



**WE ARE DSU**

# De Montfort Students' Union

**IMPACT REPORT**

2019/20

de montfort 

De Montfort Students' Union (DSU) is an independent and student-led organisation. We're here to represent your academic interests, make sure your voice is heard at all levels within the university and inspire you to get involved so you can make the most of your time at De Montfort University (DMU). We are a registered charity and take pride in being a non-profit organisation who reinvests every penny spent in the union back in to making our services and events affordable as well as awesome.

Every student who enrolls at DMU automatically becomes a member of DSU; which means you all have access to all our services, facilities and activities we offer. University is not only about education, but also about developing and growing as a person and shaping your future through extra-curricular activities, making life-long friends and creating great memories. We want to empower and support you to have an exceptional student experience whilst you're at DMU





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Following a successful and exciting election period, De Montfort University (DMU) students have voted for their next student leaders.

DMU students had their say in choosing the five new full-time Executives and seven part-time liberation representatives to make up the 2019/20 DSU Officer Team.

Following a refresh of DSU’s governing documents and changes to the DSU Officer Team roles at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), there was five executive roles and seven liberation representative roles up for grabs.



The elected officers for 19/20 were;

- Laura Flowers  
Academic
- Diya Rattenpal  
Equality & Diversity
- Aisha Ismail  
Opportunities & Engagement
- Kate Askew  
Union Development
- Katie Hobbs  
Welfare

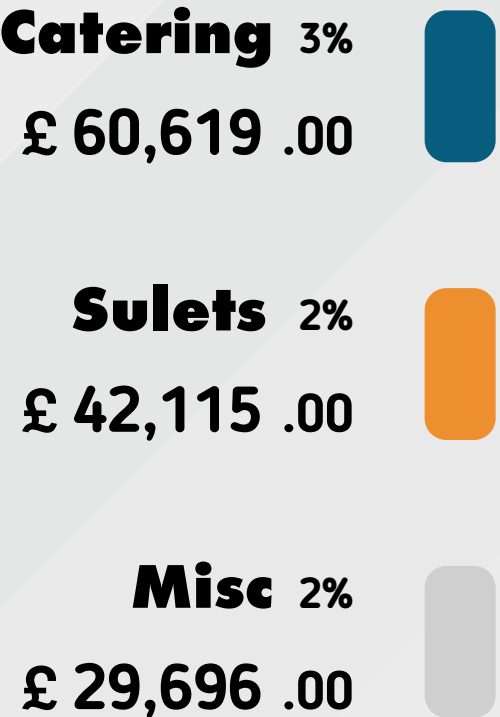
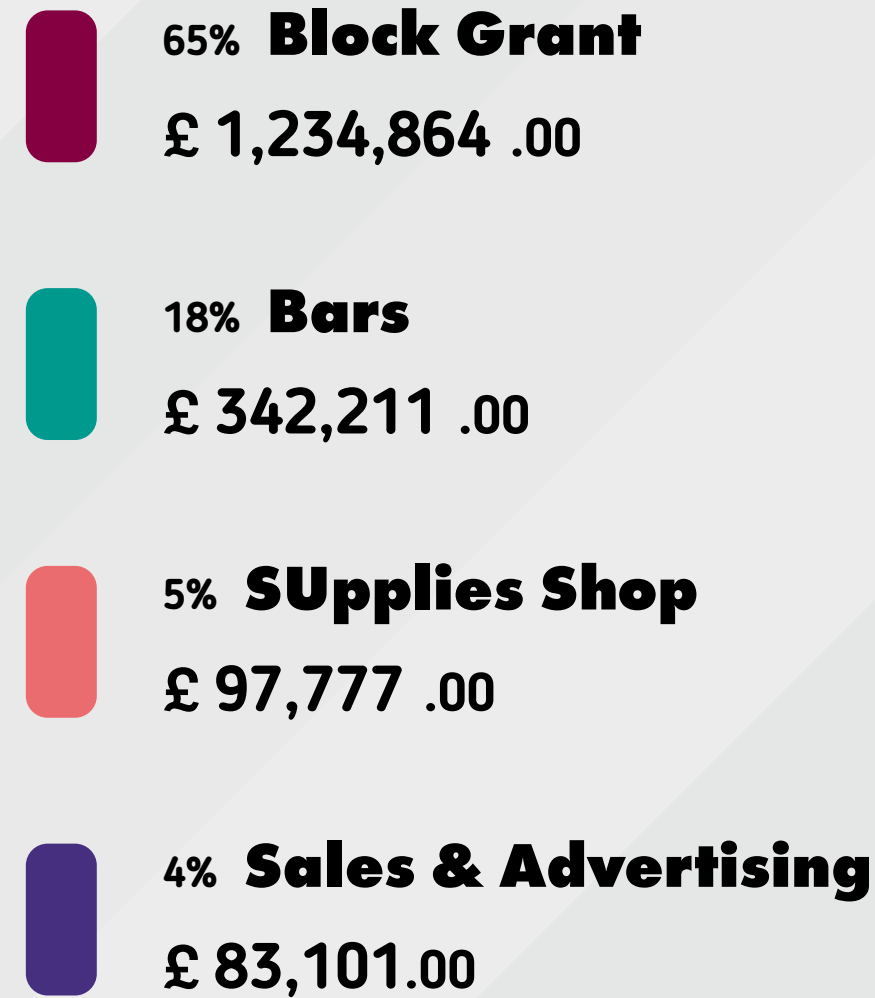


