



de montfort 
WE ARE DSU

Impact Report
2018/19

demontfortsu.com

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INTRODUCTION

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.



OFFICER TEAM



Our Officer Team for 2018/19 was Mollie Footitt (Deputy President Education) and Derrick Mersah (Vice President Student activities)

2018-19 was a challenging year at DSU as we only had two Executive Officers, Mollie Footitt and Derrick Mensah, leading the organisation. Mollie and Derrick were ably supported by our team of 13 Student Champions who helped us to ensure students' views were properly represented at the university. We underwent a full governance review and changed the shape of our Executive Officer team to properly reflect our diverse student population and introduced a new democratic structure for Student Council.

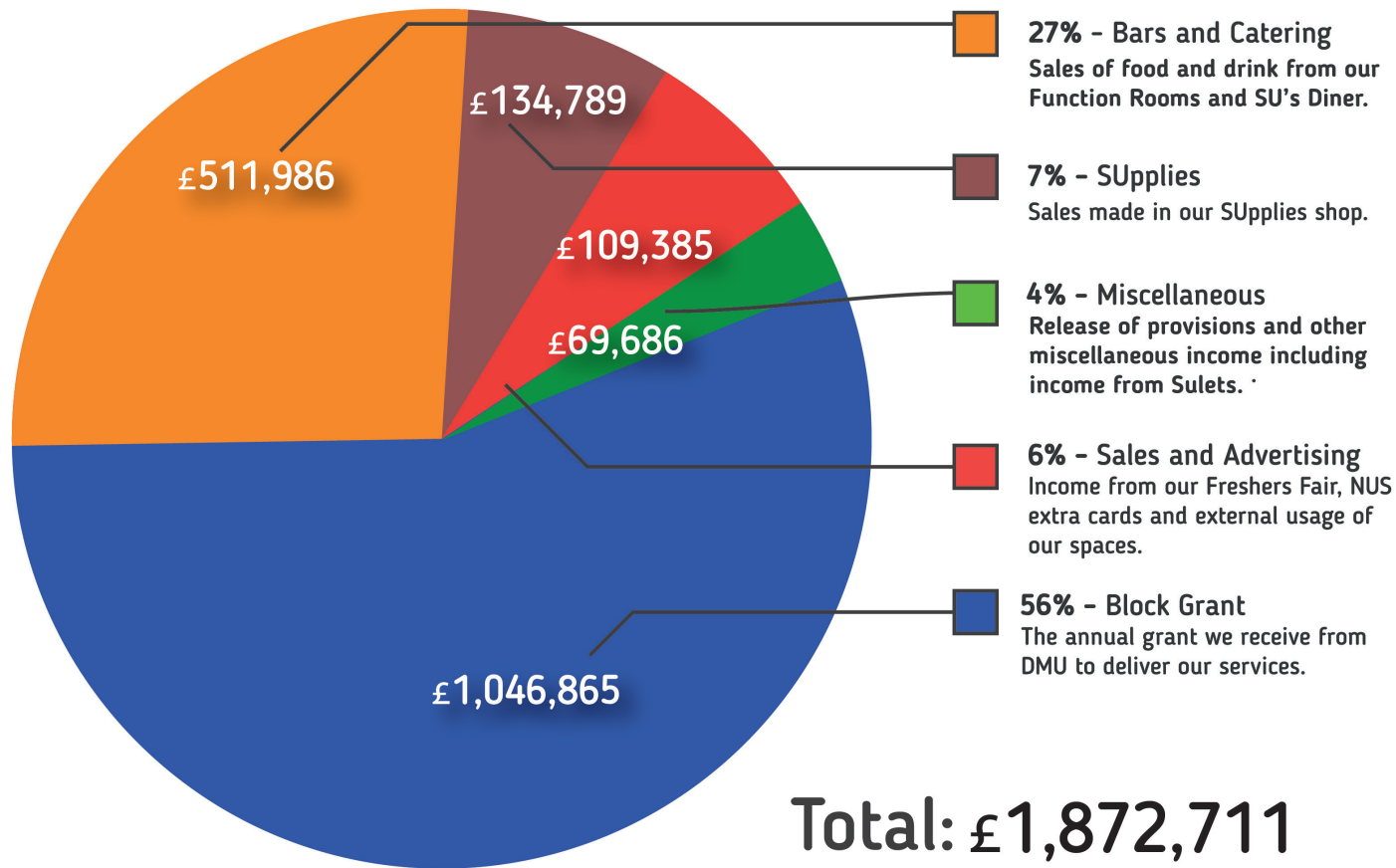


Student Champions 2018/19

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME

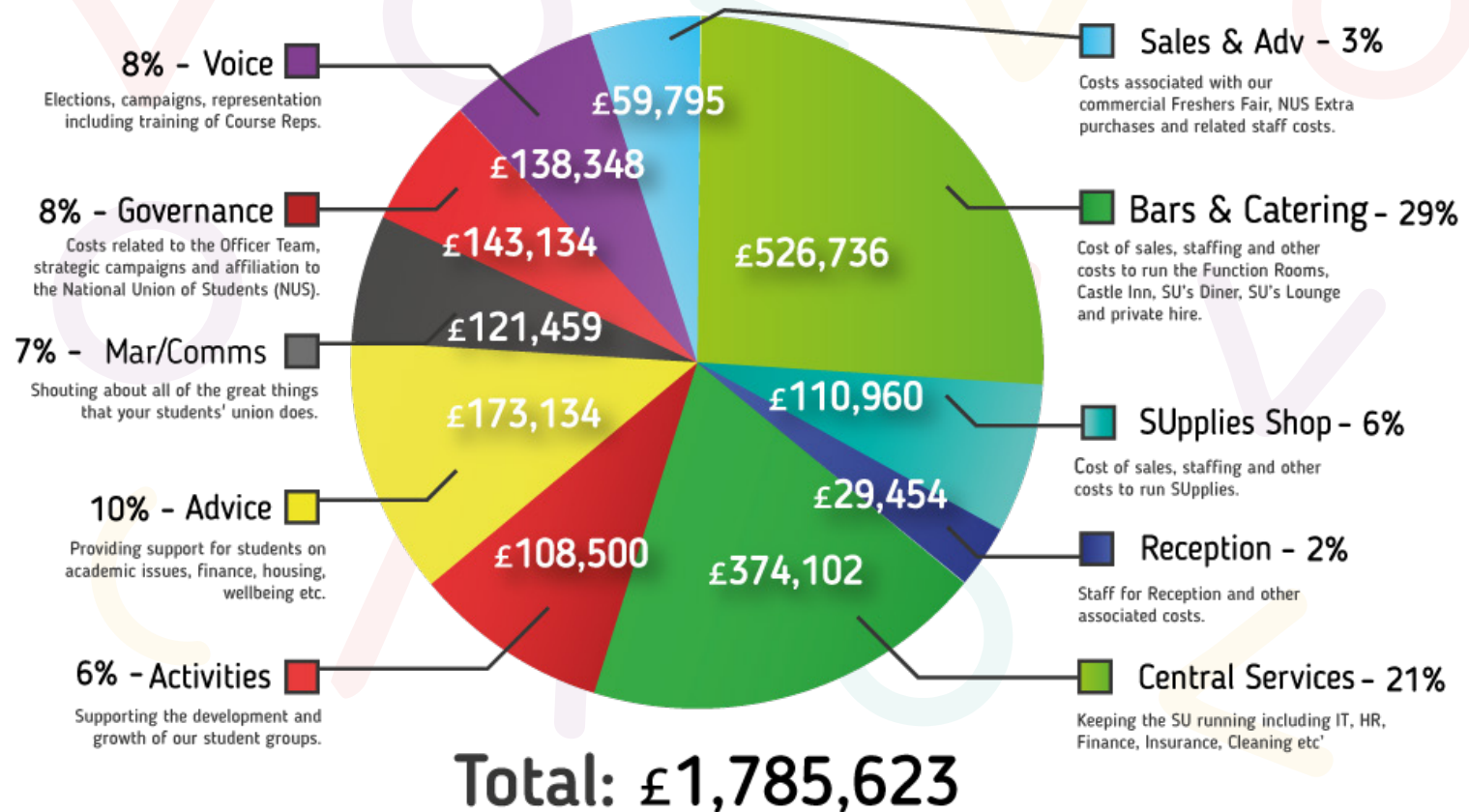
Every penny
of profit is
reinvested
back into *you*



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OUTGOINGS

Every penny
of profit is
reinvested
back into you





With 30 events spanning over 14 days to welcome new members of DSU to university, as well as re-engaging with returning members, #Freshfest18 kicked off the new academic year with a flurry of colour and excitement.

