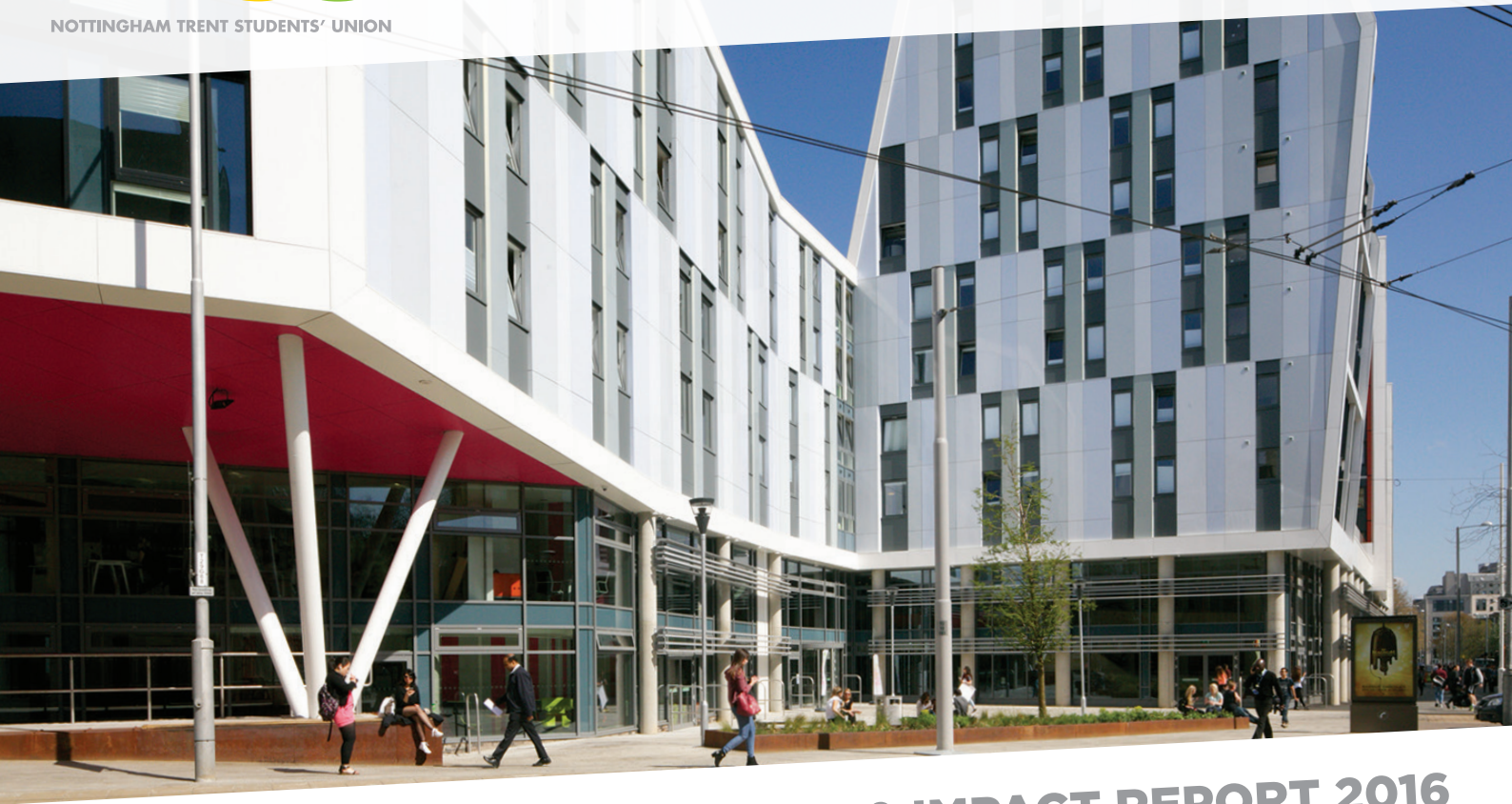
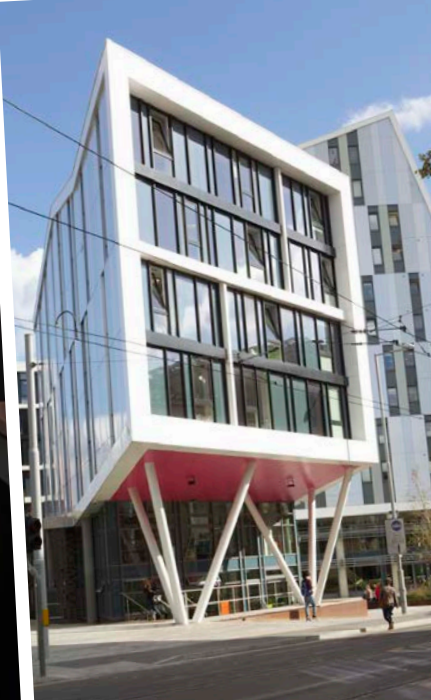




