

# NTSU Impact Report 2017









# INTRODUCTION

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This report outlines the positive impacts that Nottingham Trent Students' Union (NTSU) has made on the experiences of our members at Nottingham Trent University during the academic year 2016/17. It describes the services that we deliver and the scale on which they operate. It includes some case studies of the impact that these services have had on our members' lives.

The document also describes our priorities for the next academic year. The University and the higher education sector more broadly, have undergone significant developments during recent years. We need to ensure that our plans for the Union reflect these, complementing the University's strategy where this is in the best interests of our members and representing the views of our members on issues that are of importance to them. It is anticipated that outlining these priorities within our grant application will enable a sharper focus on delivering these desired outcomes.

The Union has created significant reserves in recent years. The Union will use these resources to improve services. We have undertaken work

***"WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT OUR PLANS FOR THE UNION COMPLEMENT THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGY WHERE THIS IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS AND REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF OUR MEMBERS ON ISSUES THAT ARE OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM."***

this year to explore the feasibility of extending the Union's facilities at the Clifton Campus. This will provide additional facilities for membership services delivery and refresh the bar and venue space at the campus. This document outlines the plans in more detail, seeks formal approval from the University to undertake the work and seeks clarification of any regulatory oversight the University would like to exercise over any agreed project.

The Union is grateful for the generous grant funding it receives from the University, which supports the membership services delivered by the Union and enables their further development. The University also supports the Union through the provision of services in areas information services and payroll that are appreciated greatly. The Union values the strong relationships that it enjoys with

University staff in general and with University senior managers and senior academics in particular. These relationships benefit both our membership activities and our trading activities. However, most importantly they enable our elected officers and representatives to negotiate positive changes to our members' academic and broader student experiences.

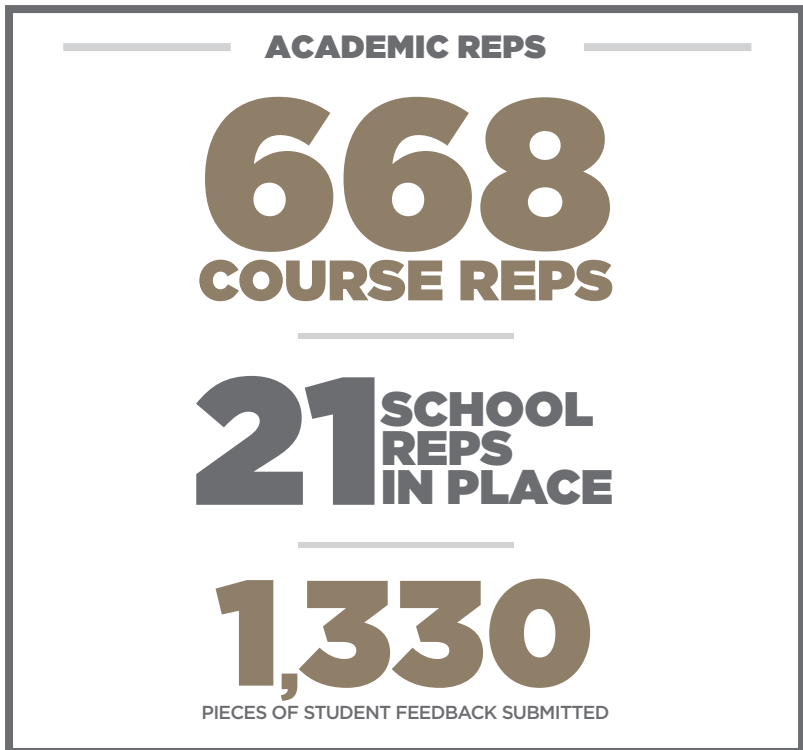
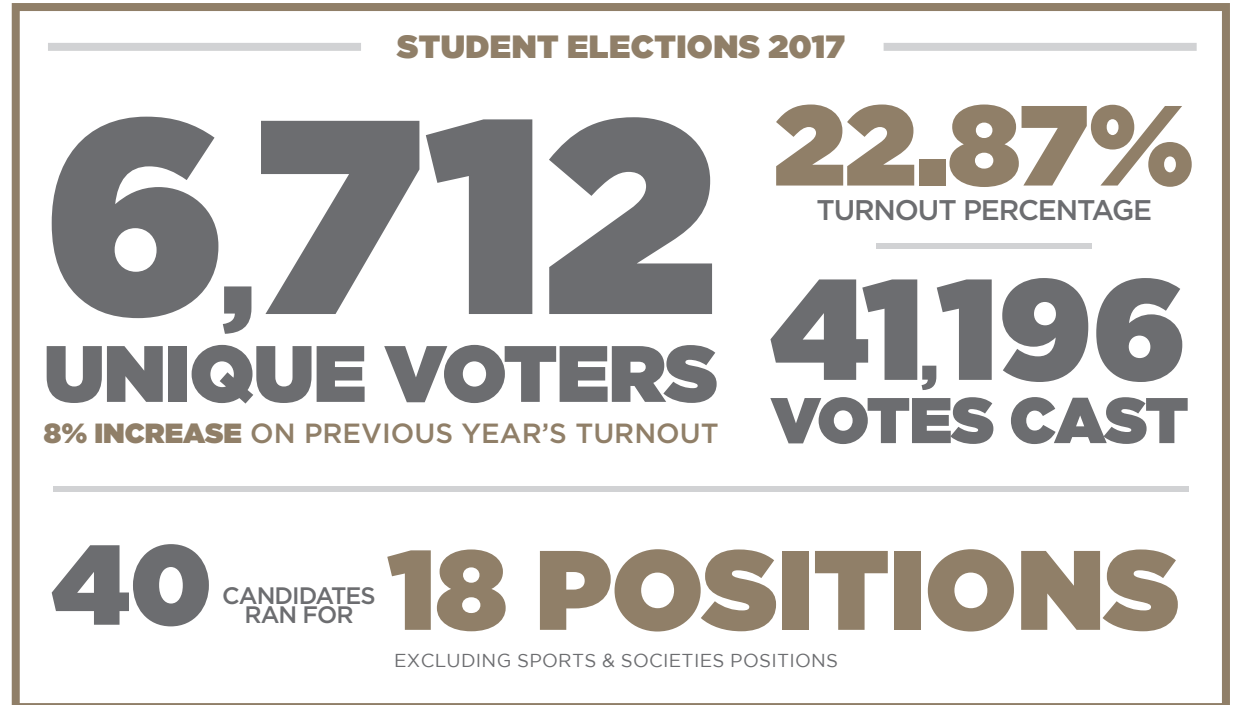
NTSU is in a strong position to continue to grow, develop and strengthen both our organisation and the services we offer for our members. The re-election of three of the union's officers for a further term in office, an established senior management team, university appointed trustee and effective governance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