International Welcome Week ran from the 17-21 of September with DSU hosting a British Summer Fete as well as a karaoke evening for new international students. This week then rolled into #Freshfest18 from the 21 September - 5 October.

Wilkinson headlined our #Freshfest18 Welcome Party at the O2 Academy with Yxng Bane performing at the Freshers

Ball a couple of nights later. We also ran trips to Harry Potter World, Alton Towers and Twycross Zoo throughout the week with demand for tickets higher than we have seen before. Other events included this year were cinema nights, a vintage fair, Flossy Friyay hosted by our Executive Officers and our Activites Team hosted lots of "give it a go" sessions.

We held our Commercial and Activities Fairs at the QEII Leisure Centre for the second year where students could pick up freebies and deals from local and national companies or talk to sports clubs and societies about the benefits of joining them for their time at university.

Our team of MyUniPal reps were on hand all week to help new students settle into university life and this year took on more of a mentoring role for the week by giving new students an insight into their experiences of their time at DMU.



#FreshFest2018 | Impact Report 2018/19

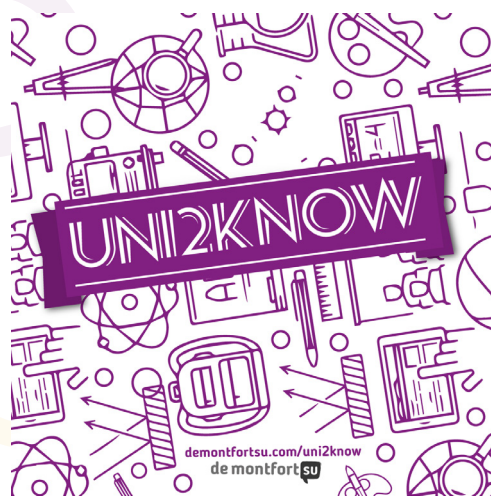


CAMPAIGNS



#NotOnMyCampus was a campaign, launched in Berlin, aimed at addressing discrimination and anti-inclusive attitudes to ensure that everyone felt welcome on campus. The key message was about the difference we can make when we come together and stand against discrimination.

Top tips for staying safe: DSU is committed to keeping our students safe on campus. This is why, in partnership with DMU and Leicestershire Police, we introduced our top tips on staying safe in and around the city.



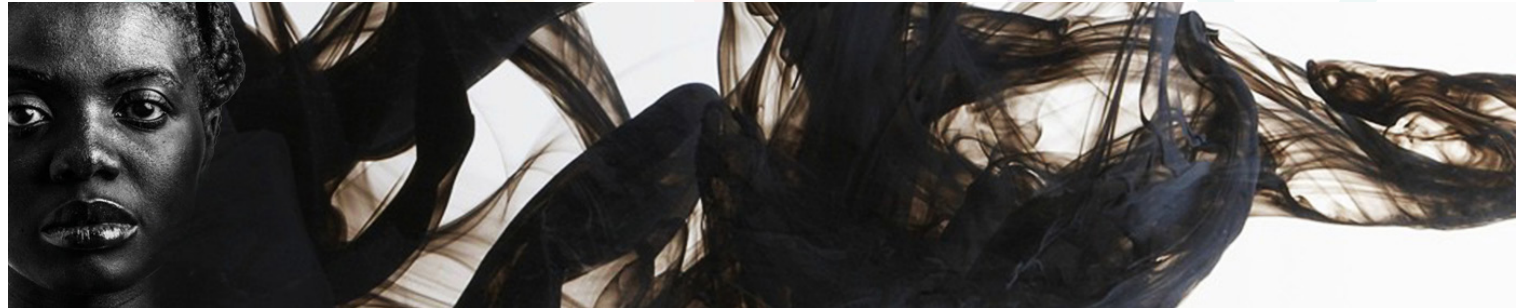
Uni2Know is an academic campaign aimed at helping students to understand their rights and what exactly an academic offence is. It considers what is expected of them while they study, including exam rules and how to avoid bad academic practice, and ensures that information about building opening times and information about essay writing and support sessions are all in one place.

Following the success of “I Heart Consent” DSU continued to celebrate this with a week of activities, key note speakers and events, focusing on the topic of consent and healthy relationships while also providing information about the support available at DMU.

