

The SU Impact Report

2025/26



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Introduction to the Impact Report

The 2025/26 SU Impact Report has been written to give you an overview of just some of the key work, achievements and impacts The SU has made to making students' lives at the University of Bath the best they can be.

We are at the end of year 2 of our current strategy 'Students making student life happen' and have seen our key performance indicator scores not only increase from year 1 but exceed the targets we set ourselves for year 2.

We have also seen tremendous success this year, receiving our highest National Student Survey (NSS) score for the question related to The SU, being named in the top ten students' unions in the UK in the StudentCrowd rankings, seen increases in students engaging in SU Groups and elections, breaking records for attendance at the Anniversary Game and of course reclaiming the Varsity trophy with a triumphant win at home.

None of this would be possible without all the work of our Student Leaders, SU Officers and SU staff to support students to make student life happen.

All content in this Impact Report is correct at the time of writing and has been collated from SU area reports, student data and insights and feedback collection. All photos, unless otherwise specified have been taken by The SU.



Foreword from The SU President 2026/27

There is nothing more rewarding than reaching the end of the year and seeing just how much we have accomplished. The collective efforts of The SU staff, Student Leaders, volunteers, and the wider student community have delivered some truly incredible outcomes and given us much to celebrate.

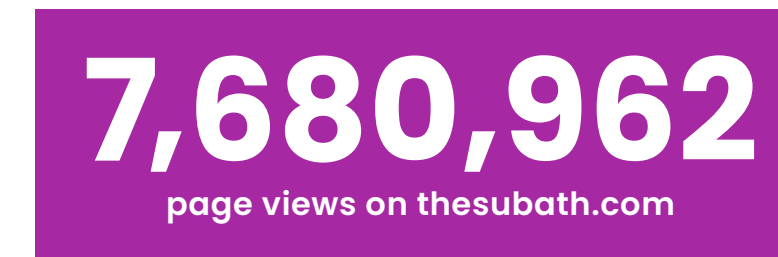
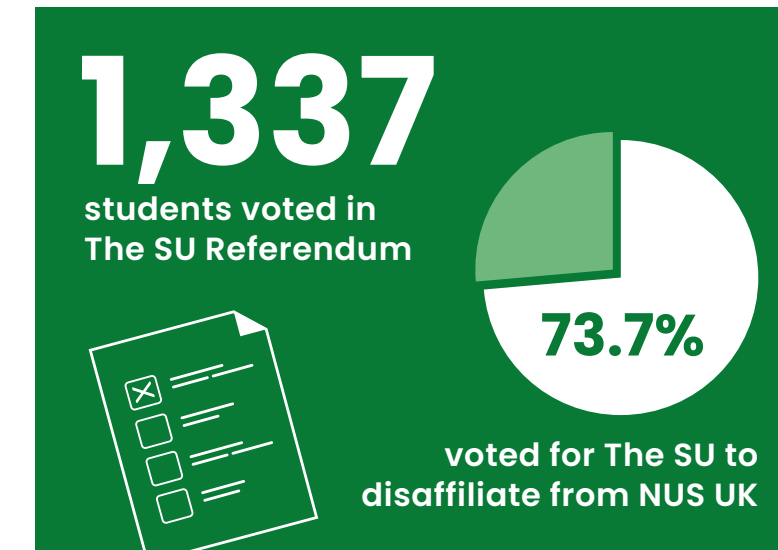
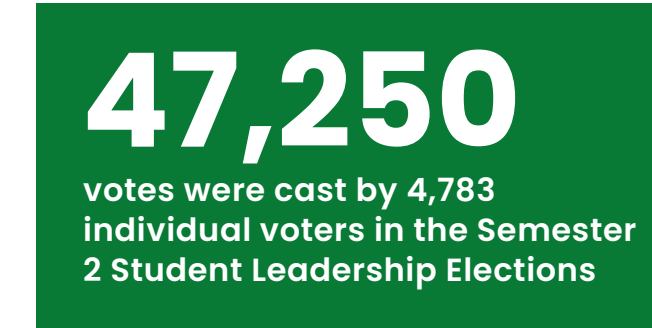
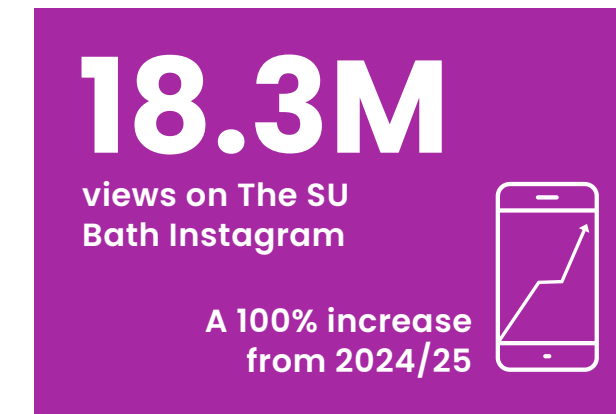
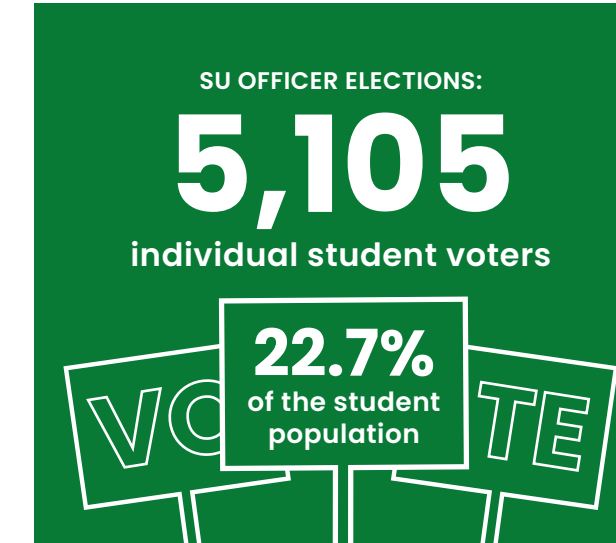
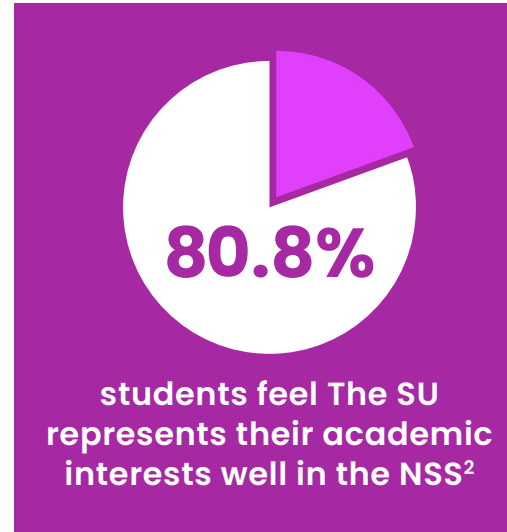
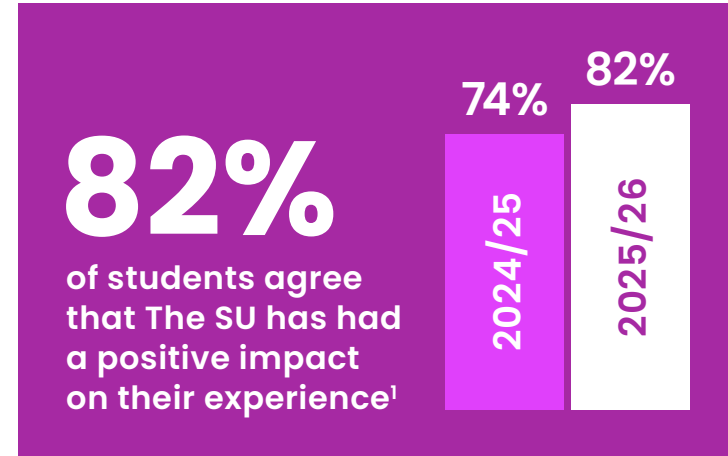
I am amazed at the sheer number of students who engage in our leadership and volunteer programs. They are central to the existence of a huge part of our offer; our societies, sports clubs, arts, campaigns and so much more. Not only do they impact our community with purpose and passion, but these opportunities are great for a student's own personal development.