***"THE UNION VALUES THE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS THAT IT ENJOYS WITH UNIVERSITY STAFF IN GENERAL AND WITH UNIVERSITY SENIOR MANAGERS AND SENIOR ACADEMICS IN PARTICULAR."***

**BE A CONFIDENT  
VOICE FOR  
OUR MEMBERS**







# 1,502 ↑ 94%

**TIMES IAS PROVIDED STUDENTS WITH ADVICE**

HOUSING CASES: 563 | ACADEMIC ISSUES: 671  
MONEY ISSUES: 124 | HEALTH & WELLBEING: 129  
EMPLOYMENT: 15

**INCREASE ON SAME PERIOD IN  
PREVIOUS YEAR**

## STUDENT A

### HOUSING CASE STUDY

Student A (SA) is a student who transferred to NTU from another University. The other University's hall provider claimed that SA had signed a tenancy agreement with them for the period September 2016 – June 2017. They said that SA needed to find an alternative student to replace her at the halls in order to end her tenancy. SA found another student who was able to move in from December 2016. However the halls provider told SA that they would not allow this person to move in until SA's rent had been paid for the period Sept 2016 – December 2016. SA was unable to pay in one lump sum

so offered to pay in instalments but the hall provider declined this arrangement. The halls provider threatened court action and told SA that they had passed the case on to their solicitor. This led to SA experiencing depression and anxiety which affected their studies. SA then approach NTSU's Information & Advice Service (IAS) for help.

IAS arranged for the student to receive support from NTU's wellbeing service and their GP with regard to the depression and anxiety they were experiencing. IAS also helped student to submit a NEC to NTU for extensions and

support with her studies. IAS contacted the halls provider and asked them for a copy of a signed tenancy agreement to confirm that the client was liable for the rent. The halls provider could not provide this and agreed that SA was not liable for any rent. The replacement student was then able to move into the accommodation vacated by SA. As well as arranging the aforementioned support, IAS saved SA £1600 as this was the rent that the halls provider alleged that SA owed for the period September 2016 – December 2016.

