



Union Priorities 2025-26

This document outlines the annual priorities of Surrey Students' Union, providing a strategic foundation for this academic year that will be reviewed at each University Students' Union Committee (USUC) meeting. Each broad theme includes therefore a focus for the Students' Union in our representative activity for the year, a priority that students want to see from the University, and a shared goal to deliver in partnership.

In setting out these priorities, we formalise our joint commitment to improving the student experience by acting upon our students' needs. These priorities are built upon our wealth of student insight, the objectives of our elected student representatives, and are closely aligned with the long-term goals outlined in our Students' Union Strategic Plan 24-27.



**SURREY
STUDENTS'
UNION**

Your Surrey Life.

Academic Influence & Engagement

This theme reflects the importance of our advocacy for a high-quality academic experience for all students, and our strategic focus on partnering with students to improve their education.

Union Priority



Targeting representation initiatives within specific Schools.

The most recent NSS results show lower levels of satisfaction across the Student Voice theme in several Schools. Notably, eight Schools fall below the overall institutional average, with the lowest levels of satisfaction in GSA, Health Sciences, and Mechanical Engineering Sciences. All students at Surrey should feel confident that their feedback is welcomed, heard, and acted upon.

We will work closely with our elected Course Reps and Head Reps in these areas to better understand the priorities for students in these Schools, and feedback to the University on where improvements can be made.

Measure: Improved NSS scores within Student Voice category in specific targeted departments.

University Priority



Improving the timeliness of assessment and feedback practices.

Assessment and feedback continues to be an area of lower satisfaction for our students. Students have repeatedly called for improvements to assessment scheduling, requesting the earlier release of academic and exam timetables. Feedback also shows that students remain concerned about the timeliness of the delivery of assessment feedback, limiting their ability to act on feedback ahead of their next assessment.

We want to see the University invest seriously into the improvement of academic scheduling practices, improving the timeliness of timetable releases, and earlier delivery of academic feedback. Compulsory lecture recording and exploring lecture live-streaming would facilitate improvements to scheduling through greater lecture room availability.

Measure: Improved NSS ranking for assessment and feedback (currently 60th) to meet University agreed KPI for this area in NSS 2026.

Partnership Priority



Communicating impact of student engagement, closing the feedback loop.

The University and Students' Union share a common goal to ensure students have the right opportunities to share their opinions on their university experience. Students report lower awareness around the impact of their feedback, however, whether through engagement with the Students' Union's provision of representative student voice, or the University's facilitation of student feedback opportunities.

We will focus on improving our shared provision by enhancing students' awareness of their own influence, communicating the impact of our research and student engagement work. Through our partnership working, we will also work to explore improvements to existing systems such as Unitu and set up longer-term new, alternative opportunities to close the feedback loop to ensure students are motivated to express their views.

Measure: Publication of first Student Voice Report. Student Life Pulse score on 'I can influence decisions made by the SU' to increase.

High Quality Campus Experience

This theme recognises that the “campus life” theme continues to receive the highest number of suggestions during our Speak Week campaigns, aiming to address student feedback on their holistic student experience.

Union Priority



A varied and vibrant social experience.

Over 270 change suggestions were submitted across our 24-25 Speak Week campaigns relating to Union events and venues. Students want to see a greater variety in Union events, both in theming, target audiences, and time of day. Since the launch of our Surrey Belonging programme, we have seen the importance of free and affordable events catering to a wider variety of students, including commuting students and those who are seeking non-drinking events.

We will ensure that students from all walks of life and backgrounds can engage in events and entertainments outside of their studies in a low-cost and accessible way by providing a wide range of events and activities.

Measure: Pulse score for ‘Impact on social experience’ to improve.

University Priority



Campus infrastructure and provisions that meet students’ needs.

Students have consistently fed back to us that the on-campus provision of catering facilities require improvements. The primary areas of student concern are the affordability and availability of varied food options, and the lack of provision in the evening. With the cost-of-living in Guildford limiting students’ available disposable income, campus should be a space where students can socialise and live comfortably within their limited means, necessitating affordable catering costs.

We ask the University to conduct a thorough review of campus living costs, focused primarily on the costs incurred for students dining at campus outlets. We also call for increased availability of rewards and discounts via Surrey Perks to further improve the value of catering options on campus.

Measure: University to conduct a review into the cost of living on campus and publish the outcomes to students, including recommendations for improvements.

Partnership Priority



A Students’ Union building fit for the future.

The Students’ Union building must see significant refurbishment. The Students’ Union is limited by our physical space in meeting the expectations of students for their social lives and experiences. The building is inaccessible to many students and falls far below the standards of a leading Students’ Union. More broadly, the University should aim to have a campus that students can be proud of, and the Union building also falls far below the standards for the campus experience at Surrey.

