

LUANA'S

Semester 1 Highlights



SURREY
STUDENTS'
UNION

Your Surrey Life.

Semester 1 Highlights

Dear students,

It has been a really busy semester with lots of events, campaigns and important meetings.

I hope you have enjoyed all of the activities that your Union has prepared to support you. 😊

It is my priority to ensure that everything I do is communicated to students, so that they understand my work to represent them.

I hope you will appreciate this quick recap of Semester 1 Highlights and progress on my Manifesto.

As always, if there's anything you'd like to ask or have a chat about, feel free to email, Teams or message me at @ussu_vpvoice. 😊

Best wishes,

Luana Vasconcelos
(Vice-President Voice 24-25)



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Voice Zone - Our purpose

The VP Voice leads the Voice Zone at the Students' Union. This is our team and our purpose.

OUR TEAM

- VP Voice: Luana Vasconcelos
- Voice Zone Manager: Hannah Jones
- Voice Zone Coordinator (Reps): Saffron Cutts
- Voice Zone Coordinator (Networks): Victoria Wiltshire

OUR PURPOSE

“To research the student opinion on a range of topics and highlight the student voice via our campaigns and the student volunteers we work with such as Course/Head Reps, Part-Time Officers and Equality Network Volunteers.”

↓ You can reach out to us and share your thoughts on: ↓

Academic
experience

Course
Reps

Student
Voice

Campus
Life

Employability &
Careers support

Wellbeing
support

Accessibility
& Inclusivity

Events &
Societies

What the VP Voice does

The VP Voice is responsible for researching student feedback on a number of issues, and highlighting the student voice during big University meetings.

Overseeing Course Reps and Head Reps to ensure students feedback is escalated properly

Overseeing the Student Equality Network - working to ensure there is equality of opportunity at Surrey

Leading Speak Week campaign - allowing students to feedback on all areas of student life

Leading Surrey Decides - annual elections to elect team of Student Officers to lead the Union in the next academic year

Meeting with University staff, including Senior University Leadership, to discuss the student voice

Coordinating a team of Part-Time Officers who are student volunteers elected to represent you



These are some of my main responsibilities



My Manifesto

Students elected me as VP Voice to fulfill my manifesto. This document, crafted in February 2024, details my plans for the academic year and what I hoped to achieve.



 @luana4vpvoice

VOTE LUANA (1) 4 VP VOICE

Luana Vasconcelos

- Final Year Year English Lit with Creative Writing
- International student 

My experience

- Voice Zone PTO (22-24) 
- Course Rep (21-24) and Head Rep (22-24) 
- Peer Supporter (22-24) 
- International Student Ambassador (21-24)
- Wellbeing Champion for Disney Society (22-24)
- President of Disney Society (23-24) 
- Treasurer of The Stag Society (22-23) 

ENDORSED/SUPPORTED BY:



INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Strategies to represent students from **diverse communities** - E.g. international, LGBTQ+, neurodiverse, BAME and postgrads
- Lobby for departments to have an **EDI Rep**
- Introduce **paid roles** to the Student Equality Network
- Improve training for tutors on **supporting neurodivergent students**

STUDENT VOICE

- Lobby to introduce **student-led module fairs**
- Increase rep networking, including **course rep socials** and **conference**
- Improve **Head Rep training** with tips from previous reps
- Improve connection between reps, students and the Voice Zone via **Head Rep updates**

COST OF LIVING

- Fight to keep **events free and affordable**
- Improve **Community Hub** to include events like **swap day** and collaborate with societies to increase engagement
- Lobby to include **essential items** and Surrey merchandise on **Surrey Moves**
- Lobby for **more student jobs** to be available



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Manifesto Progress

Ever since August when I started the VP Voice role, I've been working on completing my manifesto. Here is what I have achieved so far.

INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

1. Strategies to represent students from diverse communities

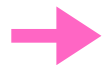
E.g. **international**, **LGBTQ+**, **neurodivergent**, **BAME** and **postgrads**

International



- Launched International Meet & Greet and International Working Group
- Hosted International Week campaign with Community Zone
- Spoke to our MP Zoe Franklin about issues faced by international students

LGBTQ+



- Working with LGBTQ Soc on Student Curator Project to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month

Neurodiverse



- Worked with Auti Soc on Student Curator Project to celebrate Disability & Neurodivergence Awareness Month
- Asked students about improving support for neurodivergent students during Equality Network meeting

BAME



- Worked with ACS on Student Curator Project to celebrate Black History Month
- Attended the Race Equality Charter implementation meetings

Postgrads



- Working with PGR Reps and SEF Chairs to monitor any issues
- Planning to host PGR Reps Social in Sem 2

INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

2. Lobby for departments to have an EDI Rep

- Researching current systems to gather insight.
- Working on connecting with existing EDI Reps
- Planning for how to best provide EDI support moving forward

3. Introduce paid roles to the Student Equality Network

- Hired new Voice Zone Coordinator to oversee the Equality Network
- Expanded the Equality Network by introducing International Working Group
- Planning to expand membership in Sem 2 and host events for networking.