The executive officers will be on an equal structure and will be responsible for taking ownership of their own areas of responsibilities.

Alongside the Executive Team, the DSU Officer Team included a team of seven part-time liberation representatives;

- Jinder Mann  
BAME
- Caitlin McBurnie  
Disabled Students'
- Madeleine Shimata  
International Students'
- Roisin Forde  
LGBTQ+
- Harsh Shah  
Mature Students'
- Bushra Zafar  
Postgraduate Students'
- Aisha Karim  
Women's

This year’s National Union of Students (NUS) Delegates who will join current VP Activities Derrick Mensah at the NUS Nation Conference are Diya Rattenpal, Ree Appeah, Aisha Ismail, Laura Flowers, Siddhaarth Sivasamy and Gavin McMinn.



**INCOME**  
£ 1,858,835 .00

25% **Bars & Catering**  
£ 442,241 .00

24% **Central Services**  
£ 426,891 .00

11% **Advice**  
£ 186,853 .00

9% **Governance**  
£ 163,788 .00

9% **Activities**  
£ 163,069 .00

**Marketing & Communications** 6%  
£ 113,086 .00

**Voice** 6%  
£ 102,117 .00

**Supplies** 5%  
£ 90,276 .00

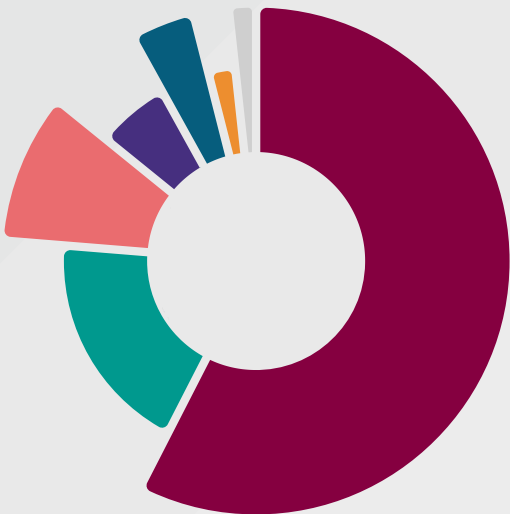
**Sales & Advertising** 2%  
£ 39,472 .00

**Helpdesk** 1%  
£ 24,119 .00



**OUTGOINGS**  
£ 1,751,913 .00

INCOME



- 65% **Block Grant**  
Annual grant received from DMU to deliver our services.
- 18% **Bars**  
Sales from our function rooms and venues.
- 5% **SUPplies Shop**  
Sales made in our SUPplies shop.
- 4% **Sales & Advertising**  
Sales from Freshers Fair, NUS extra cards and external use of our spaces.
- 3% **Catering**  
Sales from catering within our venues.
- 2% **Sulets**  
Rent, Sponsorship, Finance and HR services and other misc. Sulets income.
- 2% **Misc.**  
Misc. income including interest.

EVERY PENNY  
OF PROFIT  
IS REINVESTED  
BACK INTO  
YOU

OUTGOINGS



- 25% **Bars & Catering**  
Cost of sales, staffing and operational costs running the Function Rooms, Catering and Private Hire.
- 24% **Central Services**  
CEO staff cost, including IT, insurance and legal professional fees, restructuring costs etc.
- 11% **Advice**  
Advice Centre, campaigns, visa application processing and academic board representation.
- 9% **Governance**  
Executive Officers, campaigns and affiliation to NUS.
- 9% **Activities**  
Societies, Volunteering Groups, Demon Media and support for Sports Clubs.
- 6% **Voice**  
Elections, Campaigns & Representation. Includes training of Course Reps and Student Councils.
- 6% **Marketing & Comms**  
Promotion and communicating with and about our members.
- 5% **SUPplies Shop**  
Cost of sales, staffing and other SUPplies operation costs.
- 2% **Sales & Advertising**  
Costs associated with our Freshers Fair, NUS Extra purchases and staff costs.
- 1% **Helpdesk**  
Staff for helpdesk and other associated costs.