We will lobby the University to prioritise the SU building in its plans for capital expenditure. The Students’ Union should feature prominently in the University’s plans for improving the campus.

Measure: To produce a plan for investing in the future of the Students’ Union’s building, written in consultation with students.

A Student-led Sense of Belonging and Wellbeing

Belonging to the wider Surrey community is an integral part of promoting positive wellbeing and strong outcomes for our students. The value of extra-curricular activity and peer-to-peer engagement in increasing student belonging is the focus of this theme.

Union Priority

Supporting our student-led communities.

Student-led communities are at the heart of the experience at Surrey and our diverse range of student societies and clubs provide students with an opportunity to build their sense of belonging to Surrey. Student feedback has called for improved support for committees, and improved communication and systems to support their activity.

We will foster the development of student-led groups in terms of resources and infrastructure so they can provide their members with a rich and varied experience, using our new Union website to improve existing processes and introduce new systems to improve the experience for committees.

Measure: Increased percentage of students involved with one or more club or society per year.



University Priority

Commitment to student-led wellbeing.

Student-led wellbeing initiatives are crucial to ensuring students are well-supported at Surrey. Peer support is essential in providing informal interventions, and the University's commitment to the Mental Health Charter emphasises the need for partnership with students. With the pilot project of Peer Supporters launching this year to redefine the provision of Personal Tutoring, we know that careful monitoring of successes and challenges will help ensure the success of such a significant change to student support.

We want to see the University commit to a full review of the pilot project, including carefully monitoring student progress and outcomes to assess impact.

Measure: Review of pilot project conducted and communicated, with Students' Union consultation on learnings.



Partnership Priority

Reducing barriers to equality of opportunity by providing students with the space to discuss issues and learn from each other.

Our Student Equality Networks provide the space for students to discuss common issues and raise student voices to promote equality of opportunity at Surrey. Our newly launching Destination Success programme also aims to invest into student employability, partnering with the Equality Networks and the University's Future Leaders scheme to upskill a diverse group of student leaders.

We will work closely with the University to support these groups and to ensure a wide awareness of their impact and outcomes, through targeted communication which showcases the positive impact of the schemes.

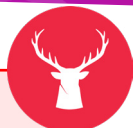
Measure: Improvements in Student Pulse scores for employability and preparedness for the future, for both the Union and University.



Impactful Representation and Advocacy

This theme focuses on setting up and delivering long-lasting change that will positively impact the student community in years to come, setting up measures to ensure a first-class student experience for future Surrey students.

Union Priority



Campaigning for London weighting for University of Surrey students.

Financial challenges remain a primary cause for concern for our students. Living and studying in Guildford continues to be one of the most expensive student experiences in the country outside London. Extending the London weighting measure to increase student maintenance loans for students in Surrey would make a significant long-term improvement to our students' ability to live comfortably and engage fully in university life, with reduced financial difficulties.

We will continue to build on the relationship between the Students' Union and our local MP Zoe Franklin, with a specific focus on advocating for Surrey students to receive London Weighting to support them with the high cost of living in the Guildford area.

Measure: Establish a commitment from Zoe Franklin to the extension of London Weighting to students studying at Surrey, and a viable plan to change national policy.

University Priority



Student housing that meets students' needs and University ambitions.

Affordable student housing in Guildford is insufficient for the needs of students and out of step with the University's ambitions to deliver significant growth. A rising student population will exacerbate the accommodation shortage currently impacting students, reducing the quality of the overall student experience at Surrey and placing increased demand on our Housing Advice function.

We call on the University to deliver a clear Housing Strategy to set out an action plan on how the University will account for growing student numbers by increasing the provision of University-managed accommodation. This Strategy should also set out how the University will engage with the Students' Union and local officials to ensure that the student voice is listened to around the future planning for student accommodation in Guildford and surrounding areas.

Measure: For the University to produce a future housing strategy which can be supported by the Students' Union and communicated to students.

Partnership Priority



Formally recognise and credit the contributions of student leaders.

Student participation in extracurricular activities has tangible benefits for individual student outcomes, for the wider student community, and for the University and Students' Union. Student volunteers are to credit for the success of our Course Rep scheme, Clubs and Societies, our Peer Support services, and Student Equality Networks, and yet do not always receive the formal recognition they deserve. With the increasing cost of living, students report they often feel forced to choose between undertaking part-time work or taking on a position of leadership within the Union.

We want to work with the University to explore a framework to recognise the contributions of our student leaders, to make these positions more attractive to students and to positively benefit their employability. Improved recognition could take the form of introducing a credit-bearing module, certification, or award for student leaders, increasing Students' Union resource to enable greater reward and recognition, or integrating this priority into the University's Employability strategy.

Measure: Increase in Pulse score for 'Perceptions of gaining or improving skills'.