

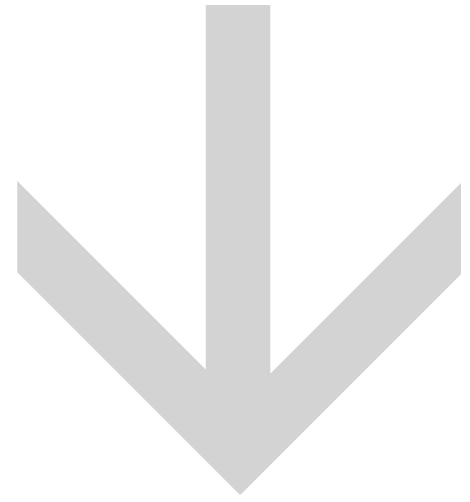
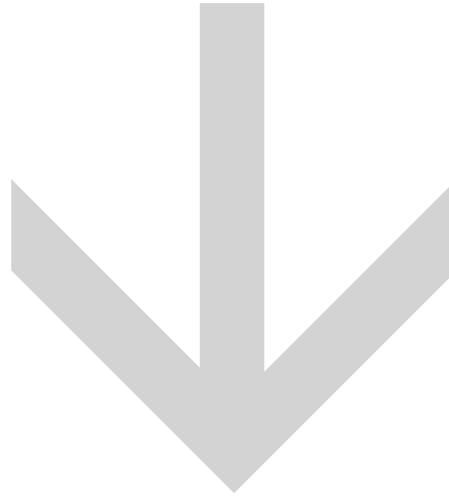
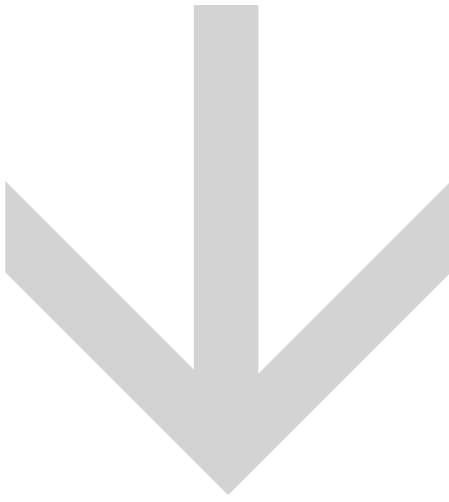


**De Montfort
Students' Union**

Community
Democracy
Fun
Growth
Quality



**Impact
Report
2013/2014**



As you hopefully know by now, DSU is student-run and student-led. Our goal is to involve, represent and inspire you to make the most of your time here at DMU; in 2013/14, we think we cracked it!

The wise words of Ian Warrington, DSU President:

“DSU has had its most successful year on record and I am extremely happy to say that I have been President during this outstanding period.

“I am incredibly proud of not only the Executive Committee who lead the direction of the Union, but of every member of staff who work relentlessly behind the scenes to deliver the services you want!

“I also wanted to thank you all for getting involved in every aspect of the Students’ Union; be that volunteering in the local community, representing us at Varsity, running an event as a society or broadcasting on Demon FM or having a beer on a Wednesday night. It is you who makes our job so brilliant and enjoyable so thank you.

“Good luck to you all and enjoy the 2013/14 Impact Report”.



Community
Democracy
Fun
Growth
Quality

Our Aims

We sat down earlier in the year to come up with our aims for 2013/14. How could we deliver the most incredible experience to our students and really add value to their time here?

So we came up with our nine little mission statements that would guide us through the next few years:

- **Activities You Love**
- **Advice & Support**
- **Amplified Student Voice**
- **Clear @ Communicating**
- **Heart of Campus**
- **Shape Your Future**
- **Student-Led Media**
- **Trust your Union**
- **Your Social Space**



Amplified Student Voice

Representation

Our Course Rep and Faculty Rep system is in place to ensure that teaching standards are maintained at the highest standard across the university. This year we recruited nearly 600 individual Course Reps, helping us to keep our promise to our students.