NOTTINGHAM TRENT STUDENTS' UNION



BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION & IMPACT REPORT 2016



INTRODUCTION

This report explains how the activities of Nottingham Trent Students' Union have achieved positive outcomes for our members over the 2015/16 academic year. In addition it details the improvements that continue to be made within the organisation. This includes investment in our physical facilities and services. During the year there has been further recognition of the quality of the provision we make by both our members and the wider sector. Our priorities for the next academic year are also outlined.

The Union is grateful for the strong relationships which it enjoys with the University's academic and administrative departments and the people who lead and work within them. These relationships enable us to meet our charitable objectives and help us improve students' experience of our Union. The maintenance of these relationships is one of our strategic priorities.

This year we have continued to prioritise the engagement of students and the representation of our members. The details of our achievements in this area are included in the report. Senior University staff have been keen to respond positively to feedback from students. This has led to significant improvements in the student experience in a number of areas and is an indication of the positive benefits which can be derived from a strong University/Union relationship.

Similarly, the Union has continued to support the implementation of the University's strategic plan in all areas where this delivers positive outcomes for students. It will continue to do so in the forthcoming academic year.

NTSU is in a strong position to continue to grow, develop and strengthen both our organisation and the services we offer for our members. The re-election of two of the Union's officers for a further term in office, an established senior management team, a strong trustee board and effective governance and democratic procedures underpin a students' Union which is relatively stable and in a strong position to contribute positively to the lives of students.



Jeremiah Anson
NTSU President

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Union's work and improved service to our members have been recognised in a number of ways during the period since our last grant application was submitted in May last year. These include:

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

Our Students' Union was recognised as Higher Education Students Union of the Year this year, receiving their award at the annual Students' Unions 2015 Conference.

NSS Q23

Our NSS Q23 score improved by 2% points during the year. We now have an 83% approval rating for our students' Union. This has led to a further rise in our league table position from 11th position to 10th in 2015. Our score has improved by 17% points since 2012 creating a rise of 48 places from 58th to 10th in our league table position.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

The increasing satisfaction of students with NTSU is also reflected in this year's THE Student Experience Survey which has seen a further increase in our satisfaction rating and an increase in our position in the students' Union element of the survey from 13th to 8th this year.

STAFF ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

We were successful in winning the NUS Staff Engagement Award during 2014. It was the first time that we engaged in the survey which allows us to benchmark our performance

against the 31 other Unions using the survey and third sector comparators. Last year we extended the survey to cover our student staff members. 85% of all those who responded would 'wholeheartedly recommend the organisation as a good place to work'. This is 7% points higher than the whole students' Union sample median score and 12% higher than the third sector benchmark median.

NUS ACCREDITATION

This year, NTSU has retained its Gold 'Best Bar None' and Gold 'Green Impact' accreditations.

INVESTORS IN VOLUNTEERS

During the current academic year we have secured the Investors in Volunteers Award for the work we undertake with our volunteers. The assessment focussed in particular on work undertaken by Law students in our Information and Advice Centre and the work of key student representatives.