I ❤️ **CONSENT**

CAMPAIGNS

Black History Month is celebrated during October and recognised for valuing inspirational individuals and events from within black communities across the world. DSU wanted to emphasise that is more than just a month and consequently hosted “Through the Times”, a showcase of black history in the UK from the 1900s to the present day. The event, led by Derrick Mensah, was a huge success..



As part of our Varsity celebrations, DSU, along with the University of Leicester’s Students’ Union and DMU Sport, ran the ‘Healthy Body, Healthy Mind’ campaign to highlight the importance of engagement with physical, social and mental opportunities at the university .

DISABILITY

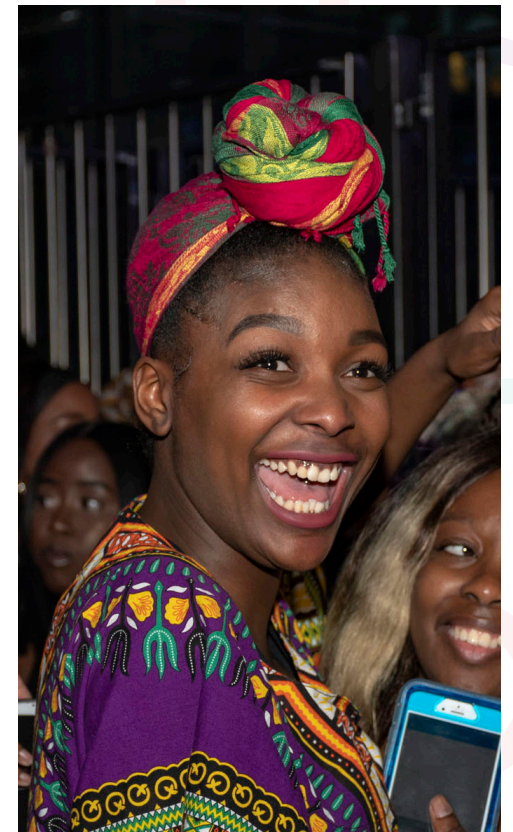
WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU?



Throughout April alongside DMU Disability and Advice and Support, DSU hosted a number of events to represent disability in a new light.

The DisABILITY campaign increased awareness and inspired social inclusion within the university, sports clubs, societies and our local community.

One of our Student Champions successfully lobbied for changes to The Graduate Support Fund. The Fund, which aims to help ‘the most hard-pressed students at DMU’ with free tickets, free gown hire – or both, came about as a direct result of feedback from DMU students.

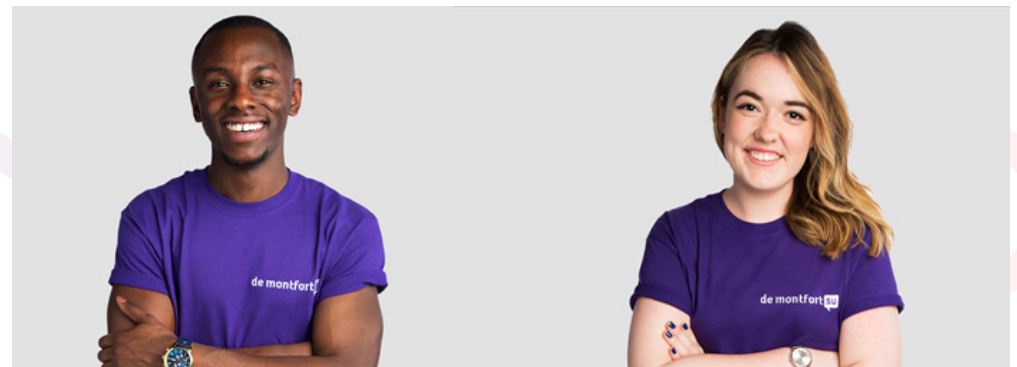
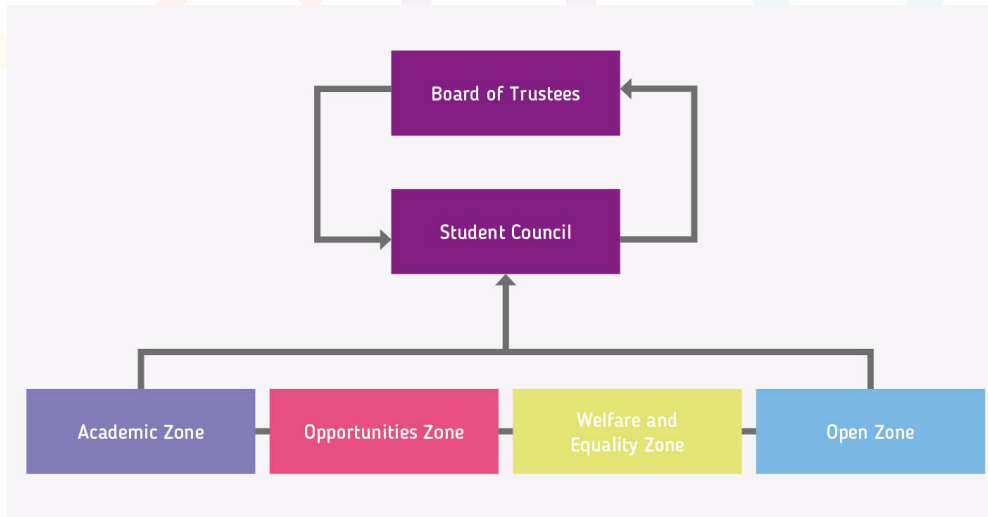