This ensured that the interests of students were represented in more than 150 senior-level meetings at the university.

A Representation Win!

Our History Course Reps managed to increase the levels of staffing and module options they could take. They achieved this by gathering student feedback, raising it at the appropriate meetings and using the Quality Assurance Agency Code to force change.

Ensuring Your Voice is Heard

This year we changed the format of our Big Meet (the Annual General Meeting) and there were over 180 students in attendance, which is 100 more than last year!

This is cool because it holds our Officers to account more than ever before and ensures that the student voice is heard when discussing the future direction of the SU.

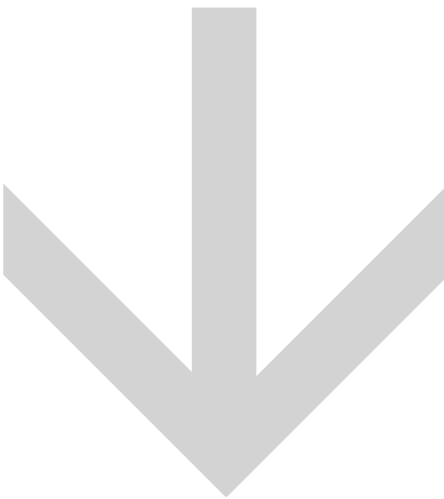
Question of the Month

It's really important to us that we're representing you, our lovely students, as best we can. So it's great when we can get as much honest feedback from you as possible. With this in mind, we launched our shiny new scheme

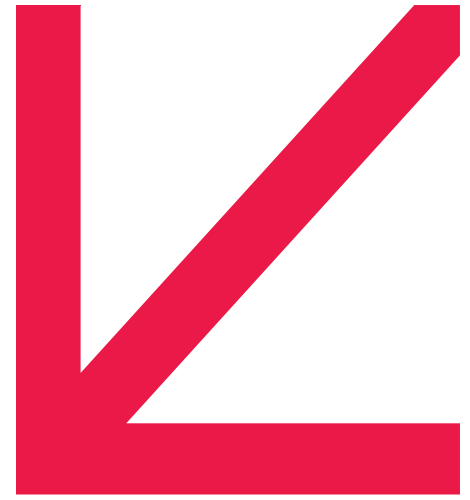
'Question of the Month'!

As you can probably guess from the title, we asked you one or two questions based on university life and the Students' Union itself.

If we're meeting your needs as a Students' Union then we want to hear about it. If we're not quite meeting your expectations, then we want to know why not and what we can do about it.



Clear @ Communicating



Would You Say it to Your Nan?

Our 'Would You Say it to Your Nan?' campaign was a big success; this aimed to highlight the importance of responsible social media use amongst students. If you wouldn't say it to your Nan, then don't say it at all.

Elections videos

We wanted to inject some fun into this year's elections process and thought our promotional videos were a good start. Hopefully you agreed as these were viewed more than 1000 times!

Varsity video

This year our aim was to get as many of you lovely lot involved in the Varsity video as possible. And we succeeded as more than 50 of you got on screen in the promo which has been watched more than 4000 times!

Website usage

More than 40,000 students, parents, staff and people of the world have visited www.demontfortstudents.com this year. They recorded more than 500,000 unique page views. Thanks for stopping by!



Heart of Campus

This relates to our Union and facilities being world class – well, we still have some work to do in this area however we continue to invest heavily in the student experience; the money you spend in our commercial areas is put back into funding student activities.

Within the Venue you drank 13602 pints and 410 halves which equated to over £22,500. You also drank over 55,500 soft drinks and ate 12257 breakfasts and 618 sausage, bacon or egg rolls. The classic burger remains a classic with 1620 of these being sold over the year.

Overall the DSU Shop re-invested over £13,000 back into the Students' Union: 231 of you went to Alton Towers – we can't be responsible for the weather though! There were 349 Freshers' hoodies sold and 546 standard hoodies sold over the remainder of the year.

