



ST GEORGE'S
STUDENTS' UNION

TOOTING SW17
BROADWAY

YOUR PLAN

YOUR FUTURE

OUR UNION

2023

IN DECEMBER 2017 WE UNDERTOOK A PIECE OF ALL-STUDENT RESEARCH TO FIND OUT BOTH WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE STUDENTS' UNION AT PRESENT, AND WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE FROM US IN THE FUTURE.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in this research – as we said in the survey, it really is all about you, as it is your Students' Union that we're here to support, develop and improve. Your feedback has informed our understanding of what we need to do.

This document sets out what you told us about where we are at present and the direction we need to take in the next 5 years to be a truly amazing and inspirational Students' Union.

1. INTRODUCTION

A quick word from your elected Students' Union leaders.
Why are we doing this? What do we want to achieve?

2. WHO WE ARE

Knowing who we are is crucial to the success of our five year plan, we need to make improvements, but not lose sight of what we do well and what you already love about us.

3. MISSION & PURPOSE

Our pledge to you – what we do and why we do it.

4. STRATEGIC THEMES

From all the honest and clear feedback you've given us, we have come up with 4 strategic themes that will underpin everything we do as part of our five year strategy.

- Be Welcoming and Inclusive
- Be Supportive and Inspiring
- Be Democratic and Representative
- Be Reliable and Knowledgeable

YOUR PLAN

YOUR FUTURE

OUR UNION

2023

HERE'S TO THE NEXT FIVE YEARS!

2017–2018

SAM KHAVANDI
PRESIDENT 2017–18

BETHANY AGNEW
VP EDUCATION & WELFARE
2017–18

VAFIE SHERIFF
VP FINANCE & STUDENT
ACTIVITIES 2017–18



INTRODUCTION FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

AS A STUDENTS' UNION OUR MAIN FOCUS IS TO BE WHAT YOU WANT US TO BE. THAT IS WHY WHILST DEVELOPING OUR STRATEGY THIS YEAR WE REACHED OUT TO AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

YOU TOLD US WE WERE GOOD, AND WE'RE TELLING YOU WE CAN BE BETTER.

This strategy is ambitious but realistic, and will guide us in a new and exciting direction – the destination being a sustainable Students' Union, able to cater for our rich and diverse community of students whom we love to represent.

Here's to the next 5 years!

2018 –2019


NICK DAVIS
GENERAL SECRETARY
2018–19

ANNABEL STRACHAN
VP EDUCATION &
WELFARE 2018–19

MUHAMMAD OMAR
HIJAZI
PRESIDENT 2018–19

WILLIAM MORRELL
VP FINANCE & STUDENT
ACTIVITIES 2018–19





THE SU BAR SNUG AREA,
NEWLY REFURBISHED IN 2017

WHO WE ARE

WHO WE ARE...

HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS THE MEDICAL SCHOOL CLUB, ST GEORGES' STUDENTS' UNION HAS BEEN A CORE PART OF GEORGE'S FOR LONGER THAN ANY OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ALIVE!

As well as being home to the SU Bar, School Shop, Music Room and Dance Studio we have over 100 clubs and societies to keep you busy during your time as a student at George's. We are a Union that is extremely proud of our history and culture, and intend to maintain the traditions of St George's whilst moving forward and embracing the need to develop what we provide and offer to our students.

IT IS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT WE PRESENT TO YOU **YOUR PLAN, YOUR FUTURE,** **OUR UNION 2023** – THE FIVE YEAR STRATEGY THAT AIMS TO MAKE ST GEORGE'S STUDENTS' UNION BETTER WHILST REMAINING THE UNION THAT YOU KNOW AND LOVE.

OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION, AND PLEDGE TO YOU,
OUR MEMBERS IS:

TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE,
DEMOCRATIC AND SUPPORTIVE
STUDENTS' UNION, THAT
POSITIVELY IMPACTS STUDENTS,
SOCIETIES AND STAFF, ENHANCING
THE EXPERIENCE OF EVERYONE
WHO STUDIES AND WORKS
AT ST GEORGE'S.

OUR PURPOSE

OUR PURPOSE AND THE REASON
THAT WE'RE HERE IS TO SUPPORT
EVERY STUDENT AT ST GEORGE'S
IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN.

