

# Our Impact

2021 - 24

This year **76%** of students who completed our annual survey said they were satisfied with their Students' Union which is an increase of **4%** from the year before →





The last 3 years have been eventful for this Student's Union. Post-pandemic recovery, new leadership teams and fresh cohorts of students with changing needs and goals.

We are really proud of what we have achieved for our student members by working on the objectives detailed in our **Union Plan.**

We are excited to tell our members that more of you have engaged with us, more of you trust us to represent you and more of you have gained valuable skills and experiences by working with us. You've also, crucially, had some fun with us!

# Our **Three** Key Themes:



## **Student Voice**

Representing UCLan Students is at the heart of everything we do. It is the one thing no one else can provide, so we must excel at it. Improving the academic experience at course, school and institution level helps every student.



## **Student Life**

Our members are more than the course they are studying. The right support can ensure students are able to succeed. Where we can, we should support all areas of a student's life.



## **Student Community**

Feeling part of a new community doesn't just happen - it takes continuous effort. We have a central role to play to make this happen for students throughout their time at university

A portrait of Luke Fitzgerald, a young man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a light brown t-shirt. He is standing in front of a wooden slatted wall. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow.

Luke Fitzgerald

**VP President**



## Study Break

I brought together teams across the university to deliver supportive activity across exam season, having a positive impact on student wellbeing during this time. This ended with Study Break Fest, a celebration that was attended by over 1000 students.

## Byelaws

Rewrote the byelaws due to lots of student feedback that they were hard to use and not relevant. They are now much more functional and readable, allowing us to do more for students and empower them to do more for themselves.



## Free Food

I lobbied the university to provide free food for students during exams, resulting in £40,000 worth of free food being given to students.

## Prayer Space

I pushed the University to get more prayer spaces on campus and got the Board of Governor's to agree that this should be a priority in supporting our students.





Joe Bigland

**VP Welfare**



### **Compassionate Communication**

Working with University departments to bring a more human approach to communication, especially in areas like case-work and grade communications where challenging messages are being delivered. This work is ongoing.



### **VC Question Time**

Planned and hosted our first Vice Chancellor's Question Time event where students got to ask questions directly to the VCG. Students were heard and commitments were made, there will be a VCQT every year.



### **Mental Health**

Student Lead for the charter, conducting an extensive gap analysis across the university and developing action plans with domain leads to improve mental health university wide.



### **Pride**

I led and hosted the SU's pride event in October, partnering with local organisations and hosting varied activity to celebrate our LGBTQ+ community. A wholesome and important day.



## General Election

Launched an awareness campaign to encourage students to exercise their right to vote, taking over socials and linking in with national campaigns. Proud to have played a part in getting more 18-25 year olds voting.

## School Communities

Worked to build closer relationships with academic staff to enhance signposting to the SU and work in partnership to better the student experiences in academic spaces.

## Christmas

Held a Christmas get-together with free food and games for students who couldn't or didn't want to go home for the winter break.

## Rep Con

Saw over 70 student volunteer representatives attend to develop their skills and networks this year.

## Mitigating Circumstances

Working with Academic Registry to ensure that this process has student feedback and influence threaded throughout, this work is ongoing.



Charlotte Lastowecky

**VP Education**





**Sophie Barratt**

**VP Activities**

### **Gym Space**

Launched a campaign to up inclusivity in the gym, submitting a funding bid to Sport England to support this work and surveyed 125 students for their opinion on what we can do. Working on an inclusive gym timetable and bringing in 'Not a Phase' to lead trans specific activity.

### **Student Staff**

Collected regular feedback from our student staff team on the SU and their experience as staff, leading to this vital group of staff feeling more heard and valued in the workplace and the organisation getting more valuable feedback on activity.

### **Clubs & Societies**

Changed and improved the by-laws and complaints processes that affect student groups, making it easier and clearer for students to engage with our groups at the SU.

### **Halloween**

Delivered a popular, two-venue Halloween event with a spooky scare maze. Working with student staff as scare actors was a particular highlight.

# Student Voice

We have supported students academic interests at course, school and at institution level

**78%** of students now believe that the Students' Union effectively represents their **academic interests**, a huge increase from 2022 when only 56% of students felt properly represented →



# 542

students are serving  
as representatives for  
their course, that's  
**213 more** than in

# 90%

of students agree we  
keep them **informed**  
about the work we do to  
promote their interests, a  
**8%** increase from 2022



Our **Welcome and Induction** plans are now year-round to support students starting their studies outside of the traditional September window

We received a whopping

**1002**

nominations from students for University staff in our Golden Roses awards compared with **740 in 2022**






# Student Life ♥

We have provided support throughout all areas of student life

**56%** of students now describe themselves as a member of the Union and are able to identify two membership benefits compared to just **44% in 2022** →



**65%** of students in 2024 agreed that the Union supports students to help find **part time work** at University compared to 2022 where 56% of students agreed



# 88%

of students would  
recommend the Union  
**advice and support**  
service to others



Worked with the Uni to bring women's **self-defence** classes onto campus for survivors of sexual violence →