ADVICE QUALITY STANDARD

This academic year we have successfully secured the Advice Quality Standard for the services delivered in our Students' Union Information and Advice Centre.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE GOLD AWARD

During the year we were successful in achieving the Investors in People Gold Award. This follows winning the NUS Staff Engagement Awards during 2014 and is a further indicator of the quality of our human resources practices.

BE A CONFIDENT VOICE FOR OUR MEMBERS

BIG IDEAS

Number of big ideas submitted: **49**

Number of big ideas passed: **18**

Number of big ideas implemented: **8**

- **Expanding the remit of the Parent Students Officer to include representation for Student Carers**
- **Changing the name of the BME Officer to Ethnic Minority Officer**
- **Working with the University to install lecture capture facilities in lecture theatres, so students can watch lectures retrospectively online**
- **Changing the Academic Rep elections to an online process to allow greater levels of democracy and accessibility**
- **British Sign Language (BSL) – started conversations about arranging BSL courses for those interested**
- **Availability of University Sports Hall During Examination Period – we are working towards increased availability during exam periods**
- **Kids' food menu in the SU – we are having discussions about what family-friendly food we can serve in the SU food outlets**
- **NTSU website listing local childcare providers – information will be available soon for parents who want to find childcare for their children whilst they are studying**

SLICE THE PRICE

Slice the Price is NTSU's campaign to cut the costs of being a student and help put money back in students' pockets. This wide-reaching campaign focuses on a range of issues which impact of student finances. Positive action and impact achieved as part of this campaign includes:

Westminster Lobby – We took a group of students to the Houses of Parliament to lobby MPs about the cuts to student maintenance grants as part of a national day of action led by NUS.

Degree show funding – Based on student feedback, we successfully encouraged NTU to fund all degree shows for students on over 20 art, design, fashion and architecture courses. These shows were previously funded by students. This has saved students an estimated £150,000.



Tampon Tax – NTSU decided to discount the tax on sanitary products sold in SU shops, meaning students no longer pick up the bill!

Halls of Residence – NTSU has successfully encouraged NTU to agree to not raise accommodation costs above the underlying rate of inflation. This is estimated to save NTU students around £300,000 over the next academic year based on initially projected rate rises.

ACADEMIC REPS

Over 1,500 pieces of individual feedback submitted by Academic Reps during Feedback Week in term 1.

Successful launch of our first Academic Conference to recognise the reps' contribution to the University and Union. The conference was a huge success and will be implemented as an annual event open to all representatives to further their personal development.



CASE STUDY - AKIL HUNTE

LAW SCHOOL REP



WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

In my first year of University.

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH NTSU?

I am the Academic Representative for the Law School.

WHAT IMPACT HAS BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU HAD ON YOU AT NTU?

Becoming an Academic Representative has really helped me integrate with my coursemates, enabling me to inspire people to work harder and start revising for their exams earlier. I feel that taking on this role and being responsible for helping to make positive changes within the Law School will be an incredibly positive experience which I will look back on as a defining moment in my personal development.

HOW DO YOU FEEL IT HAS HELPED WITH YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

It has helped me in ways that I could not have imagined. It has taught me to be proactive when trying to make changes and also how to support and seek support from other people around me. I have become aware of procedures in the professional workplace such as setting agendas for meetings and learning how important it is to set an example for people.

DO YOU THINK BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU IS HELPING YOU ON YOUR COURSE?

By taking on this role, I have been able to have

conversations with many academics and students that would not have occurred otherwise. It has also allowed me to start building a network with law specialists and feel more integrated with my year group.

DO YOU THINK BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU IS HELPING YOU PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER UNI?

Definitely - this role is very independent and encourages me to use my initiative. I feel that, by working within NTSU, I have learned to take charge of my academic progress and become more creative with my ideas. Plus it has got me used to taking on more responsibility, which will be beneficial in lots of situations.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT OTHER STUDENTS GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

Yes. I would suggest that they take an active role in NTSU which is related to their chosen field in order to get the most out of it. My experience has helped me identify my main skillsets and is directing my passion for self-improvement. If you go into NTSU with the mindset that you want to make a positive change and play a key role in the position you apply for, you will make the most out of your involvement.