The 2020 officer elections were hosted once again with voting at ballot stations. 2,937 students engaged in the election, which was a 63% increase in Voter Turnout compared to 2019 with a total of 17,369 individual votes cast. The aim was to be innovative to increase voter turnout and have a higher number of students engaged in the democratic process. The Voice team achieved this by using high footfall areas on Campus, providing 'give-aways' and also by employing a 'voter promoter' team to reach out to students on campus and talk about the elections.

This year, DSU has significantly grown the Course Representatives scheme with 411 Course Reps, being elected, which is a significant increase from 2018/19. The Voice Team closely monitor and support our Course Reps attendance at University committees, and they attend a variety of meetings including Academic Board, Academic Quality Committee, Programme Boards, Staff Student Representative Committees, Course Validations and Periodic Reviews. This ensures that student voice is at the heart of these discussions. DSU had over 150 students attend our training sessions as well as developing 'course rep drop-ins' and very popular social activities which have garnered very positive feedback from attendees. Student Voice have built in new evaluation reports for all activities, from socials to training, which has allowed us to be agile in planning. Student Voice have project plans to continuously improve the course representative experience for 2020/21, such as closing the feedback loop, new communication channels and celebrating our change champions.





## Societies

DSU has continued to support student groups to develop and increase their engagement over 2019/20 with the total number of active student groups increasing to 192. We have a total of 50 Societies, 3 Demon Media Streams, 1 Volunteering Group and 38 Sporting Clubs. The total number of unique society memberships has reached 3,956, with a total of 5,186 memberships sold. Within societies we have 16 new groups start in this academic year including Homeless Out Reach, First Aid, and Japanese Fashion, all being ratified through the new executive committee and Opportunity Zone structures. There are several large student groups that have been really active this year with e-sports being the largest society with 160 members, and all performance groups have seen a real increase in membership with most being in the 90's.



## MyUniPal

MyUniPal scheme has worked closely with, and is a full member of, the University mentoring working group (Mentoring For All). Along with running and supporting the welcome activities for international welcome week and freshers week, the 50 MyUniPal mentors were integral in helping student transition to Higher Education with the events they ran in the first term including a winter meals initiative for international and estranged students in December and January that saw 100 and 85 student attendees respectively.

## DSU Sport

In 2019/20 there were a total of 1,361 individuals purchasing a Sporting Club membership. There has been a real uptake in the free DMU Active programme which gives students from across the University access to non-competitive sport and fitness sessions ranging from badminton to rock climbing.

The Activities Team continues to work in partnership with the DMU Sport team to grow the access to sporting activities.





## Give It A Go

In 2019/20 the Activities Team launched and piloted Give it a Go (GIAG) a scheme which integrates all the activities within DSU and creates accessible opportunities for students to try something new, find a friend, or to finally join that student group they have been meaning to join for so long. The union ran two GIAG weeks in 2019/20 with activities ranging from cinema nights, to Salsa dancing taster sessions.



## COVID-19

In this unique and unprecedented time, the student groups have been fantastic in being adaptable, understanding, and creative in their response. With many groups having to stop their usual meet ups they diversified and created new online and virtual content for their members, this will hopefully continue in 2020/21 to increase accessibility to more students to join and find a sense of belonging within DSU and DMU.



The Advice Team has recorded over 2,600 student cases through this academic year.