We have given out over **400** Student Support cards to promote ← University services

**5** members of our staff team are trained as Mental Health **First Aiders** →

# 53

**Big Ideas** were submitted by students and **2224** votes were cast on issues and ideas that students cared about the most

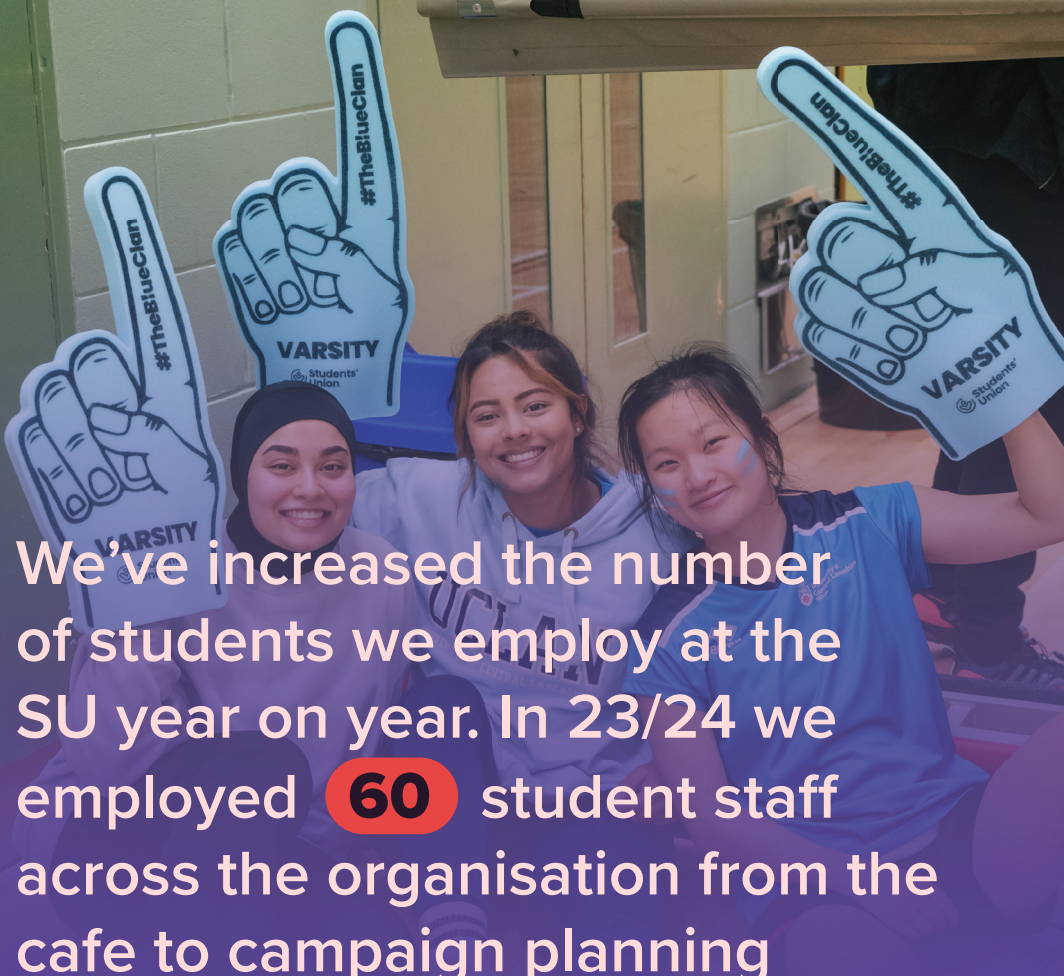




We run two main social enterprise outlets (Lampworks and Atrium Cafe) making space for students to connect, relax and stay caffeinated!

We've sold over **40,000** coffees, **1200** pizzas and hosted over **100** student-  
← centred events this year





We've increased the number of students we employ at the SU year on year. In 23/24 we employed **60** student staff across the organisation from the cafe to campaign planning

# Student Community

We have continued to develop our Clubs, Societies to help build a varied student community

# 72%

of students agree that 'The Union contributed **positively** to their welcome to the University

# 1901

students volunteered with the Students' Union this year, that's **362** more than 2022





In this year's Union Survey, **56%** of respondents said that they identify themselves as a member of the Students' Union which is a **12%** increase from 2022 →

**70%** of students agree that the Union has a positive impact on their life. This is a **9%** increase ← since 2022

We launched **'Get Togethers'** for black, disabled and international students for the first time in 2023. Holding space for under-represented communities to celebrate their identity and crucially have a bit of fun together →



We have supported **114** student-led societies and **52** sports clubs this year. Our groups span from academic societies, special interest, sport, cultural, religious, political, campaigning and volunteering. **2158** students are members of a student society or club





# The → Future

We're really proud of what we have supported and boosted students to do over the last three years. We're now planning for the next three!

We have a **brand new strategy** shaped around tackling three core missions:

**Tackling  
the cost of  
living crisis**

**Protecting  
Student  
Wellbeing**

**Boosting  
Student  
Attainment**

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