This report is just part of a much bigger story, one that will continue long after I have finished my time in office, but I am proud to have been part of this chapter. At the end of the day, 'what we do' gives us purpose, but 'how we do it' defines us; as an organisation and community I believe we continue to challenge ourselves to be among the very best in the world.

Enjoy the read!

Angus Gueterbock, SU President 2026/27

The SU in numbers



Awards and Achievements



10th students' union in the UK – StudentCrowd

Thanks to student reviews submitted to StudentCrowd³ The SU Bath was ranked as a top ten UK students' union. *"This is the first time where I have seen the societies and clubs host so many events. Every week there are some new events that you can attend and engage in!"* (Anonymous student reviewer)



Best Bar None – Gold

The SU's venues, The Plug and The Tub, were awarded Gold Best Bar None (the highest standard) showing our commitment to a high level of customer service and safety, a standard The SU has achieved for at least the past 15 years.



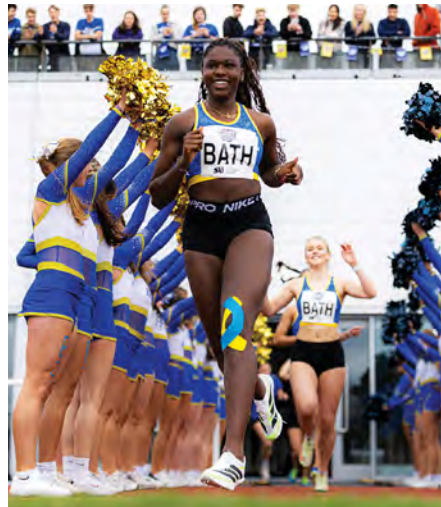
Very Good achieved – Green Impact

The SU Bath achieved 'Very Good' for its Green Impact Award⁴ submission. An increase of 115 points and a 'Good' status in 2024/25, a 76% improvement in one year in recognition of the work undertaken by Student Leaders, SU Officers and SU staff.

British Universities and Colleges Sport

The University of Bath placed 7th in the BUCS table, retaining this position for a second year running, and an increase from 9th in 2023/24.

At BUCS Nationals held in Sheffield, Bath students delivered an outstanding weekend of student sport across athletics, swimming, fencing, karate, badminton and climbing, bringing home 27 medals including 6 gold.



Varsity winners

2025/26 saw Bath reclaiming Varsity with a huge 84 – 46 victory over Cardiff Met in front of a 5,335 strong crowd.

359 Bath student athletes competed in a variety of sports from rugby to wheelchair basketball. The event saw even more student involvement, student staff worked the bars, Cheerleading and dance groups performed during half time intervals, Backstage provided technical support, and Bath Student Media provided live coverage throughout the day.

"The best part of Varsity was seeing everyone come together to celebrate different sports for a fun day – as well as obviously performing at half time." Performer at Varsity 2026⁵

"As an athlete, it felt like a celebration of the University not just our individual sports. There were sports I wasn't even aware had clubs at Bath that I feel Varsity gave a platform and visibility too." Athlete at Varsity 2026⁶

SU staff recognised at University Staff Recognition Awards

The SU received two awards at the University's 2026 Staff Recognition Awards. The Marketing and Communications Manager and Head of Commercial Services and Social Enterprise were awarded the Enhancing Student Experience Team Award, recognising their work supporting Student Leaders to deliver Freshers' Week 2025. The SU's Wellbeing Champions (staff) received the Supporting Colleagues Team Award, recognising the commitment to staff wellbeing.