We introduced over 100 new lines for our creative students ...and you thanked us for this. We sold over 1000 more books and almost doubled the sales of computer and IT supplies than in the previous year.

Your computers benefitted too. Just under 300 of you had membership for DSU Tech, saving you from lost data, viruses and hours of retyping assignments or dissertations. We were still on hand to help those without membership with 400 students purchasing a quick fix.

But what did this mean in terms of the student experience?

The money assigned to the Societies Development Fund was well spent:

- **We purchased a mobile PA system for DMU Music Society**
- **We saw an increased use of the minibus enabling our sports teams and societies to get round more**
- **There were more societies using The Lobby**
- **The International Students' Cafe has been its busiest to date**
- **The SECS Clinics were used by more of you too.**

The Volunteering Awards continues to be a success and this year's event was visually the most stunning it has ever been. The Societies Awards were moved to the King Power Stadium due to increased involvement and participation from over 1800 members.



Activities

You

Love

Societies

DSU Societies are going from strength to strength. This year we had 95 active societies who between them had an incredible 2200 registered members!

A great year was capped off in fine style with the annual Awards ceremony at the King Power Stadium with the DMU Steppers - our very own street dance crew - picking up the top prize of Best Society!

Just some highlights from a brilliant year for DSU Societies:

- The Islamic Society raised £9,243.57 from events during their Charity Week.
- The DMU Hindu Society held the 'National Hindu Students Forum' on campus.
- HerDMU had one of their articles retweeted by singer and actress Jennifer Hudson, who also put it on her personal Facebook page.
- The Cocktail Society created the cocktail menu for the Students' Union bars and F10 Design produced the graphics for the printed menus.
- DMU Steppers fought off stiff competition to be crowned 'Leicester's Best Dance Crew'.
- The Indian Society organised a wonderful party in the park for Holi.
- DMU Dance Society held their show, "Blame it on the Boogie", at Upper Brown Street Theatre.
- The Disabled Students' Society and the Film Society held a joint charity film screening to raise money for Bipolar UK.
- DMU Amnesty International Society held a JAMnesty fundraising event in Level 1, with great performances from the Comedy Society and Music Society.
- Demon Theatre donated proceeds from their show and did a 24-hour sponsored silence to raise money for the Hypermobility Syndromes Association (HMSA) charity.
- The Criminology Society set up their own journal, The Student Journal of Criminology, to give their members an opportunity to publish work.





Sport

This year our sports teams achieved their highest ever BUCS (British Colleges and University Sports) league position. The final placing of 82nd saw us smash our target and improve our standing by eleven places!

Over 1200 of you have purchased an Active Card, granting you access to our game-changing facilities at the QEII Leisure Centre and also giving you the opportunity to represent DMU in your chosen sport.

25 teams represented DMU in 12 different sports in the BUCS leagues this year, whilst we also participated in one-off competitions in Rowing, Swimming, Ultimate Frisbee, Pool and Ten Pin Bowling.



Varsity

Despite getting pipped by that university up the road, our sports teams put in some fantastic performances across Varsity fortnight and won more matches than ever before.

Some BIG performances:

We had 5 BUCS league winners this year – awesome! Take a bow:

- **Netball 1sts**
- **Women's Rugby**
- **Men's Rugby 2nds**
- **Women's Tennis**
- **Women's Basketball**



Individual sportsmen and women also had some great success this year. David Lumley hadn't even picked up a Lacrosse stick before he came to DMU and now he plays for England!

DMU students Daniel Grant finished fifth in the BUCS-entered students at the London Marathon, while Vivian Amos and Niamh Bailey both competed in the BUCS Indoor Championships. . .

And who can forget DMU Rowing's phenomenal performance at Varsity, when they outfoxed the University of Leicester on a glorious Saturday afternoon. They went to on to win Sports Club of the Year at the Colours Awards!