“By working within NTSU I have learned to take charge of my academic progress and become more creative with my ideas”

INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICE

**680 CASES OPENED SINCE SEPT 2015,
WITH 100% RESOLUTION RATE.**

258 academic matters (38%)

319 housing matters (47%)

49 finance matters (7%)

43 student issues (6%)

11 employment matters (2%)

We've saved £33,239 for students owed to cases we've resolved.



ACADEMIC CASE STUDY

Student A came to the Information and Advice Service as he had been invited to an Academic Irregularity Panel meeting with the University, WHO believed that he had colluded with another student on a piece of coursework.

We explained to the student that the University definition of collusion is:

An understanding or agreement between two or more people to intentionally cooperate to gain an unfair advantage in assessment and may include:

- Unauthorised and unacknowledged joint authorship in an assessment task;
- Unauthorised and unacknowledged copying or use of material prepared by another person for use in assessment.

Student A told us that, after completing the piece of work, he was in the library when one of his friends asked to see his work as they were struggling. Student A said that the other student then went to get a drink and took the work with him. Student A did not think anything of this but had now realised that the other student must have copied his work as that student had also been called into an Academic Irregularity meeting. The other student had also since emailed Student A and apologised to him for having copied his work without his knowledge and said that he would tell the panel this.

We helped Student A compose his statement for the panel explaining what had happened and also advised him to get written statements from his friends who could confirm that Student A had completed his work and that he only gave the other student his work to read, not to copy. We also advised Student A to print the email from the other student admitting that he had copied student A's work and present this to the panel along with his written statement.

We then attended the Academic Irregularity meeting with Student A and ensured that he had the opportunity to put his version of events to the panel.

The panel heard both students at separate meetings and decided, on the balance of probability, that Student A was telling the truth. The outcome of this decision was that Student A's work was marked as normal while the other student's work received a mark of 0.

FINANCE CASE STUDY

Student B had a party at his Private Halls of Residence. His guests caused a lot of damage and his landlord had sent him an invoice to pay. Student B agreed with what he was being charged for on the invoice and also that it was his responsibility to pay the charges but he could not afford to pay the charge in full because he did not have the finances to do this. His landlord told him that if he did not pay the charge by a certain date they would change the locks and evict him.

We checked Student B's contract and established that he was an Assured Shorthold Tenant. His landlord therefore could not simply change his locks because, if they did this, they would have evicted him illegally. His landlord would first have to give him notice that they were going to start possession proceedings and then take the matter to court.

We also checked to see what his contract said regarding damage to the property and liability and the contract did state that the tenant would be liable for any damage caused by him or any of his guests.

Student B told us that his landlord had said that they would also chase his guarantor, his mum, for any money that he owed. Student B said that his mum could not pay this charge either.

We emailed Student B's landlord and firstly advised them that were they to change our student's locks and evict him as they claimed they would, it would amount to an illegal eviction and we would seek an injunction against them to get our student back into the property. We explained the correct procedure of eviction to them and advised that it would be lengthy and costly. We informed them that our student was in agreement with the amount that they were invoicing him for and that he was willing to pay this charge but was currently unable to pay because he was waiting for his next set of student finances to be paid to him. We explained that, by the time the landlord had exhausted the court possession procedures, our student would be in a position to pay the invoice in full.

The landlord agreed that they would not evict our student illegally and that he could pay the invoice in instalments after he received his student funding.

The Information and Advice Service have also informed the private hall's Head Office that they need to ensure that they do not threaten our students with illegal eviction. We also asked them to ensure that all their staff are trained on Assured Shorthold Tenancies and what our students' rights are under such tenancies.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SOCIETIES

Our **81** societies have over **5,000** members. Societies have held over **100** events using SU facilities since September 2015.

MEDIA AWARDS

Our student radio station, Fly FM, brought home **5** accolades at the Student Radio Awards:

Best Female: Gold

Best Male: Silver

Student Radio Chart Show: Silver

Kevin Greening Award: Bronze

Best Specialist: Bronze

STUDENT STAFF

We have employed over **400** NTU students to work part-time for us since April 1st 2015, helping with their personal development and providing them an income while studying. They have worked over **91,693** hours and earned over **£665,000**.

EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING

598 students have enrolled on our training programs this academic year.

VOLUNTEERING

346 volunteers took part in **160** opportunities provided by **94** different organisations.

38 students submitted **22** individual project proposals in a bid for Green Leader funding. The winner of the Green Leaders initiative has been awarded **£1,000**.



CASE STUDY - JOSH WELLS

GREEN LEADER PROJECT FUNDING WINNER



WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

I became involved in NTSU after applying for the Green Leaders grant.

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH NTSU?

I am currently planning to install large woody debris (LWD) in watercourses around Brackenhurst as part of my PhD project to assess the impacts on flood risk. LWD has wider benefits, so the project also aims to increase biodiversity in the streams. I hope it will have a positive impact with lag times between peak rainfall and peak discharge reduced. In addition, research opportunities will be increased and students will have the opportunity to volunteer. This is being funded by a £1,000 NTU Green Leaders grant.

WHAT IMPACT HAS BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU HAD ON YOUR TIME AT UNIVERSITY?

At the moment my project is still developing. However, it has been good to meet new people and find out what else is going on within NTSU. The Environment Agency, Southwell Flood Forum, Trent River Trust and NTSU are

all involved within the project, so it has really helped me to build a professional network.

DO YOU FEEL IT HAS HELPED WITH YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Yes. I had to give a presentation in order to access the funding, so it has allowed me to develop my presentation skills and fund raising skills.

DO YOU THINK BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU IS HELPING YOU PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER UNIVERSITY?

Yes, this has helped with my networking as I have the opportunity to meet new people and members of the NTSU. The PhD project itself has allowed me to meet a number of professionals within the field alongside multiple agencies and groups who are involved within flood risk management.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT OTHER STUDENTS GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

Yes because it's good to be a part of a wider community and to give something back where you can.

“It's good to be a part of a wider community and to give something back where you can.”

SAFE, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

DAYTRIPS

We have taken 278 international students on 27 daytrips and weekend breaks around the UK, travelling 5535 miles since 1st April 2015.

MARKETING

- Segmented summer mail-out with tailored info targeted at different audiences introduced for the first time
- Over 200,000 unique visitors have created over 3 million page impressions on our trentstudents.org website

12,341 Facebook likes

14,082 Twitter followers

Our email newsletter has a 48% open rate (26% increase on previous year)



CASE STUDY - PAULETTE RAWLINS



WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

October 2014.

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH NTSU?

I needed help with a housing issue where I had been threatened with

eviction, so I contacted the Information & Advice Service, who helped me organise my papers and prepare a letter for the court. With their support I was able to challenge the case, which was ruled in my favour, enabling myself and my son and daughter to be able to stay in our home.

After this experience, I realised how much NTSU has to offer and began getting other students interested in many of their Student Voice initiatives. I was involved in NTSU's campaign to get people registered to vote in last year's general elections, and traveled to the House of Commons as part of NTSU's delegation to lobby my MP on student issues. I have also helped a friend successfully campaign to be their Halls Committee President last year and to run for Clifton Liaison Officer this year. Now I am thinking of running in the NTSU elections next year.

WHAT IMPACT HAS BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU HAD ON YOUR TIME AT UNIVERSITY?

They have helped and supported me in various matters relating to housing, health, education, disability needs and volunteering opportunities, so they have had a big impact.

DO YOU FEEL IT HAS HELPED WITH YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Yes. I've grown in confidence in my ability to help others become better at what they do. Through this confidence I have grown as a person and gained skills and experience that wouldn't have been possible before.

DO YOU THINK BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU IS HELPING YOU PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER UNIVERSITY?

Yes. My desire and aspiration is to be deeply involved in changes to educational policy by depoliticising education, and encouraging youth involvement and engagement through political and community leadership. I'm committed to making the most of every opportunity I get to help others improve their hopes, which is an exciting future goal for me to work towards.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT OTHER STUDENTS GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

I have and I do. British politics impacts on education, faith, housing, transport, social care, community, heritage and immigration. It affects me, not just while I study, but also impacts my future prospects throughout life. By engaging with the Students' Union you can have a powerful voice and a greater chance of influencing decision-making locally and nationally.

