whether I needed advice, needed help with a lecturer or was hungry! My university experience would not have been the same without the support or these vital and positive members of the team. The support they show is second to none and I'm so grateful for all they do."

- Laura Edmonds, SU Student Trustee

"The SU has helped me more than I could ever imagine. I am a disabled Student and when the extensions system was updated, I couldn't apply for extensions I was eligible for. Having emailed the SU, Chris (SU Vice President) came out of his way to find me that day on campus to discuss what he could do. The SU team then worked quickly and managed to rectify it before the end of the day. They're amazing and willing to help anyone with any issues!"

- Chelsea Tweed, 3rd year Philosophy Ethics and Religion



"The welcome packs the SU provided when I first moved to campus really helped me, giving me all the vital information, I needed and where I could go for support! I loved all the freebies they provided too, they all come in handy. The SU ran an amazing Freshers week where it enabled me to meet so many others and helped me make the friends I have today! They did so many events, and a wide range too, so there was something for everyone."

- Jack Clarke-Scott, 1st Year Sports



"Being involved in a sports team has made my university experience 10x better than what it would have been. Without the SU running and organising games and events I wouldn't have made the amount of friend I have today, and Wednesdays wouldn't be my favourite day if the week!"

- Beth Maull,

Masters in Mental Health in Children and Young People

"Coming to Trinity from another University meant I hardly knew anyone when joining and not living on campus meant it would be hard for me to make friends and meet new people, but with the SU creating so many opportunities through the events they do meant I had no problem in meeting and making new friends, I really owe it to them!"

- Hannah Lee, PGCE Primary Education (QTS)

37

Clubs and society,
8 new

616

Club and Society
members

167

Sports
fixtures

25

social supported
via our venues

31

Freshers week
events, 50% of
which were non-
alcoholic

"The support and advice I have received from the SU has been brilliant, I am going into my second year as the Chairman of Men's Football and they are part of the reason I decided to run for the role. I feel with the support from Chris (SU Vice President) and Harry (SU staff) I can approach any situation and have played a massive part in helping me run the football club successful on and off the field. The training I have received from them will stay with me throughout my coaching career and it has been a great opportunity."

- Bobbie Athey, 2nd Year Sport, Health & Physical Education

"The Union has helped me gain confidence at University and has helped me make amazing friends. It provided me with plenty of opportunities to make the most out of my experience. All of that allowed me to enjoy my time at University to the fullest."

**- Rachael Chapman,
3rd year Theology and Religious student**

"Being a Law student can be challenging so to be given the opportunity to unwind and focus on my wellbeing once a week before hitting reality relaxed my body and mind plus the hot chocolate after the session was a yummy bonus!"

- Rhiarnae Campbell, 2nd Year Law student, 'Give it a Go' participant

45 students have been employed by the Union

This has put £67,952 back in the pockets of students. You tell us employment is important to you. Our 'not for profit' StUdio and Shop hire and develop our student staff.

86 recognised on their Academic transcripts

We value our volunteer impact on the student experience. To support this, we collaborate with the University for recognition on transcripts.

'Very Good' Green Impact

Our students' care about the environment. You asked us to reduce our impact, so we undertake NUS Green Impact Award annually.

"It's been great working for the SU as it has allowed me to have flexible working hours around my studies and gives me some income, the working environment is amazing and I have met so many friends through working here and helped me as a first year feel at home here at Leeds Trinity."

- Evie Mai Hudson, 1st Year Primary Education, StUdio Staff Member



Very Good

**NUS Green Impact
Students' Unions**

1 New social space, StUdio, created on campus

You asked us to make campus more entertaining. We brought you Sky Sports, BT sport, Pub Games and a new area to socialise in.



“StUdio has been such a great addition to our campus it gives us a place to rest bite whilst on campus. It feels student owned and is so much better than previous years. The food options are cheap and affordable but also tasty and they give me the opportunity to watch Live Sports on Sky & BT!”

**- Josh Illman,
3rd year Secondary Physical Education and Sports Education**

“StUdio is a great social space for everyone at the uni. It is welcoming and has lots to do like play pool, music, sports, food and drinks amongst others. I have enjoyed it as it’s convenient for me and is so cheap compared to other places. When visiting during an open day and when I arrived so much had changed and it has made my first year so much better than I thought it would have been!”

- Joshua Harris, 1st year Sports Psychology

“Since the SU took over from Lounge and created StUdio the campus feels as if it has a more community and lively atmosphere, giving us Students our own space to work, play and rest in whilst on campus. It’s made me stay around Uni a lot more.”

- Laura Holdsworth, 2nd Year Physical Education

BIG PLAN TIMELINE

2017

Winner of NUS
Students' Union of
the Year
nus
AWARDS
2017



2017
WINNER

Winner of
Educate
North
Students'
Union of
the Year

Flagship
'Big Plan'
2017-20
Launched



2018

Inaugural
Sports Varsity
vs
York St John SU



Inaugural 'Quality
Students' Union'
award achieved

Volunteers now
recognised on their
academic transcripts

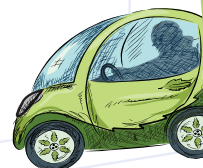
2019

StUdio
FOOD AND DRINK / DAY AND NIGHT

Opened a new
social space,
StUdio



Opened the
SU SHOP



Divestment
Campaign
achieved



2020

Beyond 2020
research completed

'Student Say'
Library lockers achieved

STUDENTS
say

'Student Say'
Microwaves achieved



What about 2020 and beyond?

Our 'Beyond 2020' research began to inform Leeds Trinity SU's next strategic plan, signalling the end of our previous strategy, 'The Big Plan'. The research undertaken for Beyond 2020 aimed to carry out a modified series of activities so as not to repeat what had gone before.

The areas of inquiry outlined for this project were as follows:

- Understanding what existing Leeds Trinity SU activity is important to students and other key stakeholders.
- Defining the impact of Leeds Trinity SU.
- Student needs and wants.
- Engaging with specific student groups (Mature, BAME, Postgraduates, Foundation, Apprenticeship and Commuting students).
- Developing a student hierarchy of needs and how Leeds Trinity SU's work compliments these.
- Defining membership of the SU and what it means to students.

BEYOND 2020



*New strategic plan
coming soon!*

BEYOND 2020



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your Students'
Union is doing at:**

www.LTSU.co.uk



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