Volunteering

We currently have 2400 DMU students registered as volunteers and in 2013/14 more than 1200 new volunteers got involved. In total we saw over 26,000 hours of good deeds logged!

When you multiply those 26,000 volunteering hours by the £7.65 living wage, we can see that DSU volunteers added £198,900 to the local community! Absolutely phenomenal.

We now have partnerships with over 300 local organisations too so the possibilities for volunteering with us are endless!

Perhaps the highlight of the calendar is Student Volunteering Week. Our awesome team put together 11 one-off projects that enabled more students to get involved in volunteering who might not have already done so.

They raised £916 for Action Homeless by sleeping rough for a night and:

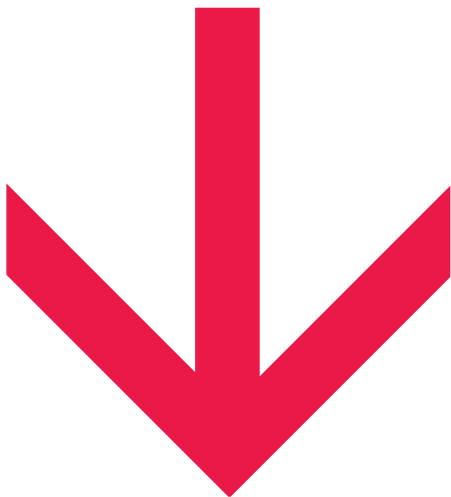
- Collected clothing and food for Women's Aid Leicestershire
- Dressed a window for the charity 'Home Start'
- Held an arts and crafts session for 'Learning for the Fourth Age'
- Produced colourful art work for the Bridge House women's and children's refuge
- The DMU Steppers and Demon TV visited the Children's Hospital School to hold dance workshops and made a fun promotional video.

We also put potential volunteers in touch with 28 local companies and charities at our free Volunteering Fair.

Other Volunteering Wins

- The Fuse Mentoring Scheme successfully trained student volunteers as mentors so that they can support young people in care in Leicestershire. These partnerships provided fantastic opportunities for young people, helping to raise their confidence and aspirations.
- The SECS Clinic ran each Thursday during term-time. This year the clinic has provided a service to more than 100 students
- The International Students Café has continued to support international students every Wednesday afternoon, helping them with their spoken English in a fun and friendly environment.





Fundraising

We had an absolute blast raising over £500 for Children in Need: staff got dolled up in all sorts of weird and wonderful fancy dress before participating in Office Olympics; there was a yummy cake sale too.

Our hugely enjoyable Children in Need party in the evening went down a storm too. The show included performances from the DMU Music and Theatre societies as well as a hilarious compere spot from the Comedy Society.

Our very own Cocktail Society were on hand to 'shake' things up a bit and a cracking raffle topped off the evening with awesome prizes donated by the Leicester Tigers amongst others.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

We raised £200 for MacMillan Cancer Support with a vintage-themed coffee morning. We were even joined by the Lord Mayor of Leicester!

Raise and Give (RAG)

This year our chosen RAG charity was the Joe Humphries Memorial Trust, a local charity set up in memory of Joe to raise funds and awareness of 'Sudden Death Syndrome'.

Everybody involved in RAG Week completely surpassed themselves and helped to raise more than £2,500 for this

wonderful cause. This was a truly incredible effort from all of the sports teams and societies who rolled their sleeves up to help out. Thanks everyone!

Toys on the Table

Once again we asked you lovely lot to donate gifts that we could wrap and pass on to Toys on the Table, a registered charity which gives presents to children at Christmas who might not otherwise receive anything.

With your help we managed to collect, wrap and donate 300 presents! We really can't thank you enough for your generosity.





Student-Led Media

Demon Media have once again grown this year with nearly 300 students trying their hand at one of the three strands.

And the year got off to the best possible start when Demon was crowned 'Best Student Media Group' at the 2013 NUS Awards!

We have continued to go from strength to strength, with readership of The Demon up by 20% and key partnerships with the Leicester Riders and Curve Theatre established.