University Sustainability Awards

The SU and our SU Groups were recognised at the University's Sustainability Awards for their commitment to sustainability in 2025/26. The SU Activities Officer won the Leading Sustainability in the Community Award for embedding long-term change that will benefit students, future SU Officers and The SU. The People and Planet Society was also nominated in this category for their advocacy and campaigning. In the category, Sustainable Student Group of the Year (a new award introduced to celebrate the inspiring work of student-led groups) six SU Groups were nominated, Bath Crochet Society, Backstage, Bath University Green Party, V-Repair and Sustainable Fashion Society, with Women's Rugby Club winning the award. Find out more about The SU's work on sustainability in our Spotlight on Sustainability section on page 24.

Student Fundraising

Starting the academic year strong, The SU won Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year 2025 at Radio Bath's Charity Awards for our Race to Paris event which saw £20,500 being raised by students earlier in 2025.

Throughout the year, 120 fundraising events and activities took place, raising over £193,500 for charities by students and SU Groups.

On receipt of a £12,500 donation from student-led fundraising events:



This year many of our SU Groups celebrated huge achievements, below are just some highlights reported by The SU over the year, and of course there are many more:

- ChaOS (Choral and Orchestral Society) sold over 1,100 tickets for their highly successful Jazz Night at The Forum.
- Bath Jets Cheerleaders celebrated success as National Champions in two categories.
- URB (University Radio Bath) won silver at the Student Radio Awards.
- STAR (Student Action for Refugees) were nominated for a B&NES Community Award.
- BUSMS' (Bath University Student Musical Society) 30th anniversary was celebrated with a performance at the Guildhall showcasing three decades of student-led musical theatre excellence.

We are so proud of all our Student Leaders and SU Groups who have been recognised by nominations or awards this year, or who have achieved huge successes and milestones all of which improve the student experience at Bath.



Raising such a significant amount requires not only commitment but a genuine belief in the cause. Your hard work demonstrates remarkable empathy and community spirit. The energy and enthusiasm you brought to your campaigns show the impact students can make when they unite for a cause that matters... Your support will make a lasting difference, both in the services we provide and in the lives of survivors of domestic abuse in Bath. You have helped create hope, resilience, and a path toward recovery for those navigating some of life's most challenging experiences."
Voices Charity

³<https://www.studentcrowd.com/> ⁵Varsity 2026 Feedback form
⁴<https://greenimpact.nus.org.uk/> ⁶Varsity 2026 Feedback form

Representative Student Voice

Having a clear student voice represented via University, local and national platforms is a central pillar of The SU Bath. This is two-fold, The SU is the voice of students and advocates on behalf of students on issues which impact them, and secondly we empower students to represent themselves and their peers.

The SU represents student voice through a range of mechanisms including formal representative roles, SU Summit and Standpoints, SU Top Ten, campaigning and responding to consultations. By developing our students and Student Leaders to represent themselves and others we are showing them how they can have impact and influence over their student experience.

82% of students agreed that The SU effectively represents students' views on University issues⁷ a 10 percentage point increase from 2024/25.

⁷The SU Survey 2026



Megan Johnstone, Bath Time Editor-In-Chief and SUMmit member 2025/26

As a member of SUMmit and Bath Time Editor-In-Chief Megan reflected on the experience of representing student voice in decision-making and making positive change.

"I feel like a very informed student. I know a lot about The SU and I sit on SUMmit as well, I see a lot of the debates that happen behind closed doors. I think it's very special to feel like you have an impact on what happens at university. I learned so many skills that went on my CV that I could talk to in my job interviews.

Students have come to me as well saying 'these are the issues we've had' due to my roles. We did an investigative article into the STV (Sports Training Village) and there were actionable changes that the STV made because of our article. Stuff like that is always great to see, to see that we've made a change and we had an impact."

Students exercising their democratic voice

One of the key ways that students can have their say is by electing their peers who they wish to represent the student voice or lead in student communities. In 2025/26 The SU saw increases in engagement across its range of online elections.

A successful SU Officer Election period saw 24 candidates standing across 6 positions.

5,105 individual students voted in The SU Officer Elections, resulting in a 22.7% voter turnout. This shows continuous steady increases in student engagement with SU Officer Elections post Covid-19 (The SU saw a 12.2% turnout in 2022). The election concluded with two Officers from 2025/26 returning for a second term (the Education Officer in the same role and the Sports Officer being elected as SU President). For the first time since 2020/21 the Postgraduate and International Officer (previously Postgraduate Officer) role saw a doctoral student elected to the position.

High levels of engagement in SU elections continued into the Semester 2 Student Leader elections where 4,783 individual students voted for representatives and leaders ready for 2026/27.



80% of candidates were studying at an undergraduate level, 15% at a postgraduate taught level and 5% at doctoral level.

35% of candidates were international fee payers, which is a higher representation when compared to registered students.

70% of candidates identified as female, significantly higher than the University weighting (46%).

Supporting student voice at an individual level

SU Advice and Support exists to provide non-judgemental and impartial support to students. Both providing students with the information and support they need and empowering them to navigate complex issues such as academic processes, disciplinary procedures and housing rights.

In 2025/26 Advisors supported 862 student cases. 97% of students accessing SU Advice and Support reported feeling more able to cope with the problems they had encountered following engagement with the Advisors⁸.

During May 2026 SU Advice and Support provided advice on Individual Mitigating Circumstances (IMCs) to 153 students. During this period the Advisors were able to identify trends and through the Education Officer, as part of The SU Top Ten work addressing inclusive assessment policies, were able to work with Academic Registry to increase clarity and accessibility for the IMC process.



[The] personal human feel to the advice given was exactly what I needed and in the world of AI it was nice to feel that I was speaking to someone who actually cared.⁹

Anonymous student

Top Ten priority issues 2025/26

2025/26 saw The SU launch its 16th annual Top Ten priority issues. Using insight from student feedback and emerging issues, SU Officers created a varied list of issues on which to work in partnership with the University. Some of the key outcomes from the Top Ten this year were as follows.

Invest in accessible storage for student activities & sports to allow student groups to grow their offer.