## STUDENT B

### ACADEMIC CASE STUDY

Student B (SB) is in their final year. SB was ill in their 2nd year during the main exam period and submitted a NEC which was upheld, enabling them to re-sit the exam as a first sitting. They sat the exam during the re-sit period and subsequently failed. SB spoke with the subject administrator who said that they could re-sit the exam in their final year, after undertaking a placement year, but their mark would be capped. SB then took up a placement year without any issues.

When returning to university in October, SB was informed by their course leader that, as they did not attend the re-sit exam in the main exam period, the Board of Examiners had decided that they could only be awarded a basic degree without honours as all re-sit attempts had been exhausted. SB explain that the subject administrator stated that they would have the opportunity to re-sit the exam in their final year. The course leader did not accept this and claimed that the exam had to be sat during the placement year which had now passed. SB was on track for a predicted 1st or 2:1 and had also been offered the opportunity to apply for a role at the company where they had just completed their placement, as well as receiving offers for other graduate schemes. With an ordinary degree, SB would not be eligible

to apply for any of these roles.

SB contacted IAS who requested copies of letters and emails sent to and from the School in regard to the referral exam then helped SB to submit a R4R application after being informed that SB had received no formal correspondence on the matter. IAS stated in the R4R that SB communicated with the University during their placement year but at no time did the University mention that the referral exam had to be undertaken during this period. We stated that it was therefore unreasonable for the university to have expected SB to have checked their academic timetable as SB was not expecting any timetabled academic activity outside of their work placement. Finally we argued that, as the subject administrator informed SB that they could sit the exam in their third and final year, SB had relied and acted on this instruction.

SB's R4R was successful as the panel agreed that SB had not been informed correctly about the referral exam. SB was therefore given another opportunity to take the exam during the main exam period. This allowed SB the opportunity to receive an honours degree and therefore be in a much better position with regard to their employment opportunities.

# £42,000

**SAVED FOR STUDENTS**

# 100%

**RESOLUTION RATE BASED ON  
STUDENT'S PERCEPTION**

\*All Advice stats since September 2016.



**CREATE PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**



# ELLIOTT DOORNBOS

FINAL YEAR CRIMINOLOGY  
MASTERS STUDENT

## When did you get involved in NTSU?

I volunteered to work for the Information & Advice Service in my second year because I wanted to get some volunteering experience and had heard from a friend who had used the service that it was good and that they had volunteering opportunities available. I started out helping with various projects but now I'm one of the more experienced team members I have recently been training other volunteers.

## In what capacity are you involved with NTSU?

I volunteered for the advice service for about 18 months and went on to work for the entertainments team, which I've done for a year now and am currently a team leader.

## What impact has being involved in NTSU had on your time at university?

I feel a lot more engaged in the student lifestyle because of it. You meet so many people by being involved in the SU it really helps you engage and integrate with other

students. Developing leadership skills and learning to work with people has also been quite helpful.

## Do you feel it has helped with your personal development?

Definitely. When I first came to uni I was really anxious and quiet and these days I am quite comfortable hosting events such as the weekly pub quiz to a room full of people, so it has given me a huge confidence boost.

## Do you feel it has helped with your studies?

Yes, it's helped me with time management and has given me motivation to focus on my work and get my work-life balance in order. The volunteering work has also helped to give better context to certain subjects in criminology, which is an unexpected benefit.

## Do you think being involved in NTSU is helping you prepare for life after university?

My experience working in both roles



has definitely helped me prepare for being in a work environment. Developing leadership skills and learning to work with people has also been quite helpful.

## Would you recommend that other students get involved in NTSU?

Definitely. It helps you to engage with student life and make the most of your university experience.