THAT MAY BE THROUGH:

- PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTAKE IN
SPORTS, CAMPAIGNS, OR CHARITABLE WORK
- THROWING SOCIAL EVENTS BOTH WITHIN
THE STUDENTS' UNION AND AT OTHER
OUTSIDE VENUES
- HOSTING EVENTS TO FURTHER LEARNING
AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- BEING THERE TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS
THAT ARE FACING PERSONAL CHALLENGES
DURING THEIR TIME AT UNIVERSITY

MISSION
AND
PURPOSE



OUR GAMES ROOM IN THE SU BAR
- A GREAT PLACE TO UNWIND



STRATEGIC THEMES

FROM ALL THE HONEST AND CLEAR FEEDBACK YOU'VE GIVEN US, WE HAVE COME UP WITH 4 STRATEGIC THEMES THAT WILL SHAPE THE WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE OFFERING THAT WE PROVIDE TO OUR STUDENTS.

01 BE WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE

- "Bigger, better events"
- "Host regular social gatherings"
- "Inclusive, all course events"
- "Cultural events"
- "Weekend activities"
- "Support for student led initiatives"
- "Family friendly activities"
- "More free activities for students"

02 BE SUPPORTIVE & INSPIRING

- "Career advice"
- "Health focused facilities"
- "Networking opportunities"
- "Inspirational speakers"
- "Signposts to counselling and mental health support"
- "Expert advice and guidance"

03 BE DEMOCRATIC & REPRESENTATIVE

- "Transparent democratic elections"
- "Opportunities to get to know your SU team"
- "Visible and accessible sabbatical officers"
- "Fair distribution of funds"

04 BE RELIABLE & KNOWLEDGEABLE

- "Clear advertising and communications"
- "Reliable support with admin tasks"
- "SU Diary for all to know what's happening"
- "Relevant and regularly updated information"

A photograph of students performing in their annual Diwali show. A male student in the foreground is wearing a white kurta with blue embroidery and a blue turban with a red and white border. He has his right arm raised in a 'V' sign. Behind him, a female student is visible, wearing a red and white outfit. The background is a green and yellow backdrop with star patterns. An orange diagonal banner is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the text '01 WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE' in white.

01 WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE

STUDENTS PERFORMING
IN OUR ANNUAL DIWALI SHOW

STRATEGIC THEME 01 BE WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE

WE WANT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR MEMBERS TO FEEL WELCOME AND ENTHUSED TO TAKE PART IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO ANY OF THE SPORTS, SOCIAL EVENTS, CHARITABLE CAUSES, AND CULTURAL EVENTS THAT WE, AS YOUR STUDENTS' UNION, RUN.

We also want to make sure that every student feels welcome in any of our various spaces, and that our facilities provide what our students need.

Our newly refurbished Students' Union Bar, and the opening of Pret A Manger within the Students' Union in 2017/18 has gone a long way to improving our Students' Union space. However we also realise that there is a lot more that we can do to make your Students' Union as great as possible – both in terms of the estate we have, and the activities and events we offer.

THEREFORE, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE PLEDGE:
TO PROVIDE A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE
STUDENTS' UNION WITHIN ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY
FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS

This will involve:

Working with the University to invest in the Students' Union estate ensuring that our facilities are in a good state of repair and are appropriately maintained to maximise student usage

Supporting innovation from our members and providing the resources required for student-led initiatives to succeed

Actively enabling the creation of new clubs and societies so that our Students' Union offers forums that represent the interests and passions of all our members

Improving the range and accessibility of the events and opportunities we offer to ensure that all students feel that they have a home here at SGSU

Gradually increasing the funding awarded to clubs and societies to reduce the financial burden of participation on our students, with the ultimate goal of enabling every student to be able to take part in any club, society, event or activity we run, without having to worry about the cost

STRATEGIC THEME 02 BE SUPPORTIVE & INSPIRING

WE KNOW ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WORK EXTREMELY HARD WHILST HERE AT ST GEORGE'S AND THAT YOU ALL ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND OUTSIDE OF YOUR STUDIES.

We are very proud of our members, and want to make sure that every student knows that as your Students' Union, we are here to support you in any way you may need – no matter how long you've been here, what your course is, or what your outside interests may be.