**"I've grown in confidence in my ability to
help others become better at what they do."**

CASE STUDY - ASHLEY QUEENSBOROUGH

ADVICE CENTRE VOLUNTEER AND ENTERTAINMENTS TEAM LEADER



WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

I am a 3rd Year Criminology Student and have been involved with the SU since February 2015 when I started my volunteering, but have since got a paid position within the Entertainments department.

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH NTSU?

I currently volunteer for the Information and Advice Service, which involves assisting with the various projects which they deliver for students. I also work part-time as a team leader for the Entertainments department. My duties include working in the box office and cloakroom, operating the guest list selling event tickets, making sure that the staff and performers are OK and helping to cash up.

WHAT IMPACT HAS BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU HAD ON YOUR TIME AT UNIVERSITY?

I feel being involved with NTSU has given me a chance to meet new people as well as learn a number of new skills such as checking contracts, managing and training people and handling cash. I also feel the experience allows me to include a number

of things to my CV such as my responsibilities in the Ents role as well as my volunteer hours, which will make me more employable in the future.

DO YOU FEEL IT HAS HELPED WITH YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Yes, it has helped me gain more confidence in talking to new people as well as been able to deal with potential difficult and stressful situations.

DO YOU THINK BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU IS HELPING YOU PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER UNIVERSITY?

I have gained skills such as cash handling and training volunteers, which should help me stand out to any future employers as well as giving me some excellent references should I require them. I hope to get a job working with cybercrime and I hope my skills will give me the upper hand. I also hope that having some experience of being a team leader would give me a greater chance of gaining a promotion in the future.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT OTHER STUDENTS GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

I would highly recommend it to anyone as it is a great social experience which also allows you to develop skills that could be useful for years to come. Plus it can provide an income with highly flexible hours that can easily be worked around your University schedule.

“It is a great social experience which also allows you to develop skills that could be useful for years to come”



HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

167,731 hot drinks sold from our three coffee shops (25% increase on previous year)

117,685 meals sold from our two diners (15% increase on previous year)

£75,000 income per week from food and beverage sales (4% increase on same period last year)

£46,000 income per week from our retail outlets, held from last year's record year

3,425 items of branded clothing sold from our retail outlets (21% increase on previous year)

Catering – **6th** highest students' union purchasing volume

Retail – **7th** highest students' union purchasing volume

Bars – **10th** highest students' union purchasing volume

Biggest ever last day of term event (summer 2015)

13% increase in income at Brackenhurst venue – **£6,400** per week – due to investment in refurbishments

£503,987 online revenue generated since April 2015

Varsity season tickets and Ice Hockey tickets sold out in record time.



NUMBER OF ENTERTAINMENTS EVENTS

215 in City SU Venues (10% increase on previous year)

130 in Clifton SU (30% increase on previous year)

112 in Brackenhurst SU (47% increase on previous year)

138 in external/affiliated venues (in line with previous year)

TOTAL EVENTS: 595
(16% INCREASE ON PREVIOUS YEAR)



EVENTS PROGRAMME

Continued to diversify the programme of events, including:

- International themed parties
- Music festivals
- LGBT club nights
- Live comedy performances
- Award ceremonies
- Dance showcases
- Niche music events (jnci. Jazz, Rock, Metal, Bhangra, R&B, Indie)
- Launched Trent Talent with 54 acts, a live final with 12 acts, with the winner getting a cash prize and the chance to perform at the Grad Ball.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Formal Balls: **5,083**
(Freshers Ball / Sports Ball / Brackenhurst Ball / Graduation Ball)

Last Day of Term Events: **10,985**
(over 3 events in City and 3 events in Clifton)

Attendance at NTSU events during Welcome Week: over **45,000**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

More than **£54,000** of income generated in first 2 hours of Graduation Ball ticket sales

Fastest selling event: **Trentival (05/06/15)**

Advance sales: **3,832** tickets sold within 7 hours

£276,000 worth of events tickets sold online



CASE STUDY - JARLETH EATON

FLY FM PRESENTER/DJ

WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN NTSU?