## SOCIETIES

# 412

STUDENTS HOLD POSITIONS ON  
SOCIETY COMMITTEES

# 69%

OF WHICH HAVE COMPLETED OUR  
FULL TRAINING PROGRAM

## VOLUNTEERING

**330** VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED WITH

**107** ORGANISATIONS ON

**139** DIFFERENT VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

**33,645**

VOLUNTEERING HOURS WERE LOGGED BY VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING OUR FRESHERS TEAM

# QUEENIE SOBOWALE

2ND YEAR PSYCHOLOGY WITH SOCIOLOGY

## When did you get involved in NTSU?

I ran in the by-elections to be Ethnic Minorities Officer in my first year after seeing it in the guide that came in the post before I came to uni. It was originally the BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) Officer but I was able to change this job title to make it more inclusive while I was in the role.

## In what capacity are you involved with NTSU?

I used to be the Ethnic Minority Officer, where I represented the SU at the annual NUS conference,

ran some events of my own including movie nights, a giving blood day and raised awareness of the importance of giving blood in ethnic minority communities. I also ran my own termly assemblies, which was hard at first but I learned a lot about getting people to engage and made a lot of connections with people.

I currently work as a Welcome Assistant, which is really fun, especially during Freshers week as you get to meet lots of new people.

## What impact has being involved in NTSU had on your time at university?

Going to conferences was a great experience – they were all really fun, plus you get to learn a lot about what people at other unis are doing and get ideas that can be implemented to improve things for students at NTU. It's also great to be part of a community where people are all passionate about the same thing.

Now I know a lot more people and feel much more integrated in the student community.

## Do you feel it has helped with your personal development?

Yes, 100%. Both my roles have helped me with my communications skills, time management, organisation skills. It's given me more confidence to stand up for what I believe in. There's nothing bad that has come from being a part of the SU

– everything has been positive. It's also made me realise that I have a voice as a student – I never realised how easy it was for me to speak to the SU Presidents and other officers until I got the chance, then I realised that they are just like you and any student can talk to them.

## Do you feel it has helped with your studies?

Yes. I have been able to use some of the experiences I've had working for the SU to inform my coursework. For example, I had a piece of work on attitudes and was able to integrate things I learned at the NUS conference into this.

## Do you think being involved in NTSU is helping you prepare for life after university?

100%. If I didn't take that first step in my first year to put myself out there and be voted for, then I wouldn't be as confident as I am now and probably wouldn't have gone for the Welcome Assistant role. The skills and experiences I have gained in the role will definitely help me in the future.

## Would you recommend that other students get involved in NTSU?

Yes. I feel that people forget that the SU is here to represent and support them in so many different ways, from societies and sports clubs, to just talking to the officers. Everyone can benefit and learn from one another by being involved in the SU.





## STUDENT STAFF

# 421

STUDENT STAFF HAVE WORKED

# 43,355 HOURS

EARNING

# £361,869

# 21

OF OUR RETAIL  
STUDENT STAFF HAVE  
BEEN TRAINED TO BE  
TEAM LEADERS

# 12

OF OUR ENTERTAINMENTS  
& TECH STAFF HAVE BEEN  
TRAINED TO BE TEAM  
LEADERS



**BUILD A SAFE,  
INCLUSIVE STUDENT  
COMMUNITY**



## CHRIS WAVELL

### GRAPHIC DESIGN GRADUATE

#### When did you get involved in NTSU?

I am in the Army Reserves and actually left university after my first year to do a tour of Afghanistan. I came back after that to re-take my first year and got involved in NTSU as a way to integrate back into student life.

#### In what capacity were you involved with NTSU?

I originally looked at joining the Snowsports club but was interested in learning how to make and pour cocktails. I saw that we had a Real Ale & Cider Society so thought it would be good to set up a society to create an avenue to experience a different side of drinking culture which I find more interesting. I founded the Cocktail Society after investigating the process of starting a society and creating the committee with a group of friends and was President for the remaining two years of my time at NTU.

#### What impact has being involved in NTSU had on your time at university?

It certainly made things busier as I had to be committed to make sure the society was active. Being involved in the society helped to keep me engaged with university life. My friends were quite spread out, rather than all being part of the same social circle, so it provided a way for us all to get together. It also gave me something to focus on when I was lacking motivation on my course which helped me to carry on during times when I was having difficulty with my studies.

#### Do you feel it has helped with your personal development?

Yes, it taught me how to be organised and proactive, as well as know how to relate to people in a professional manner and pitch things to people in a way that has broad appeal.

#### Do you feel it has helped with your studies?

It did. I created all of the branding for the society, which enabled me to integrate my society activity with my course and gave me an opportunity to think about things I was learning on my course in a different context than just coursework.