Significant improvements were made to the capacity of storage space for SU Groups due to a programme of clear-outs, organisation and reassignment of spaces. An impactful outcome was new accessible storage space created for the Wheelchair Basketball team opening up new possibilities for the sport to grow.

Ensure the University sets and delivers ambitious new sustainability targets, including revised goals on Net Zero and sustainable education, to prepare all students for a climate conscious future.

As part of the University's Energy Strategy, the University announced that it would be moving towards a renewable electricity supply to help decarbonise across campus. In addition to this, The SU lobbied for student involvement in consultations relating to the development of the Energy Strategy and Divestment Policy. Furthermore, a sustainability framework is being developed to engage all students with sustainability from everyday actions and learning, to taking this into their future employment.



Expand the accessibility and sensory experiences of University hospitality and study spaces for neurodivergent students.

With the increase of neurodivergent students at the University, The SU lobbied for changes to hospitality outlets and a new accessible and neuroinclusive study space. A truly collaborative project, working with Campus Services, student-led Disability Action Group, Centre for Applied Autism Research and using research developed by students in the Department of Psychology, several key outcomes were put in place. Most notably, the opening of Woodland Lounge in 2026, a neuroinclusive study lounge made for calm study and restoration.

SU Officers revisited a topic originally proposed in the Top Ten in 2014/15 and secured a University-run Guarantor Scheme for international students, student carers, Widening Participation students and estranged students (communities of students who often struggle securing a UK-based guarantor). The anticipated impact will be a saving of £525 per student, based on current average fees charged by external companies for this service.

Student voice within the University

The Academic Representative system continues to be a key structure for students to engage with to share theirs and their peers' voices to their course, or programme of research. In 2025/26, 529 taught level Academic Representatives were in post. 40% of Academic Representatives reported that their motivation to take on the role was linked to improving the student experience or their sense of responsibility to represent others.¹⁰

In 2025/26 doctoral representation structures were updated to meet the needs of doctoral students, with 27 Doctoral Reps being in post during the year. Changes to recruitment and ways in which The SU engages with this group of representatives has led to an increased commitment and engagement from Doctoral Reps. This has enabled The SU to gather more insight into the doctoral experience and for Doctoral Reps to represent their peers more effectively.

It's not just the academic experience where we see students representing their peers to the University. In 2025/26 78 Hall Reps represented students living in University managed halls of residence, attending regular Hall Forums to share feedback from hall residents.

Following a proposal to change doctoral graduations The SU and Doctoral Reps gathered 489 responses from doctoral students in 48 hours to represent student views at Senate. This resulted in an overturn of the proposals in response to the strength in student feeling.

Student voice within the local community

Representing students in the local community has been important in 2025/26. One of the key methods was inputting into Bath & North East Somerset's Local Plan. SU Officers submitted a response to the Local Plan proposals, providing detailed responses on four of the proposals which could have the biggest impact on students, the Sulis Club, Houses of Multiple Occupation conversions, Claverton Down expansion and Bath Quays development.

Student voice nationally

The SU Sport Officer saw huge success leading a campaign to protect sports facilities and playing fields in the UK. The campaign centred around ensuring Sport England retained its statutory role as a consultee in local planning, playing a vital role in protecting playing fields.



A letter, co-signed by 35 students' unions and 19 universities, representing nearly 900,000 students, was sent to key parliamentary decision makers including the Prime Minister, Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, and the Director General for Regeneration, Housing and Planning.

A reply from the Undersecretary of State for Housing and Local Government and the Minister of State for Housing and Planning was received. The campaign successfully influenced discussions regarding national policy and proposals for requirements and guidance in planning applications to protect sports and recreational facilities and spaces. It was also confirmed that Sport England would remain engaged in the planning system through consultation and targeted notifications relating to developments impacting playing fields and sports infrastructure.

¹² ⁸SU Advice and Support Service Feedback Form 2025/26

⁹SU Advice and Support Service Feedback Form 2025/26 Anonymous student

¹⁰Academic Representative Feedback Form 2025/26 **13**

Building Communities and Engagement

For many students, their first engagement with The SU will be through our community building events, activities and SU Groups. Creating belonging through increased engagement and reducing student loneliness, The SU supports students to find and build their community throughout their time as a student at Bath.

Communities can be built around a student's course, accommodation, interests, backgrounds and beliefs, and The SU provides spaces and opportunities for students to come together to do this.

76% of students agreed that The SU positively contributes to their sense of belonging¹¹ a 16 percentage point increase from 2024/25.

73% of students agreed that they had felt an increased sense of belonging as a result of attending an SU event or activity or using an SU space.¹²

14 ¹¹The SU Survey 2026
¹²The SU Survey 2026



Mariam Mahmoud, Bath Islamic Society Chair 2025/26

Mariam told The SU about her time at the University and how being a member of, and then Chair of, the Islamic Society helped her to feel part of a community.

"I've made good friendships through being a part of my Society. Friendships that I think will last a lifetime for sure. It is like making a family away from home. I walk around, I see people from The SU, people from the Chaplaincy, and I can go talk to them about anything, they're like my aunts and uncles all around campus. It's a lovely experience. It really made university feel like a home."

Being an international student is incredibly difficult, feeling homesick all the time. Last year I felt homesick a lot, this year, not that I don't feel homesick, but that feeling has lessened a lot because I have my people. I have people to support me, people to help me navigate through life and celebrate my achievements and help me through times of sadness."

Freshers' Week 2025 and core events

Starting from day one, with The SU's Freshers' Week, new students of all levels of study can meet others through organised activities or sometimes just by standing next to someone in a queue. The SU delivered more than 160 events and recorded over 11,700 check ins throughout Freshers' Week 2025 supported by 1,987.5 of student volunteer hours. We reported earlier in the year on our Freshers' Week 2025 impact and are exceptionally proud of SU staff, SU Officers, Student Leaders, and volunteers coming together to help new students, at all levels of study, to come together and make connections.

Throughout the year The SU ran a programme of core events for students, providing opportunities for students to meet new people or strengthen their friendships.