We also produced the Coffee House Sessions, a nationwide tour of some of the hottest up-and-coming music acts around. One of these was even covered by Radio 1's Newsbeat so it was no surprise that Demon won the 'Best Media Group of the Week' prize a record three times!

Other Demon Wins

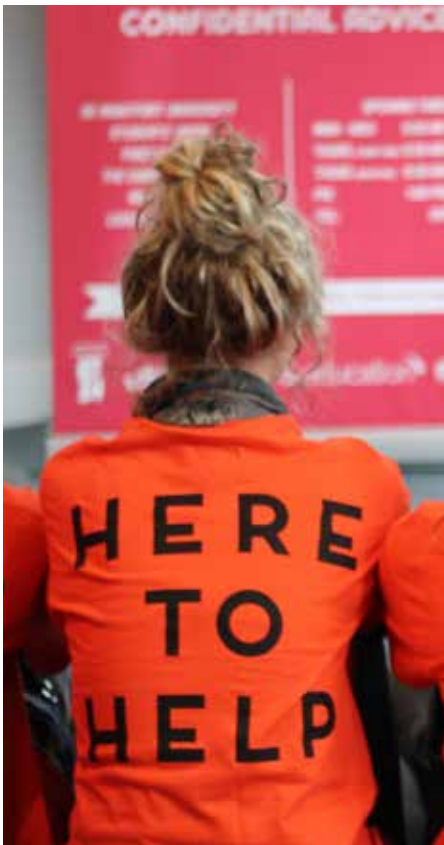
- **Raised over £3,000 for MacMillan Cancer Support and Nottingham Hospitals Charity Trust by broadcasting live for 48 hours straight! #GetMeOnAir**
- **Secured exclusive interviews with household name comedians Jason Manford and Russell Kane for the Demon's 'Leicester Comedy Festival' special.**
- **Guest edited the NUS's flagship publication 'Spotlight'.**
- **The Demon's Comedy Editor, Matthew Watts, won 'Best Interview' at the Student Publication Association national awards.**



Demon FM presenters Neil Kewn and Ed Crofts were nominated for 'Best Entertainment Show' at the Student Radio Association awards.

Advice and Support

"I am soo happy and I can't wait to tell my family as well as they have been waiting for the good news as well. I can't express how happy I am and I just want to thank you SOOO MUUUCH for being very supportive and helping me out on every stage."



The DSU Welfare team has given more advice and support to students this year than ever before.

We have received 6285 individual enquiries which is 850 more than last year!

We gained our students an incredible £424,848 in returned damage deposits, SFE funding cases, rent write-offs and immigration application fees saved.

We sent 432 student visa applications through the Student Batch Scheme – up from 198 last year.

Our student feedback confirms we're doing the right thing with:

- **91% of our users rated our service as 'good' or 'excellent'**
- **87% stated they would use our service again**
- **88% would recommend us to a friend**
- **76% stated that their problem was 'solved' as a direct result of using our service**

Other Welfare Wins

'A group of students had signed an agreement with a landlord for the next academic year. The students had not disclosed that they have two pets (rabbit and cat) living with them.

Unfortunately, it was later discovered that a clause exists within the agreement that prohibits pets from the property. The prospective landlord requested that the students "get rid of their pets".

The students were advised as to the consequences of not complying with their contractual obligations and DSU Welfare tried to negotiate a formal release on behalf of the students.

These talks eventually resulted in an outright release being granted, which equated to a saving of £14,352 for the students, leaving them free to seek alternative accommodation!

Another student sought advice from us with his Student Visa application and to make sure his documents were valid.

Unfortunately his application was initially refused through no fault of his own but due to an administrative error on the part of the Home Office caseworker.

DSU Welfare assisted him in submitting an appeal with the Immigration tribunal. Our advisers undertook additional training in order to offer this in-house as part of our free service for students.