VOICE

As part of our governance review we created new Executive Officer roles who will lead the union on a shared responsibility model. So, in March 2019 elections were held for:



Our Course Reps were a fantastic asset during this year of transition and ensured that we continued to engage with students across the university and make positive change for / with them.



ACTIVITIES

The Activities department has continued to see an increase in the total number of student groups. There are now 174 student groups in total with 20 new student groups starting at the beginning of the academic year including The Demon Barbers, Caribbean Society and Nintendo Society.



There are over 4000 members within our societies; e-sports being the largest society with 166 members. Dancing groups have seen a significant increase in membership with most attracting over 90 members.

This year saw a review of Demon Media in which the Demon FM licensing arrangements changed and the introduction of Committee elections. It continues to go from strength to strength with over 230 members.

We continue to work in partnership with DMU Sport and there are currently over 1500 sports members across 38 sporting clubs. We have supported the launch of DMU Active initiative, which enables free sporting activities for students to participate in on campus.

With just under 220 volunteering opportunities, we had over 460 students registered, benefiting the local community and enabling them to grow.

MyUniPal, the peer mentoring project, has transitioned into an events based transition mentoring scheme but continues to integrate with the other mentoring projects across the university. 50 MyUniPal volunteers ran welcome activities during the first few weeks of the year, providing support to hundreds of new students.

SUPPORT

Saved students
£68,413.83



Supported students with over 2300 individual cases. These were primarily;

◆ Academic (extenuating circumstances, appeals, complaints, disciplinarys and Fitness to Practice investigations)



◆ Housing (contracts, disrepair and deposit disputes)



◆ Immigration (Tier 4 and other visa applications)



- Advice worked with the voice department to run a Ready To Rent Campaign, ensuring useful information was being promoted to students in order to protect themselves and know their rights.



LIFE

We're committed to providing you with everything you need to enjoy your uni life. Whether that's through our bars and restaurant, our Supplies shop, or our day and night events, we try to offer something for everyone.



In May we hosted our annual 'DSU Celebrates' event. Which does exactly as the title suggests - celebrates the achievements of our members for the current academic year.

This year the theme was 'A Night at the Casino' with a range of entertainment going on throughout the night including a magic mirror, a mock-up casino and dancers as well as a 2 course buffet. During the awards we had performances from a number of societies which had the attendees on their feet for most of the night. Here are the list of award winners for this year:

- Most Improved Student Group - Psychology Society
- Volunteer of the Year - Sadia Elisha
- Raise and Give (RAG) Award - Demon Media
- Cultural and Faith Group of the Year - Indian Society
- Best New Student Group - Nursing
- Course Rep of the Year - Natasha Thakore
- Society of the Year - Demon Theatre
- Sports Club of the Year - American Football
- DSU Personality of the Year - Ratna Yoganandan



This year saw us open our new food outlet SU's Diner in the Campus Centre Building.

An American style burger restaurant offering students value for money as well as excellent customer service. The outlet has been well received and will hopefully continue to grow over the next couple of years.

SU's Lounge, our daytime space to play table football and table tennis as well as serving refreshments from the bar, also opened this year to offer students an extra area on campus to be able to relax, socialise with friends and escape from the stresses of their work.

SU'S DINER

Your American style diner.
Great value, great choice.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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