In 2025/26...

649 students came together at the SU Groups Masquerade Ball

2,600 sport members celebrated the end of Semester 1 at the Snow Ball

3,091 students brought the year to an end at the Summer Ball

210 postgraduate students celebrated the summer at the PG Party



SU Groups

SU Groups offer students the chance to join sports clubs, societies based on interests, academic departments, backgrounds and beliefs, volunteering groups, student media, and groups supporting students from underrepresented communities.

Half of SU Group members reported in the SU Group Members Survey that they had joined an SU Group to meet new people, and 8 out of 10 felt that being a member helped them feel more connected to the student community and the Group provided them with a sense of belonging¹³. Therefore, it is great to see in 2025/26 54% of students at the University of Bath¹⁴ joining at least one SU Group.

In 2025/26, The SU supported 159 societies, with 6,534 students joining at least one society. This continues to be an area of growth, with students identifying opportunities for new societies and applying for affiliation with The SU. In 2025/26, 39 new societies were approved. By providing students with the opportunity to establish and lead their own groups, The SU demonstrates its flexibility and commitment to supporting students in creating communities that reflect their interests and needs.

Our Faith and Cultural Societies have increased to 59 and continue to bring students together to celebrate and share their faith and culture, creating a thriving multi-cultural and diverse student community.

We know that food is a great connector of people and a way to link to home. This year, in a fantastic example of partnership with Campus

Services, several of our Faith and Cultural Societies delivered No Plates Like Home, sharing their favourite dishes from home with students and staff.

The SU supported SU Groups further by awarding over £11,700 from The SU's Societies Membership Fund to societies to support 46 projects including performances and shows, conferences, camping trips, equipment to support events and to support newly formed societies to grow and thrive.

This year a new PG Network was launched. In its first year 20 students nominated themselves for a position on the network's committee, successfully filling all 6 roles. 68 students attended a quiz night, the first event, which was held both in person and remotely to support participation of part time and distance learning students. Over the year, events run by the network were attended by nearly 300 postgraduate students (PGT and doctoral). The SU PG Instagram account saw an increase of over 660 followers following the launch of the Network.

Student engagement with sport continues to grow with 9,937 Sport Club memberships purchased (7,054 individual students), 56 active clubs and 366 recorded students accessing Bath Active sessions. Students are creating connections and building a sense of belonging through sport whether at a social or competitive level. 2025/26 saw the third annual SU Bath World Cup bringing together 16 teams from Faith and Cultural Societies in a friendly competition.

Our SU Groups have had a busy year...

OVER **300**
student event
planners
submitted for
student-led
events

900+
hours of student
events were
held in Scala
Hall in the heart
of Oldfield Park

OVER **210**
vehicle bookings
were processed
helping students
to get to where
they need to go.



Communities in accommodation

Supporting students living in the University's managed halls of residence alongside the work of the University's Res Life Team is a key approach to support students feel connected with others. The SU's Hall Reps ran student-led events throughout the year with over 830 hall residents attending events.

“

“The event helped residents socialise, build connections, and feel more comfortable within the hall community. It created a welcoming environment, encouraged participation, and strengthened relationships among attendees.”

Aditya Abhijeet, Hall Rep Canal Wharf accommodation, reflecting on their board game winter social

Furthermore, The SU supported 245 students to find housemates for 2026/27 at the Housemate Finder events. Helping those students who may have had difficulties in building networks during their first year.

16 ¹³SU Group Members Survey 2025

¹⁴Based on students registered at the University of Bath on a non Distance Learning course

Positive Health & Wellbeing

The SU helps students to succeed through activities to improve student wellbeing. This can be through SU delivered activities and services, and through peer-to-peer support.

Promoting positive health and wellbeing for students starts with our work building communities and reducing loneliness. The Be Well Survey (annual survey run jointly by the University and The SU) for many years has shown that students who report low wellbeing also report high loneliness (and vice versa), therefore it is important not to consider one without the other.

82% of students agreed that The SU has had a positive impact on their experience at university.¹⁵

70% of students agreed that The SU provides useful advice to students.¹⁶



Fayyaz Ahmed, Bath Challenge Chair 2025/26

Fayyaz reflected on winning the Rob Tyrrell Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution at the 2026 SU Awards and on their time involved in The SU.

"I won the Rob Tyrrell Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution. It felt amazing because it felt like a lot of the time that I spent here, I've been trying to build something that means something to people. I got involved with fundraising mainly because through my sales role [in The SU], I spoke to a company that offers this kind of fundraising initiative, and I thought I want to get involved myself and then felt like I could start Bath Challenge. I met some of my best friends ever and now we're here one year later."

It's been eye opening for me because I'm coming to the end of my university experience now and at first I was a little sad about it and that's okay. It's good to be sad about things. It means it was it was a good experience."

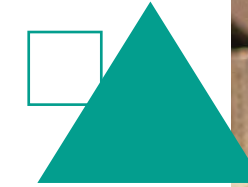
Taking a break

To balance the academic pressures that come from studying at university, The SU facilitates events and activities to help students to take a step back and balance their time.

This year 350 students enjoyed Bath and Beyond SU Trips, giving them a day away exploring attractions and cities across the UK. Postgraduate and international students have high engagement in these trips and trip-goer feedback showed that students valued the trips as a way to meet others and visit new places.

Offering opportunities to unwind, connect and try something new creatively was welcomed by students in 2025/26. 32 Feel Good Fridays, a free drop in creative space for students to come alone or with friends have been popular as a regular or one off creative activity. In addition, 14 standalone events such as Sip & Paints and seasonal workshops sold out, reaching over 550 students. This showed the importance of providing these downtime creative activities and spaces for students.

Offering students the chance to engage in something physical beyond the more structured sports clubs and Bath Active sessions came in the form of the Daily Mile Challenge. 245 students took part over 25 days promoting physical activity and wellbeing.