4. Improve training for tutors on supporting neurodivergent students

- Spoke to Chief Student Officer about improving training for staff on neurodiversity
- Supporting the Personal Tutor Review - E.g. included questions about personal tutoring in Student Voice Forum
- Researched student opinion about support for neurodivergent students via Equality Network



STUDENT VOICE

1. Lobby to introduce student-led module fairs

- Project idea has been shared with PVCE (Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Education)
- Working with PVCE on improving MEQs (Module Evaluation Questionnaires)
- Planning to discuss project idea with Head Reps for feedback and start drafting a plan of how this could be implemented

2. Increase opportunities to network, including course rep socials and conference

- Hosted 2 socials: Course Rep Pizza Party and Course Rep Movie Night
- Planning two more socials for Sem 2
- Hosted a Head Rep Social at Manor Park Social

3. Improve Head Rep training with tips from previous reps

- Hosted Head Rep training in person with 80% attendance
- Included lots of tips and examples during training
- Updated Head Rep Handbook to include more examples and guidance

4. Improve connection between reps, students and the Voice Zone via Head Rep updates

- Launched Head Rep Updates (once a semester)
- Keeping students and the Union informed about the work Head Reps do to represent their cohorts



COST OF LIVING

1. Fight to keep events free and affordable

- Union Priorities - supporting students with Cost of Living by offering a range of free events
- This year we have launched Belonging Events - frequent, affordable and diverse activities in addition to Rubix nights.
- Hosted and supported lots of free events
 - E.g. Crafternoon and Open Mic during Fresher's Week
 - E.g. Feedback Cafe, Brunch & Boardgames and International Students' Day celebration

2. Improve Community Hub to include events like swap day and collaborate with societies to increase engagement

- Planning to host Swap Day during Sustainability Week in Sem 2
- Planning to highlight Community Hub during upcoming Societies Standing

3. Lobby to include essential items and Surrey merchandise on Surrey Moves

- Working with TeamSurrey to distribute Wellness Packages on 17th January
- In communication with TeamSurrey about items available, students welcome to message with any thoughts.

4. Lobby for more student jobs to be available

- Union Priorities - lobbying to increase amount of paid Placements and making them credit bearing Working with Career Teams to discuss strategies to help make students more employable
- Monitoring student feedback on Careers support via reps
- Promoting existing job opportunities: E.g. Student Ambassador
- Got involved with Employability Week and International Employability Week

Course Reps / Head Reps

- Recruited 23 Head Reps - covering 90% of departments
- Hosted 2 Course Rep Socials and a Head Rep Social
- Re-launched Course Rep of the Month with over 28 nominations
- Launched Head Rep Updates to make sure students and the Union are informed about their work
- Increased opportunities for feedback via surveys in monthly Course Rep newsletter

Student Representation

- Represented the student voice during important University and Union meetings:
 - Monthly catch up with Executive Board (Senior University Leadership) and PVCE (Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Education)
 - Senate and University & Students' Union Committee
 - University Research & Innovation Committee
 - Student Experience Subcommittee
 - Union Leadership & Board of Trustees
 - Interdisciplinary Modules Task & Finish Group
 - Catch ups with the Library and Digital Learning

Student Curator Projects

- Introduced 3 projects to celebrate the diversity of our student community:
 - Black History Month celebration with ACS
 - Disability & Neurodivergence Awareness Month celebration with AutiSoc
 - LGBTQ+ History Month with LGBTQ Soc

International Students

- Launched International Meet & Greet and International Working Group
- Hosted International Week campaign in collaboration with the Community Zone to celebrate and support our international students.
- Talked to our MP Zoe Franklin during her visit about support for international students (E.g. guarantors and changes in BRPs)
- Hosted Brunch & Boardgames event with Friends International

Voice Zone Campaigns

Speak
Week



- Gathered over 750 responses from students about changes to improve student life
- Hosted a variety of events to give you opportunities to share your thoughts

Bye-
Elections



- Recruited two student volunteers to join the Union Officer Team
- Achieved 26 nominations and 12000 votes

Other things

- Interviewed and recruited: 2 Student Trustees and a New Voice Zone Coordinator
- Hosted Student Voice Forum so you could ask Senior University Leadership about Personal Tutors, Placements and Housing
- Introduced students to the Union by attending 20 Welcome Talks during Fresher's Week and Doctoral College induction