The appeal was successful so the student will receive his visa without any interruption to his studies. He was delighted to receive constant updates about his case, not to mention saving thousand of pounds in legal fees!

Your Social Space

Freshfest '13

Our annual Freshfest keeps on getting bigger and better. This year the fun was extended to 11 days jam-packed with good times...

Welcome Weekend was a sunny treat, we had more sign-ups than ever before during the outdoor fair and hundreds of newbies enjoyed some tasty freebies from the likes of Nandos and Dominos.

We sold 1600 wristbands in just two hours too – record breaking! and our Freshers Ball was headlined by chart-topper Sub Focus who captivated the 1,000 of you in attendance!

Level 1

Our flagship venue continued to be the place to chill in the day with a £2 breakfast and party the night away on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

You lot gobbled up 6721 English breakfasts and 1185 vegetarian brekkies between you!

In total more than 30,000 people have passed through the doors of Level 1 in 2013/14. Party on!

The Lobby

In September we were handed the keys to the venue previously known as The Graduate. We gave it a lick of paint, some snazzy new lighting and renamed it The Lobby!

Playing host to the Coffee House Sessions, society socials and plenty more, The Lobby has become a much-loved member of the DSU family.



Shape Your Future

This year DSU had a whole host of lovely Frontrunners to help us deliver our services. One of them, Robin Ajder, tells us more...

"I originally applied for the Frontrunner scheme in order to gain some more experience to add to my CV and put into practice some of the things I've learned on my Business and Marketing course.

From the first minute I stepped into DSU and the office I was made to feel right at home and I wasn't just making tea or doing the photocopying, I sat in meetings and had input into some of the big projects they were working on.

Overall it's been a great experience for me to be a Frontrunner at DSU, and I'd like to thank everyone for being so kind and giving me the opportunity to get involved. I'm ready to enter the big bad world now!"

"I first heard about DSU Volunteering when I had an idea for the charity that I currently volunteer for. Project LIGHT is a student run charity with students from the University of Leicester and De Montfort University which aims to hold harm prevention and health promotion sessions in homeless hostels across Leicester.

I see myself volunteering there for the remainder of my academic year - and if time allows - I can also continue to volunteer throughout the summer.

Volunteering has given me the opportunity to meet other people that I wouldn't otherwise, it's great to share our skills as we all come from different backgrounds and develop as a team. Although I had already developed skills in organisation, time management and critical thinking, volunteering for Project LIGHT has really helped me to showcase them."

Suzie went on to become DSU's Volunteer of the Year

Suzie Webb, Volunteer of the Year

I was a 'Student Engagement Frontrunner' which meant my main role was to conduct research on student's opinions of relevant issues. Specifically, I have developed online and offline questionnaire based surveys, I have analysed primary and secondary data and written reports on the collated information.

Due to this placement, I have made a vast process in my personal development. I improved my research and IT skills, became more analytic and developed better communication skills and in general became more confident about my skills. These developments were due to the tasks that I was given and from attending professional training courses that were open to me as a Frontrunner. It has greatly helped that the SU was a working environment where I could always ask for help and was given guidance for tasks that were new to me whilst at the same I was given the freedom to be independent in my work as well.

Another important aspect is that I believe that my employability skills have greatly improved as part of the Frontrunner placement; due to the self-development aspects themselves but also as the



placement will give me a chance to draw from examples of my skills in future job interviews.

I am glad to have had this opportunity.

Meike Zingk, Frontrunner

“My involvement with DSU first started on a 6 month placement as a Marketing and Communications Frontrunner. I’d only known the SU as a place to get promotions and as a venue for breakfast or Injunctions on Wednesday night. Being a Marketing and Communications Frontrunner was an invaluable experience. Not only did I get a hands on experience with various departments of the SU like DSU Welfare and DSU Volunteering, I interacted with other members of the Union from undergraduates to postgraduate students. Each day brought various tasks. From following DMU Steppers on an external event to teach local college students to step to updating the DSU website with ongoing events through articles online. Staff were super friendly and encouraging and gave me resourceful feedback.