Giving back

Students have a long tradition of giving back through volunteering and fundraising. In 2025/26 through 120 fundraising events students have raised over £193,500 for charities and student opportunities, including ~£100,000 through Bath Challenge.

Movember events were another highlight of the year raising £63,800 across SU Groups, involving 600 students organising events or fundraising. The SU ranked 6th out of 120 UK universities during Movember and showed students coming together raising awareness and funds for men's mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. The University of Bath Rugby Club was the standout fundraiser, raising £31,181.75 which placed them 2nd in the UK for the Big Moustache on Campus challenge.

The SU V Team successfully ran 7 projects across the year including a STEM Day for secondary school girls, repair shops, gardening to support local wildlife and supporting men's mental health through the Dough Bros charity.

Student volunteer Sainica Jagatheeswaraiyer shared the experience of being involved in the V Team's V Code Day:



Seeing the girls' curiosity as they experimented with coding and asked questions was particularly inspiring, and it reminded me how powerful early exposure to technology can be in shaping confidence and interest. Overall, the experience left a lasting impression on me and strengthened my commitment to supporting initiatives that encourage more girls to explore technology and pursue opportunities in the field."

Sainica Jagatheeswaraiyer

Beyond V Team and fundraising, over 800 student applications were received for one-off or regular volunteering roles with local charities or supporting University or SU events demonstrating a clear sense of giving back amongst our student body.

Supporting students

In recognition of difficulties students still face as a result of the rising cost of living, The SU Pantry continued into Semester 1 2025/26. 639 students accessed The SU Pantry with 3,381 items distributed across a range of items, including food, household and hygiene products.



In 2025/26 The SU Pantry was managed by a Student Community Organiser, with some students accessing The SU Pantry expressing an interest in 'paying it forward' in the future through donations or volunteering in the future to support the provision.



I think The SU Pantry is amazing, especially for students who are struggling financially. I've been finding the prices in Bath really hard to manage, and without the pantry I wouldn't be able to afford to cook proper, healthy meals. A lot of my flatmates come from wealthier backgrounds, and I used to feel embarrassed about not being able to buy much food. Since using the pantry, I've been able to make meals that feel more normal, and it's helped me feel a lot less out of place when eating with everyone. I'm really grateful the pantry exists, it's made such a difference to me."

Anonymous user of The SU Pantry

A key milestone in the academic year for students is assessments. The SU has advice and information available to students year-round through Study Well and delivered a series of

events and activities at the end of Semester 2 including Bubbles on the Green, Inflatables, Feel Good Friday and Petting Farm. We saw lots of students engaging in the events, taking a well-deserved break from revision and relaxing.

A record breaking 915 peer mentors provided peer-to-peer support to undergraduate students, the PGT Buddy scheme supported postgraduate taught students and 22 Doctoral Peer Mentors supported 68 new doctoral students. All helped students with questions related to their course or programme of research and navigating the University or Bath.

Peer-to-peer support was also provided through Academic Peer Assisted Learning programmes with 2,600 students supported across 15 Departments with 64% of PAL Leaders reporting it had improved their leadership and facilitation skills.



*PAL sessions were very useful for me, especially in my first year. Having students lead the sessions was very insightful as they can draw on their personal experiences to guide us on coursework."*¹⁷

Anonymous student participant in Academic PAL

Personal Development & Employability

The SU is the body of students and therefore being student-led is central to everything we do. We saw this in students stepping up to represent others, running and leading our SU Groups, working in The SU and providing peer-to-peer support. Students consistently tell us that their experiences in The SU help to shape their development as a student beyond their academic studies and provide them with skills and experiences they can take into the next steps in their career or academic journey.

Ensuring that we are recognising and rewarding their time and energy and increasing the opportunities for students to lead is important to The SU to ensure that student leadership is sustainable into the future.

76% Student Leaders or SU Student Staff agreed the roles they have undertaken have supported their employability and personal development. 10 percentage point increase from 2024/25.



Hugo Whittome, Vegetarian Society and Bath Computer Science Society Treasurer 2025/26

Hugo took time to reflect on the journey taken through The SU and how this had developed skills and attributes to support their future career and life.

"I think the core aspect for me was that I had a bunch of friends who were really involved with The SU themselves, and they encouraged me to get involved more. That led me to go for Academic Rep in my second year, PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) leader, Lead Peer Mentor and a regular Peer Mentor. I also got involved with the Cyber Security Society in second year and through that I worked with the Department, who were extraordinarily encouraging. That boosted me and encouraged me to do projects such as the Computer Science Conference, where we got leading experts and University lecturers in a space and gave talks to the current Computer Science students."

It's built my confidence, from doing PAL sessions every week talking to students, to doing the Conference, it's built my resilience and my ability to do public speaking. It's given me a bunch of different, useful things. It's given me different experiences and skills that I wouldn't learn through other methods at the University. It's broadened my expectations and my skill set for future careers and living in general."



James Robinson, Rowing Club Chair 2025/26

James shared with The SU their experience of being the Chair of the Rowing Club and how this developed their leadership and communication skills, working with a range of stakeholders and managing projects.

"Chairing the Rowing Club has been the most rewarding experience of my time at university. It has challenged me in ways I never expected, requiring me to balance the needs of hundreds of members, make difficult decisions under pressure, and lead the club through some complex and unusual situations. While there have certainly been challenges along the way, seeing the positive impact that our work has had on so many students has made it incredibly worthwhile."

The role has significantly developed my leadership and communication skills. I've learnt that effective leadership is rarely about making decisions on your own, it's about listening to others, building trust, bringing people together behind a shared vision and remaining calm when things don't go to plan. Working with committee members, coaches, university staff, sponsors, alumni and students has taught me how important it is to build strong relationships and communicate openly with a wide range of people."

Above all, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved as a club. Knowing that more students are now able to get involved in rowing, and that we have created opportunities that will benefit members for years to come, is something I will always look back on with pride. The experience has given me confidence in my ability to lead, manage large projects and work collaboratively with others, and I know the skills I have developed will continue to benefit me throughout my career."