#### Do you think being involved in NTSU is helping you prepare for life after university?

Running the cocktail society also brought me into contact with lots of businesses around town, which helped me to recognise that my skills were more people focused than design-focused necessarily. This in turn made me think about my career path and how I would prefer to focus on being an Account Manager in the design industry, rather than a graphic designer.

I am currently working at a Japanese restaurant as a bartender and run gin tasting masterclasses, which are skills that I learned entirely through being on the Cocktail Society.

#### Would you recommend that other students get involved in NTSU?

100%. You're absolutely crazy not to. If you don't you will look back and kick yourself for not taking advantage of the opportunities it provided when you had the chance. NTSU is a huge resource of fun, positivity and learning experiences that you can draw from. The different levels you can get involved in mean that, regardless of what time commitment you are able to give, there will be something for you that can help you enjoy your university experience to a greater degree.

## COMMUNICATIONS

# 31,988

FOLLOWERS ACROSS OUR THREE MAIN  
SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

**f 14,741** **15,800** **1,447**

OVER **2.5 MILLION**

PAGE VIEWS HAVE BEEN CREATED ON OUR WEBSITE BY OVER

# 200,000

UNIQUE VISITORS

OUR FORTNIGHTLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER REACHES OVER

**12,000** STUDENTS WITH A **53%** OPEN RATE

## SOCIETIES

# 5,872 STUDENTS

ARE MEMBERS OF **100 SOCIETIES**

# 25 NEW SOCIETIES

HAVE BEEN STARTED SINCE SEPT 2016

# 410 EVENTS

HELD BY SOCIETIES

# MADDY STREET

SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE



## When did you get involved in NTSU?

I was on the Ents Committee in my first year after being told about it by a couple of my Fresher Reps who saw that I was interested in various events around Nottingham.

## In what capacity were you involved with NTSU?

After being on the Ents committee I got a job working for the Entertainments team as a Promo Assistant, then ran in elections to be VP Services on the Exec off the back of how much I enjoyed being a Promo Assistant but wasn't successful, so I was heavily involved in the SU in various ways the whole time I was a student.

## What impact has being involved in NTSU had on your time at university?

It made me enjoy the leisure and social side of university a lot more. It gave me a lot of opportunities to meet new people and help me to be more outgoing.

## Do you feel it has helped with your personal development?

Yes, definitely. It made me more sociable and gave me a lot more confidence to go out and get involved in university life. In my first year on the Ents Committee I

went around campus speaking to people to conduct a survey on the Grad Ball, which seemed daunting initially, but really helped me get used to approaching and talking to people that I didn't know.

## Do you feel it has helped with your studies?

I don't feel that it influenced my studies directly but it was helpful in giving me something to focus on other than my course, and provided me with flexibility to make the most of the opportunities it provided without clashing with my studies.

## Do you think being involved in NTSU is helping you prepare for life after university?

Yes. I currently work as a Social Media & Content Executive for a youth marketing company, so my experience with NTSU was very relevant. The staff in the Ents Department were also very supportive in helping me apply for the role and prepare for my interview.

## Would you recommend that other students get involved in NTSU?

Yes, it was such an exciting time and is a great experience to look back on, I would definitely recommend it to other students.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**16 events with an international focus held / facilitated by NTSU (excluding recurring events), including:**

- Malaysian welcome event
- Hindu Society Social
- Politics & International Relations Debate
- Erasmus Social
- African-Caribbean Society Take Me Out
- Pakistan Society Meet & Greet
- International Business School social
- International MSc Social
- Trentnation
- Launch of International Scholarship
- Kenyan Students Social

## DAYTRIPS

WE TRAVELLED  
**4,492 MILES**

WITH

**211**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
**ON 21 DAYTRIPS**

GENERATING

**£23,123**  
**IN TICKET SALES**



**DELIVER HIGH  
QUALITY SERVICES**

# MEGAN DAVIES

4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR PRODUCT DESIGN / ENTERTAINMENTS TEAM

## When did you get involved in NTSU?

In my first year, from Freshers Week really. I had heard good things about being involved with the SU and that if I got a job there, I would be able to fit it around my studies. I think working anywhere else would have been a struggle but the flexibility of working for the SU has been really good.