As soon as I got the grades to get into NTU, I was already looking at joining the student radio station, Fly FM. In my first year, I was given a two-hour show, then in second year, I was appointed Head of Programming. Leading the programming team I made all decisions involving on-air talent and content on the station before being appointed Head of Sport in my third year. This involved leading all sports content on the station, including overseeing coverage of the biggest Varsity Series in the UK.

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN NTSU?

In my second year I joined the NTSU Entertainments team as a DJ. After a couple of sets, I was asked to DJ at First Base, our weekly Wednesday night pre-bar at

the Students Union. In my third year, I started DJing the warm up sets for our two big club nights, Double Vision at The Point and Climax in the main SU. I also started hosting the weekly Sunday night quiz at The Point. After graduating, I continue to warm up for Climax on Saturdays and host The Point quiz on Sundays, but I also DJ at Fluid, our main Friday night event over at Brackenhurst campus, on a fortnightly basis.

WHAT IMPACT DID BEING INVOLVED IN NTSU HAVE ON YOUR TIME AT UNIVERSITY?

It certainly had a massive impact. Being involved with Fly FM gave me the confidence to be successful in my University studies. I studied Broadcast Journalism at University, and the experience of presenting, newsreading and off air marketing for Fly FM helped me develop my voice and skillset to go out into the wider world of work. The DJing was a lot of fun, and it is nice to still be involved with the SU and see people that I know from my University days.

DO YOU FEEL IT IS HELPED WITH YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Massively. This is probably where it has the most impact. When I first came to University, and I thought I only needed a bit of polish to be the finished article. But being around a number of talented individuals in student radio who are now presenting professionally on Capital, Absolute Radio and Radio X, to name but a few, showed me just how much work I needed to do to get to their level. It was also great to gain friendships with people who were "radio nerds" like

me! Where DJing is concerned, again, being around very talented DJs helped me gain a lot of friendships and also helped me become a better DJ.

DO YOU FEEL YOU WOULD NOT HAVE GOT YOUR CURRENT JOB WITHOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE YOU GAINED THROUGH NTSU?

Well, I still work for the Students' Union DJing, so most definitely not! I also currently work for BBC Radio Nottingham on their sport programme, Matchday. I certainly wouldn't have made the industry contacts if I hadn't joined Fly FM. The real life experience I gained from working on Varsity programmes and also driving and producing shows on Fly definitely helped me to get the role. You may get a first in your degree but if you have no experience you might not get the jobs in radio and TV. Student radio is being recognised more in the industry these days, so working within it certainly helped me get into the job that I am currently in.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT OTHER STUDENTS GET INVOLVED WITH NTSU?

Most definitely. There are so many societies to choose from that there will be something for you. In addition, it gives you opportunities to make friendships with people who are into the same things as you, something which can't be underestimated. Furthermore, it can open more doors than you might imagine. I certainly didn't think I would be a regular DJ with NTSU four years ago!

"Being involved in Fly FM gave me the confidence to be successful in my University studies."



FUTURE WORK

Nottingham Trent Students' Union has worked hard during recent years to ensure that it is financially stable. Our financial processes are underpinned by a solid policy framework, including a reserves policy which complies with the Charity Commission's advice and guidance. Regular interaction with the University's internal audit team allows for continuous improvement of our financial practices.

NTSU is requesting a block grant of £1,650k. This reflects a 0.9% increase on last year, reflecting salary increases in relation to our charitable activities. Effective financial management means that NTSU will be able to invest additional resource this year on professional staff to support out student representation work and our membership services at the Brackenhurst campus.