THEREFORE, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE PLEDGE:
TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS IN EXCELLING BOTH WITHIN
AND OUTSIDE OF YOUR STUDIES

This will involve:

Ensuring that our front line staff and officers are appropriately trained to signpost students to the appropriate services when they bring an issue to our attention

Working with the University to improve the support available to students around independent living which we realise can be a challenge when living away from home

Building partnerships with expert groups and specialist resources to ensure that the wellbeing support offered by the Students' Union and the University is accessible, comprehensive, and is providing the tailored support our students need

Creating more opportunities for students to clearly understand their options after University, both within and outside the scientific and healthcare sectors

Celebrating our successes – we are proud of our members, and want the great achievements of our students, clubs and societies to be commended and celebrated



OUR LADIES BASKETBALL TEAM
PLAYING IN THE UNIVERSITY'S
ROB LOWE SPORTS HALL



STRATEGIC THEME 03 BE DEMOCRATIC & REPRESENTATIVE

AS YOUR STUDENTS' UNION WE ARE HERE TO REPRESENT EACH AND EVERY STUDENT OF ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY.

To do this effectively we recognise the importance of good leadership in your Students' Union – this means feeling able to challenge your elected leaders when needed, and having a clear and transparent constitution with democratic processes that are appropriate and fair.

We also believe that you deserve to know and understand the work that your elected officers, Trustees and full time staff members, are doing on your behalf. Effectively, we want you to know that you're in charge – and that your elected leaders are accountable to you, the student body.

THEREFORE, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE PLEDGE:
TO BE A DEMOCRATIC AND REPRESENTATIVE UNION,
LED BY STUDENTS, FOR THE STUDENTS

This will involve:

Undertaking a comprehensive review of the democratic processes in place and our current constitution to ensure that the students of St George's are represented in the most appropriate way within your Students' Union

Reviewing the structure of your Board of Trustees, placing student leadership at the heart of our governance structures

Promoting the opportunities for students to participate in the running of the Students' Union, encouraging participation and involvement from all students

Increasing the visibility of your elected officers, creating more opportunities to get to know the people you've voted into power

Continuing to strengthen and grow our staff base, relieving your Sabbatical officers from administrative tasks to enable more time for focus on the student facing matters and priorities that have the biggest impact on you

Making sure that the support and distribution of resources, both financial and non-financial, is appropriate, fair and transparent across the many student clubs and societies



SGSU TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL SOCIETY
– HELPING TEACH CHILDREN
TO BE LESS SCARED OF MEDICINE

STRATEGIC THEME 04 BE RELIABLE & KNOWLEDGEABLE

AS YOUR STUDENTS' UNION, WE REPRESENT THE THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS OF OUR STUDENTS AT MANY FORUMS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY, AND ON A WIDER BASIS WITHIN THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS.

This is a big responsibility and we realise that our members need to be kept updated in a timely manner on the matters we're discussing in these meetings.

We also want to ensure that you, our students, are aware of the many events and activities that are held throughout the year, both within, and outside of the Students' Union, and realise that we need to develop and improve the methods through which we communicate information to you.

THEREFORE, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE PLEDGE:
TO BE A RELIABLE SOURCE OF ACCURATE, INFORMED
AND VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR OUR STUDENTS

This will involve:

Reviewing our digital presence – ensuring that our website is clear, comprehensive and up to date, with consistent messages across all our social media platforms

Continuing to develop the SGSU App and launching the App within the 2018/19 academic year, ensuring that it is a useful and valuable tool for students to use both on and off campus

Creating a regularly updated calendar of events for the year ahead that all students will be able to access

Ensuring that bookings and reservations for any of the Student Union facilities are managed in a clear, consistent and reliable manner

Creating tools for clubs and societies to clearly advertise their events in a consistent and effective way, and provide support to our members to maximise publicity for their events and activities

THE LAST WORD FROM ST GEORGE'S PRINCIPAL; PROFESSOR JENNY HIGHAM

THE STRONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE STUDENTS' UNION AND UNIVERSITY
GREATLY ENHANCES THE WHOLE ST GEORGE'S
EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS.

The Students' Union team has the benefit of gathering
new ideas through its fresh leadership each year and I
enjoy my interactions with them. I am delighted to support
this vision for the future.

PROFESSOR JENNY HIGHAM,
PRINCIPAL, ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



This document was drafted by Gill Gibson and was developed using research
carried out on behalf of St George's Students' Union by Stitch Ltd. in December
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