## In what capacity are you involved with NTSU?

I work in the Entertainments department as a Supervisor / team leader. I started out working in the box office, selling tickets, working at events and doing promotion activities. Then I went on to be a supervisor at events like Climax and Freshers Week, supporting the staff, making sure they know what they are doing and making sure the night runs smoothly..

## What impact has being involved in NTSU had on your time at university?

It's made me much more sociable, has helped me meet lots of people and enabled me to have fun experiences while also working. I had the opportunity to work backstage at the Grad Ball and got to meet a few of the acts like Becky Hill and Scott Mills, which was a really good experience.

## Do you feel it has helped with your personal development?

Yes, a massive amount. Working in a leadership role has definitely helped with my confidence. I was quite shy when I came to uni but now I am comfortable speaking to groups of people and taking on leadership responsibilities for the group. The trust that has been placed in me by given leadership roles has been a great boost.

## Do you feel it has helped with your studies?

100%. I have to do a lot of group presentations on my course, which was very daunting in my first year, but through my experience of my entertainments job I am now really comfortable delivering these. It's also been a great thing to focus on when my uni work gets stressful and has given me a network of people I can go to for support.

## Do you think being involved in NTSU is helping you prepare for life after university?

Definitely. The roles I have had have helped me improve how I handle situations when put on the spot and has taught me a lot about teamwork. Also, being a team leader has taught me how to take responsibility for dealing with problems, which

I am sure will be really helpful in the future, regardless of which job I go into.

## Would you recommend that other students get involved in NTSU?

Yes, definitely. Whether it's by getting a job or just generally getting involved with all kinds of events, not just the big nights. I think students need to be a lot more involved in the SU as it gives you a lot of variety in your uni experience that you might not be able to get otherwise.



## VENUES ACTIVITY

**83,472** meals sold in our venues, generating **£241,132** revenue

**TOP SELLER: BREAKFASTS**  
**17,280 MEALS**

**103,350** hot drinks sold, generating **£175,900** revenue

**623,590** wet bar sales, generating over **£1 million** revenue

**132,500** glass bottles recycled

## — RETAIL ACTIVITY —

OVER **100,000**

units sold in our three shops generating

**£1.45**  
**MILLION REVENUE**

**180%**

increase in branded clothing sales



# RORY WEBSTER

2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR ZOO BIOLOGY



## How did you get involved in NTSU?

I was unofficially the substitute Course Rep in my first year, then decided I wanted to make some changes to my course, so applied to be a Course Rep in my second year.

## In what capacity are you involved with NTSU?

I am a Course Rep as well as a School Rep and I have also founded and am a member of the Endangered Species Society. In my role as Course Rep I had been talking to NTSU staff and the VP Education about setting up more societies at Brack, then went ahead and set up the Endangered Species Society, which is something I had always wanted, once I knew the process for doing so.

## What impact has being involved in NTSU had on your time at university?

Being an Academic Rep has really helped me integrate and bond with my course mates as well as be able to make improvements on my course. We have seen changes I have suggested being implemented within a week, so it has had an almost immediate impact. Changes include more interactive lectures and more guest lecturers coming in from industry to share their real-world experience. I have also helped to run a mental health campaign on campus, so I am hoping to be able to get more mental health support for students in place at Brackenhurst. Next on the agenda is working with NTU Sport to create more recreational sporting activity on campus.

## Do you feel it has helped with your personal development?

Yes, I've built a lot of communication skills and have

got used to having responsibilities as I represent over 60 students on my course and over 600 second year students as a School Rep. I get to work with highly skilled, well respected people in their fields and have got used to working with professionals, which can be intimidating at times but is definitely helping me with my personal growth.

## Do you feel it has helped with your studies?

Yes, not just my own studies, but all students on my course and across campus. As well as the mental health campaign I have also had input into building development on campus and looking on bringing in new facilities on campus to meet students' needs. I am looking to ensure that we get a big student room in the new building that is being planned, along with a rooftop garden and using a special type of brick with bat housing in it so that bats can live in the building.

## Do you think being involved in NTSU is helping you prepare for life after university?

Sure. It's good for your CV as employers can see that you have been interacting with your university in a responsible way. The experience also counts towards section 6.1 of the HEAR, which will help with my employability.