Student Leaders

When we say we couldn't achieve everything we do without our Student Leaders, we really do mean it. In 2025/26, 2,651 students gave up their time to improve the student experience by being an SU Student Leader. This year, The SU recorded 633 international students and 196 postgraduate students taking up a Student Leader role.

Student Leader roles:

- Academic, Doctoral or Faculty Reps
- Peer Mentors and PGT Buddies
- Committee members of SU Groups
- Student Trainers
- Hall Reps
- Freshers' Week Captains
- Peer Assisted Learning Leaders
- SU Exec members
- Summit members



Reward and Recognition

Recognising and rewarding our Student Leaders is a priority for The SU. In addition to giving students training and development, being able to acknowledge the great work our Student Leaders do through awards is something students look forward to each year.

In 2025/26 across the three awards evenings, 13 SU Groups and 195 individual students took home an award celebrating their achievements from the year.

The Education Awards saw 117 nominations for Academic Reps, Doctoral Reps, Peer Mentors and PAL Leaders across award 9 categories.

Over 400 nominations were received for the Annual SU Awards across 12 award categories. This awards evening recognised the work of SU Groups and individual members.



I was so grateful to have efforts recognised and rewarded and has been a massive motivation for me to contribute more in my fourth year.¹⁸
Student Leader

In the 52nd Annual Blues Awards 290 nominations were received for Sports Clubs or individual students, with 213 winners announced and recognised at the event.

Recognising our Student Leaders did not only come in the form of awards evenings. In 2025/26, in response to The SU's Top Ten priority issue in 2024/25 'Formalise an institutional policy regarding recognition of student leadership roles through providing credit and recognition on transcripts' the University in partnership with The SU launched the Bath Award. In this its pilot year, 218 students were awarded the Bath Award recognising their commitment to personal and professional development alongside their academic studies. 73 of these students held an SU Student Leader role. Whilst the Bath Award does not currently appear on transcripts, it represents a significant step forward to appreciating the value of students' extracurricular achievements and leadership.

Recognition also comes in the form of being able to showcase what our SU Groups do. We did this through our website highlighting SU Group achievements in news articles, and through our social media feeds. This year saw the installation of a new gallery wall in the Edge Events Space designed to give visual Arts Societies a dedicated platform to exhibit their work to users of the space. PhotoSoc (Photography Society) were the first society to display their photos giving their members a moment in the spotlight.



94%
of SU student staff feel proud to work in The SU.

100%
would recommend The SU as a good place to work.¹⁹

Student staff

The SU is a significant employer of University of Bath students. In 2025/26 The SU put £326,714 back into students' pockets through employing students in part-time jobs across The SU. This has helped students to not only gain experience and develop skills but also, at a time when students are dealing with increases in cost of living, much needed wages.

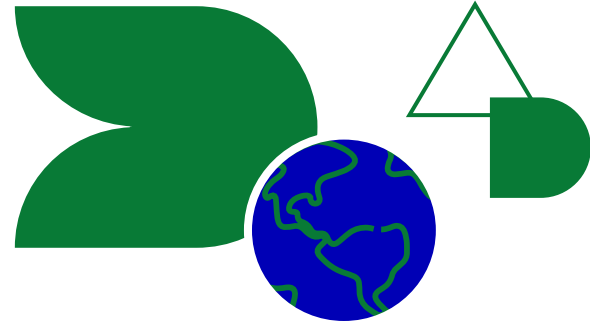
In The SU Student Staff Survey students spoke positively about the flexibility The SU offered around their studies, good rates of pay, and feeling valued and supported by their manager.

The SU Commercial and Social Enterprise Team have the highest number of students working to deliver a great experience for students through our venues and events. This area of The SU alone paid student staff £250,000 across the year.

2025/26 saw The SU opening new paid opportunities for students to work within The SU. Four Student Voice Facilitators (SVFs) were recruited to support the elected Undergraduate Faculty Representatives. The roles were specifically designed for these students to develop skills in project work and supporting others to represent student voices. The SVFs commented that they had particularly enjoyed the independence of the role.

This was also the second year that The SU participated in the University's Bath Insights Internship scheme with two interns supporting the Student Voice and Peer Support teams in summer 2026.

Spotlight on Sustainability



This year, The SU has taken a focus to embed sustainability across all areas of work and beyond individual environmental focused events or initiatives. This resulted in recognition not only within the University community, but also through the increase of 115 points in our Green Impact submission, leading to Green Impact awarding The SU Bath ‘Very Good’.

Students also recognised the increased importance placed on sustainability by The SU, with a 16 percentage point increase in students agreeing that The SU promotes and supports sustainability to 56%.²⁰

The Sustainability Badge

After a break, The SU’s Sustainability Award was reviewed, and a new Sustainability Badge for SU Groups was launched ready for 2026/27.

This badge celebrates all the sustainable actions SU Groups take, whether that’s hosting a vegetarian/vegan meal, choosing greener travel, running a recycling initiative, or delivering a sustainability-themed project. All SU Groups can apply, not just those who are sustainability-focused, thus increasing the reach of responsible, sustainable action.

Top Ten Work

As part of The SU Top Ten priorities, sustainability was included following student feedback showing that while 94% of students supported sustainability-related action, only 42% believed senior management was delivering on these issues.²¹

This year, the ask was put to the University to commit to a revised Sustainability Strategy, with stronger net-zero targets, clarity on how they’ll address Scope 3 emissions and a bigger focus on sustainable education.

Employers increasingly expect sustainability literacy, so The SU worked closely with the Careers Service to make sure students gain the skills they need.

New Sustainable SU Webpages

A large project this year has been transforming our sustainability information online. We’ve moved from a single long page to a full set of Sustainable SU webpages that guide visitors through past, present and future projects and ways for students to get involved.

The SUsustainable SU Student Forum

The SU launched a SUsustainable SU Student Forum. This platform brought together students who are passionate (or curious) about sustainability to meet, discuss and help influence how The SU approaches sustainability.