As my placement came to an end, I did not want my interaction with DSU to come to an end too. So I applied for a role as a Student Trustee and after a two day intensive training with the Institute of Leadership and Management, I became a Student Trustee for DSU. My main role as to make sure the objectives for the DSU were being achieved and that any action taken by the board was in the best interest of its members. At first, it was a lot to take on however the Board was very welcoming and explained aspects I was not too sure about. Before I knew it, I began to grow and thoroughly enjoy my role.

My experience with DSU as a whole was exciting and very rewarding. Don’t be afraid to try something new, something outside your comfort zone. I studied Law and did a placement in Marketing, something I knew nothing about. Get involved with your Students’ Union, it’s the best decision I ever made!”

Olubunmi Obisesan, Student Trustee

DSU has given me the opportunity to develop both my work-related and interpersonal skills in a vibrant student environment. As a Frontrunner, I have been given ample support, advice and training to help me perform in my role as Web Developer, and I have enjoyed my responsibility and working within DSU’s Student Voice team.

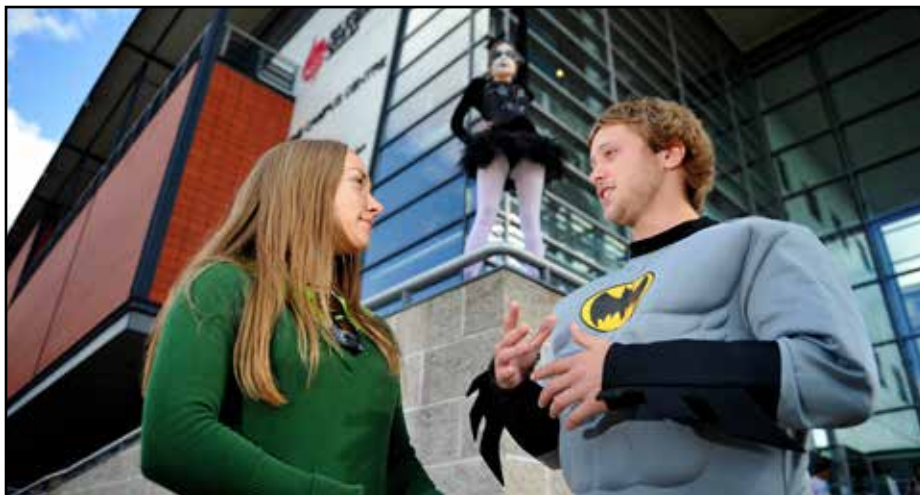
As the department interfaces directly with students, I have had the opportunity to see what life is like on the other side, and how the Union both communicates with and represents students of DMU. I have also had the chance to work with DMU staff, Leicester City Council, local businesses and the people of Leicester.

The flexibility of my role meant that I could both work for DSU and continue with my final year studies at DMU, and upon graduation I had real work experience, relevant skills and a portfolio which will aid my future employability.

Neil Kewn, Frontrunner



Trust Your Union



DSU Fights Back

In January the government threatened to cut the Student Opportunities Fund which is paid to students from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

Here at DSU we rallied around and raised a petition, which was signed by 300 students, and sent an open letter opposing the changes to Education Secretary Vince Cable.

Although some cuts were unfortunately made we did receive a direct response from Vince Cable himself informing us of the reasons for the cuts.

Election Fever!

Despite the bad weather and not one but two lecturers' strikes, you guys came together to help make the 2014 elections the biggest ever at DSU!

More than 3000 of you cast a total of 14,000 votes so we hope that you show your love to Adil, Amie, Adam, Stephen and Rebecca when they get cracking in their new roles in the new academic year.

Battling Everyday Sexism:

We are really pleased that current and past students are holding Students' Unions across the country to account with the #freshersweeksexism campaign.