## Would you recommend that other students get involved in NTSU?

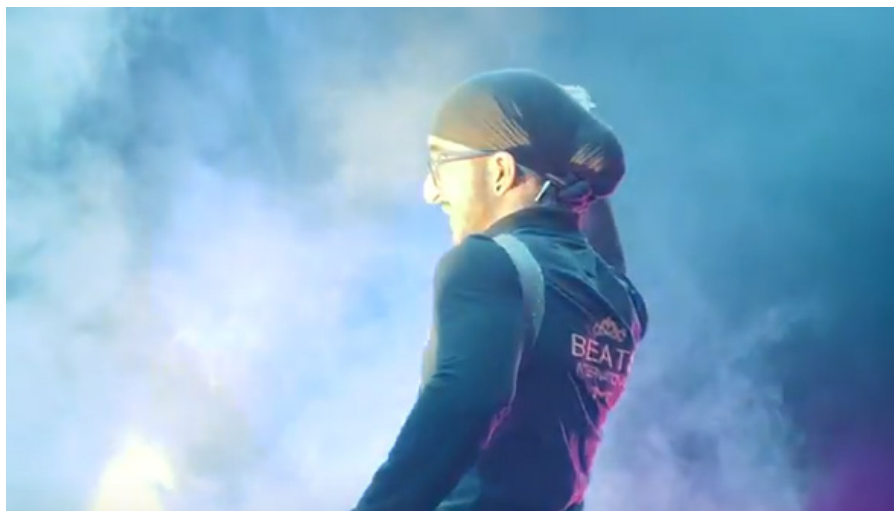
Yes, definitely. My main motivation for getting involved was to make changes for students on my course, but even if there aren't any specific changes you really want to make, getting involved is a great way to get experience beyond just your studies.

— OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY —

**£51,000**  
**REVENUE**

GENERATED BY FRESHERS' FAIR 2016  
(11% INCREASE ON 2015)

**3,855 NUS CARDS**  
SOLD SINCE JULY 2016



**LIVE MUSIC**

**54 live music acts**  
**have performed**  
**at NTSU this year,**  
**excluding open mic**  
**nights. Over 10,000**  
**total attendance at**  
**live music events,**  
**including:**

- Dot to Dot Festival
- Brackenhurst Summer Ball
- Grad Ball
- Rockingham Festival
- NME & Topman Tour

ENTERTAINMENTS EVENTS

**449 EVENTS**  
**HELD IN NTSU VENUES**

207 AT CITY | 109 AT CLIFTON | 133 AT BRACKENHURST

**112 EVENTS**  
**HELD AT EXTERNAL VENUES**

**FASTEST SELLING EVENT**  
**TRENTIVAL**  
(09/06/2016)

3,673 TICKETS SOLD IN 7 HOURS  
(524 TICKETS PER HOUR)

OVER  
**£224,000**

INCOME FROM TICKET  
SALES GENERATED DURING  
FRESHERS WEEK 2016

OVER  
**4,500**  
**STUDENTS**  
ATTENDED OUR  
FORMAL BALLS

OVER  
**10,000**  
**STUDENTS**  
ATTENDED OUR LAST  
DAY OF TERM EVENTS

**62,590**  
**EVENT TICKETS**  
SOLD SINCE SEPT 2016

**14%** INCREASE IN  
ATTENDANCE AT  
OUR MAIN WEEKLY  
CLIMAX EVENT

**30** FAIRS & MARKETS  
IN SU VENUES





# CLIFTON 2017/2018

In thinking about the future service delivery of the Union consideration has been given to how we address the current strategic context in HE and the strategic priorities of the Union and the University within the current facilities at Clifton. As a result the Union has formulated plans to invest some of its reserves in an extension and partial refurbishment of the Benenson Building. As part of our grant consideration for the forthcoming year the Union would like to formally seek approval of its plans for this development and to provide guidance on how it will exercise oversight of the work and associated financial transactions.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### The Higher Education Bill

The Higher Education and Research Bill (HERB) is now a significant catalyst for change within the sector. Many institutions in the University Alliance mission group see it as an opportunity particularly well suited to their profiles. In recent years, Unions have increasingly focussed on enhancing the student experience of their members. However, changes in the sector are likely to lead to greater emphasis on students' academic experience in future. Unions have a critical role to play in articulating the student voice on academic and related issues

NTSU was recently part of a group

***"THE ISSUES ON WHICH STUDENTS MOST WANT THEIR UNIONS TO LOBBY ON THEIR BEHALF ARE TEACHING QUALITY, EMPLOYABILITY, PLACEMENTS AND MENTAL HEALTH."***

of 18 Unions, which commissioned independent research into the impact of the new question 26 of the NSS on the Union sector. This showed that the issues on which students most want their Unions to lobby on their behalf are teaching quality, employability, placements and mental health. This was consistent across all participating students' unions.