Sustainable SU Action Plan

A Sustainable SU Action Plan was created in 2025 and following student and SU staff consultation further updated in 2025/26 to become a three-year plan which was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Bringing together the operational delivery across The SU, the action plan positions itself between The SU’s long term strategic plan and annual area plan. Through the allocation of workload and responsibility across all areas of The SU it has been designed to generate impactful outcomes for The SU over the next three years.

Sustainability success

The Student Community Partnership (of which The SU is a partner) reached a £1m milestone for

British Heart Foundation in 2025/26, as well as encouraging more students to think sustainably through its annual Student Moving Out Campaign. 2025 was the most successful year to date with donated items raising just under £209,000. By donating good quality pre-loved items students it not only helped the charity through the money made from sales of items, it also encouraged students to recycle and reduce waste left at the end of their tenancies.

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What’s next?

This year we have started reviewing our processes and making improvements ready to roll out in 2026/27 making engaging with and in The SU easier and more accessible for all students.

2026/27 also sees an exciting year as we draw our current strategy to a close and finalise our new 2027-32 SU Strategy. With this comes an opportunity to look at where The SU makes its biggest impacts on the student experience here at the University of Bath. 2032 will likely be a very different landscape for Higher Education as a whole, as well as locally here in Bath. We will develop our 2027-32 strategy using the insight gathered to create The SU’s Together We Shape Tomorrow manifesto for change and what we are hearing from students as we look to develop The SU to meet and anticipate current and future students’ needs.

We leave this Impact Report with a final few words from the 2026/27 SU President, Angus Gueterbock.

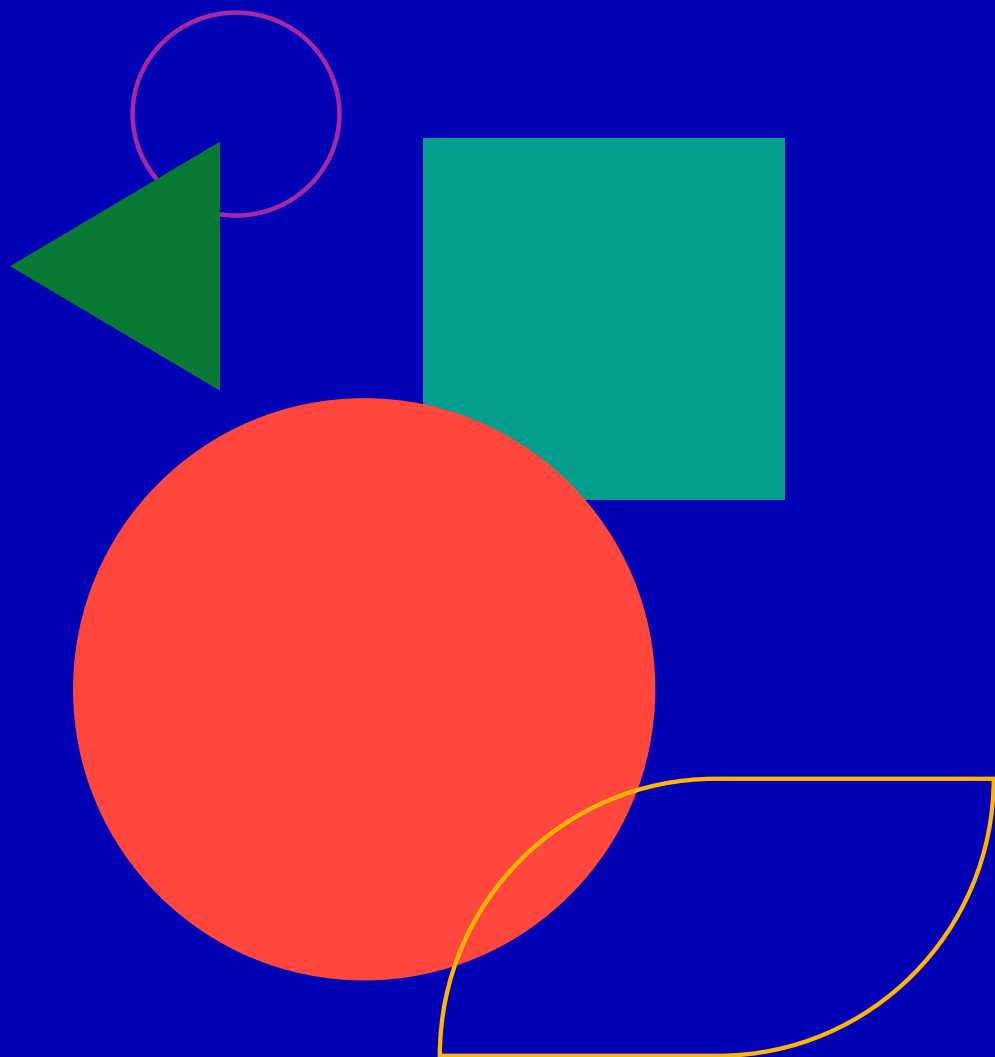
To solidify our position as a sector-leading students’ union, we must continue to strive to do better: maintaining the things that work well, while improving those that do not. Each SU Impact Report gives us the opportunity to reflect on our progress. It helps us understand how students interact with and perceive The SU and enables us to consider how students’ needs and expectations may evolve, and how we can best meet them.

For the year ahead, we must continue seeking to engage students who have low levels of engagement with The SU. Whether a student is home or international, on-campus, in the city or remote, undergraduate, postgraduate taught or doctoral, they all deserve opportunity.

Ultimately, the skills, experiences, and knowledge students gain through engagement with The SU play an important role in helping them become more confident, capable, and employable graduates. We must remove barriers, build bridges and support all students, guiding them through an ever-changing Higher Education landscape.

As this chapter closes and the next begins, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to such an amazing year. To those who are continuing with us or are joining us for the first time, I am very excited to see what we can achieve in the year ahead!

26 ²⁰The SU Survey 2026
²¹The Sustainability Survey 2025 (University run)



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