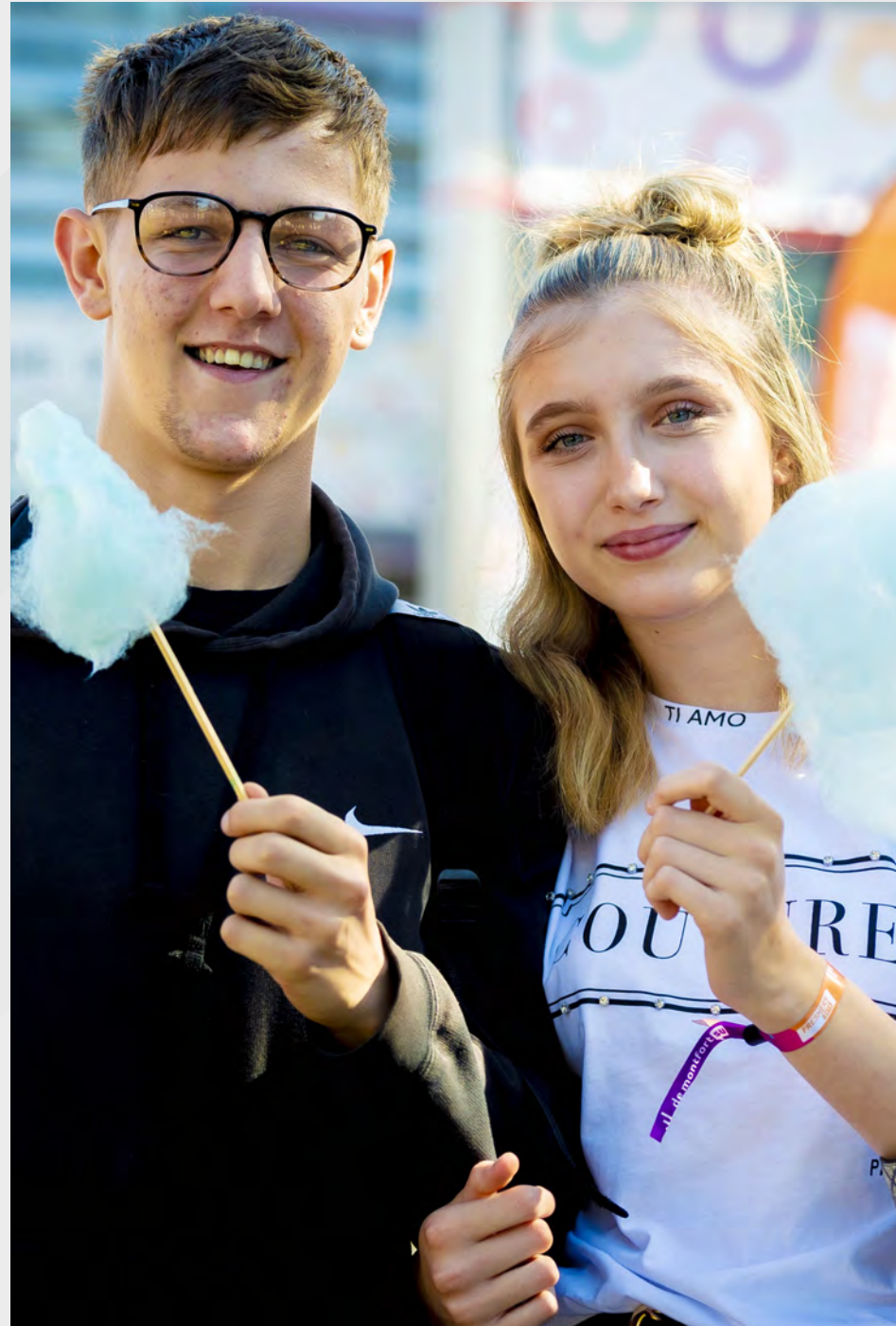
Immigration cases would be recorded on Advice Pro for in country application support, however, this year has not seen this due to Covid-19 and changes made to Tier 4 visas. Financially, the Advice team have recorded financial gains for students of over £90k. Developments in the service have seen an introduction to a 'quick appointment' system for students to receive support immediately to help improve student satisfaction and with the aim of reducing the number of missed appointments, enabling the service to be more efficient. The core appointment areas for this academic year has been academic, immigration and housing.

The service will be taking a more progressive approach to the next academic year that is in-line with the new strategic plan, by hosting monthly proactive evidence-based campaigns, an engaging social media presence, stronger sign posting links with external organisations as well as introducing digital drop in sessions through Snap Engage software.



The 2020 year to date has seen many unprecedented events to student life at DMU which resulted in Advice staff having to constantly research and learn new policies, these include; UCU strike action support for student complaints, DMU No Detriment Policy, Housing law, Covid-19 guidance, continual changes to Immigration rules and visa extensions and more. Working from home has not had a negative impact on service delivery and students are still usually able to speak with an adviser within 48 working hours and have representation for university meetings.





The 2019 academic year kicked off with 33 events over 8 days for Freshers 2019. From trips to Harry Potter World and Alton Towers to Colour Fest in Bede Park and partying at The Freshers Ball with Yxng Bane there was something for every new and returning student to get involved in.

Throughout the rest of 1st term we hosted our weekly club night, Injunction, with a host of themes including UV Rave, a Hot Wings challenge night and our infamous Halloween Special with a full venue transformation.

Also in the Campus Centre Building SU's Diner was available for an America dining experience as well as our retail out, Supplies, on hand for all your stationary and DMU branded clothing needs.

Unfortunately part way through term 2 the Covid-19 pandemic hit which forced the closure of all our commercial outlets for the remainder of the academic year. We are determined to be back, bigger and better, when it is safe to do so.