We feel we are doing a good job here at DSU. We have a Women's Officer and a Feminist Society, who are holding a stall at our Fresher's Fair on Thursday. Our Officers and staff also play an active role by sitting on the university's Equality and Diversity Committee.

The Students' Union will do all it can throughout the year to ensure that all our students are mindful of our equality policy and have a successful year.

Job Swap

In January, for one special day, we were graced by the presence of none other than DMU Vice Chancellor Dominic Shellard!

He and our very own Ian Warrington undertook a 'job swap' for the day, giving them each an insight into how the other half lives.

It was great fun having Dominic on board and we're confident he walked away with a great understanding of exactly how much the student population of DMU benefits from the services and facilities that we provide.

It's Good to be Green!

This year we maintained our NUS Green Impact 'Silver' status. This reflects our dedication to promoting positive environmental action within DSU, helping us to maintain our position as a hub of sustainability in the local community.

Show Me The Money

Income



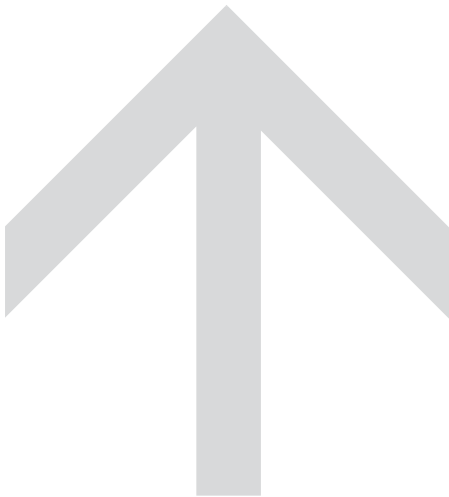
- Block Grant £1,000,000
- Other grants £80,103
- Marketing income £58,688
- Investment income £1286
- Bars and catering £413,557
- Shops £241,880
- Sports and societies £64,365
- Other income £28,830

Expenditure



- Welfare and representation £553,171
- Governance £13,862
- Sports and societies £496,221
- Bars and catering £525,215
- Shops £238,550
- Marketing £57,257
- Other costs £1228

A Year In Numbers



- Nearly 600 Course Reps
- Students were represented in more than 150 senior-level meetings at the university
- A record-breaking 200 members attended our Big Meet
- 95 active societies with 2200 registered members
- Finished 82nd in the BUCS League, up 11 places on last year
- 5 individual BUCS leagues won
- More than 1200 Active Card holders
- 2400 volunteers logged over 26,000 hours = £198,900 to the local community
- DSU Welfare dealt with 6285 individual enquiries, 850 more than last year
- They gained £424,848 for students
- 91% of users rated our welfare service as 'good' or 'excellent'
- Sold 1600 Freshfest '13 wristbands in just 2 hours
- More than 3000 of you cast a total of 14,000 votes
- 'Save Student Opportunities' petition signed by 300 students
- We raised more than £5,500 during RAG Week
- Readership of The Demon up by 20%
- Demon Media raised over £3,000 for MacMillan Cancer Support and Nottingham Hospitals Charity Trustt

To The Future...

Good news!

We are absolutely delighted that we have successfully lobbied the University for an increase in our block grant.

This means that for the next academic year we have been awarded £1.25million, a whopping £250,000 increase on this year!

This investment is a sign of DMU's dedication to really improving your experience as a student here. The block grant is our main source of income and ensures that we can continue to represent you and offer all of the things you love.

So we want to thank every single student who has engaged with us in some way in 2013/14: whether that's Sports, Societies, RAG, Volunteering, Course Reps, Media or any other way that you may have got involved. It is because of you guys that all of this is possible.

Here's to an exciting future!

The New Exec Team:

Sometimes saying goodbye can be hard and nothing could be truer as we bid farewell to Ian, Caitlin, Alice, Chris and Sarah as they enter the next chapter of their lives. We want to thank them for all their hard work and wish them all the very best for the future.

The incoming Executive Committee, as voted for by you in our February elections, are as keen as mustard to get started in their new roles.