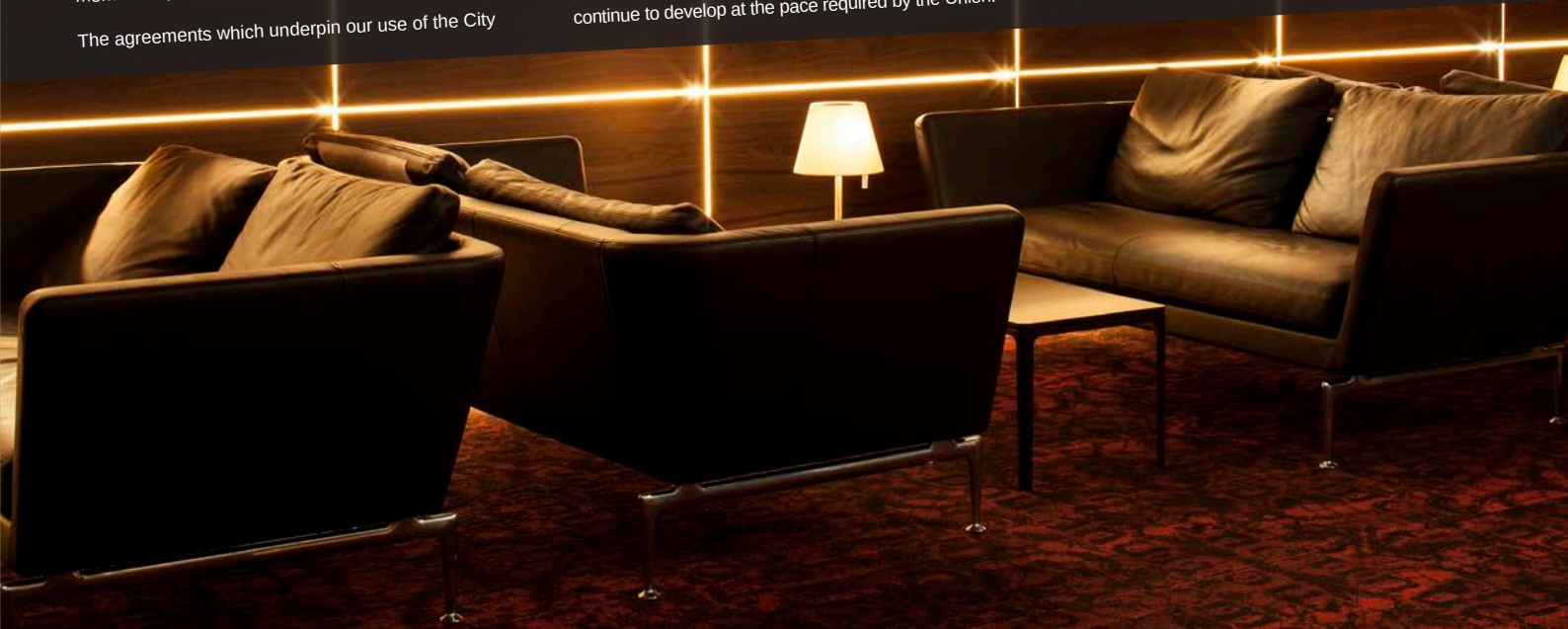
The agreements which underpin our use of the City

Students' Union building have given responsibility for replacing furniture in the new facilities to NTSU. This year will see the completion of three years' service delivery since the completion of the building and some of the furniture will be replaced this summer. This will include furniture in the café area and some of the items of furniture in the Mezzanine Lounge. In addition we expect to make an investment to ensure that our vehicle fleet is fit for purpose.

We are increasingly dependent on our digital platform to facilitate and manage student engagement. This requires a close working relationship with NTU IS staff and increasing amounts of staff time within NTSU. With this in mind we will be recruiting a Digital Services Co-ordinator to ensure that this area of work continues to be legally compliant and can continue to develop at the pace required by the Union.

During 2016/17 we also intend to make an investment in our Entertainment and Events structure. The Union has been successful this year in increasing its activities and revenues in some of these areas, against the wider trend in the sector. However, we are keen to ensure that we continue to keep these areas fresh and innovative. We will therefore devote additional resource to the development of new business. We expect this to be reflected in additional revenue from our trading activities which will fund the additional costs.

Finally, the Union will ensure that it retains the financial flexibility during the year to support the continuing implementation of the University's strategy, while ensuring that our ability to implement our own strategy is not compromised.





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