### NTU Strategy

NTU Strategy involves significant investment at the Clifton campus. This includes the development of new courses for undergraduates and additional research capacity. This will increase demand for the Union's services on campus over the next decade. The Union's trading offer at Clifton is well developed. However, there is limited space for its membership services offer, although this is likely to be of increasing importance as the HERB is implemented.

In order to rise to the strategic challenges presented by the HERB and the University's Strategy, the Union requires spaces that facilitate course rep training and enhanced academic representation

functions across all campuses. This will facilitate students informing key university objectives such as personalising students' learning and improving employability on an equitable basis, regardless of where their course is primarily based.

Space at Clifton is also required to support student led activities in other areas of our service delivery, for example, enabling the extension of more of our existing society activities to Clifton. It will also enable the establishment of new academic societies, which will support progression and retention strategies within the University as encouraged by the University's current CERT initiative.

Extended facilities will also support the Students' Union to deliver additional activities in the areas of volunteering, environmental awareness, and active citizenship. All of these activities have potential to support the University's 'Enriching Society' strategic strand.

Finally, additional and upgraded facilities will enable the delivery of activities, which reflect the University's internationalisation





agenda and support the emerging cultural and music strategies at Clifton.

### NTSU Strategy

For some time, one of the consistent strengths of NTSU has been the equivalence of its offer across the three NTU campuses. This has been particularly true of the Union's commercial services.

However, the completion of the new City SU Building has challenged this. It has significantly improved the space and facilities available for membership activities. This has highlighted the transactional nature of many of the Union's interactions

with its members at the Clifton and Brackenhurst campuses. Recent NTSU and NTU investment in facilities and staff at Brackenhurst has facilitated a change in service delivery for the Union at the Campus. We aspire to do the same at Clifton.

The Union's plans involve the following key elements:

- An extension for students to use as social space and space for student groups;
- Ground floor meeting spaces for students and for training sessions;
- Create additional student social space on the first floor and

related access provision;

- Reconfiguration of offices;
- Reconfiguration of bar and venue;
- Improve the visual appeal of the gateway to the campus;
- Create a clearer entrance to the Benenson building.

The work has an indicative cost of £1.5million, which is currently being further refined.

### IMPLEMENTATION

In developing the ideas for this project, the Union has engaged with the University to address the

following issues:

- Appointment of an appropriate architect (Evans Vettori);
- Ensure that scale of investment is appropriate based on the lifespan of the building;
- Ensure that the location of the existing building is appropriate.

In addition, the Union has discussed with representatives of the Estates Department a possible approach to the construction process. One method of addressing this that has been discussed is that:

- NTSU will develop plans up to building regulations standards;
- NTSU will pay for the project as 'tenant's improvements';

- NTSU will appoint and pay for a project manager to manage the build process;
- NTU will keep a watching brief over the building work;
- All negotiations with external bodies (eg planning) will be informed by NTU.

There are a number of practical issues regarding the lease, VAT and balance sheet treatment and procurement that will require resolution and discussion with University managers.

Approval is sought for the further development and implementation of the plans.



# **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2017/2018**

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## A CONFIDENT VOICE FOR OUR MEMBERS

- Effective academic representation and advocacy;
- Implement a review of our officer team;
- Strengthen the Union's insight function;
- Articulate student views on employability and mental health;
- Improve our ability to speak in the interests of post-graduate students.



## AN INCLUSIVE STUDENT COMMUNITY

- Measure demographic engagement in Union leadership and services;
- Communicate effectively with our international members;
- Improve membership offers at Clifton and Brackenhurst;
- Deliver resilience programmes for our members;
- Strengthen engagement with local communities.



## ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Empower students to form common interest groups;
- Support the establishment of course based societies;
- Develop links between Union activities and employability;
- Diversify the Union's entertainment programme;
- Contribute to campus cultural and music programmes;









**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

Gold

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