**Hartpury Students’ Union Annual Impact report 2024-2025**

**SU team**

Our elected **Officers** for 2024-2025:

* Representation Officer: Andrew Shattock, final year Sports Nutrition
* Guidance Officer: Morgan Hanif, final year Equine Science
* Clubs and Societies Officer: Emily Pitman, final year Equine Business Management. Emily finished her role in November 2024. The SU recruited a temporary Clubs and Societies Coordinator, Olivia Henson in February 2025.

SU **Staff** (permanent):

* SU Manager: Sophie Savage
* Representation Coordinator: Ellie Martin
* Activities Coordinator: Sascha Bruce

Our **Liberation Representatives** were Aja Whittingham (Disabled students Rep) and Sammy Coombes (LGBT+ students Rep).

We were pleased to welcome three **new additional volunteers** to the core SU team – two events volunteers and a media volunteer, to support with our activities and engaging with students. Two of those students are on business related modules and taking the role as a placement opportunity.

The SU Team attended many **development days** including the Small and Specialist SUs Lead and Change event hosted by NUS on 30th October and Small and Specialist conference in July 2025 as well as meetings with UOGSU, NMITE and Warwickshire SU. These were excellent networking, training and development opportunities for staff and Officers.

The SU team met monthly with the Deputy-Vice Chancellor to discuss SU and Hartpury activity. We feel our **relationship with Hartpury** is strong, enabling a powerful student voice that is truly respected and listened to.

**SU growth and development**

This year we launched our **monthly SU newsletter** direct from the SU mailbox, which provides information on upcoming events, onsite jobs, clubs and societies, key updates from other departments and other news e.g. bigger picture with NUS news.

**Growth of Hartpury SU – the stats**

* WHATUNI score increase: 3.62 (2023), 3.79 (2024), 3.95 (2025)
* NSS score increase from 63.5 (2024) to 74.5 (2025)
* HuGGS score for student voice increased 1.2pp in 2025 and comments from students recognising SU growth: “…the student union this academic year have taken good steps…”
* SU growth and impact has been formally recognised in committee reports and minutes such as QUEST, Academic Board, and ASEC. Along with an abundance of positive comments from SMT and Hartpury Governors.
* Elections engagement was higher than previous years, with 7% voter turnout (more than doubled from last year) and our highest number of candidates (8 - (x2 sport, x4 equine, x2 animal, 2 of which are international).
* Increased following on Instagram – with an additional 400+ followers in Semester 1. Stats from September 2024-July 2025:
  + Views 501.2k
  + Reach 41.1k (15.1K in 23-24)
  + Follows 474
  + Visits 13.2k (7.7K in 23-24)

We created and approved a new **SU Code of Conduct** to provide clear expectations for SU members.

We formally began the process of creating our full **SU strategy**, to determine the direction of the SU and set longer-term targets. We held our first **Strategy Development meeting** with 11 students (including UG, PG and PGR). The results from our first meeting will be used to guide the direction of our planning sessions and meetings through the next academic year, to ensure students and other key stakeholders thoroughly feed into the strategy. This was followed with a SU development day with the whole SU team, to perform SWOT analysis and review of the academic year.

We supported the renovation of **three** **new study rooms** in the SU building which have been well-received by students and used regularly.

In line with this growth and focus on SU direction, we have gained approval for a **full-time Sabbatical Officer** for next academic year, following a proposal submitted to SMT.

**Additional projects and achievements**

In May 2025 we achieved the **Drug and alcohol impact accreditation** (SOS UK). This was a two-year programme which supported us to create lasting positive change around responsible alcohol consumption and refocus the conversation on drugs to be about reducing harm and building healthier, safer, more productive student communities. As a result of the programme, we have implemented the following (amongst other initiatives):

* Introduced alcohol free accommodation in 2024/2025, with an extended offering in 2025/2026
* Reviewed our Drug and Alcohol policy, inclusive of FE and HE students
* Built strong connections with local support services which led to collaborative communications and events with Butlers Bar
* Introduced wellbeing drop-ins specifically for drug and alcohol related issues
* Increased communications to raise student awareness of local safety initiatives

The SU Manager (Sophie) is a member of the **LGBT+ Cheltenham and Gloucester Partnership** and supported the group by redesigning their promotional business card and A6 flyers. This fresh face will support the organisation in reaching more members and gaining more support / funding. We also hosted the June partnership meeting at Hartpury.

Our Officers supported changes to the **academic misconduct notification** communications, with the aim of providing clearer messaging to students about the location of the meeting and more obviously highlighting the support available from SU.

**Representation**

We made the following changes to our Rep structure this year:

* **Reduced the number of Reps** per year, per course, from 2 to 1. This was decided to instil a greater sense of responsibility, encourage better engagement with the role, provide more valuable rewards and increased ability to monitor and support Reps.
* **Introduction of an icebreaker** - students are typically more likely to attend if they know someone else is going. This was a fun and informal event with games etc. and the sole purpose was to introduce reps to each other. We had 13 students participate in this.
* **Introduction of the Opinion Hub** – this is essentially a mailing list, open to all students. We send opportunities for them to provide their thoughts on a range of topics and provide rewards for their participation.

Our Officers were proactive members of the following **decision-making committees** (each meeting 3+ times per year): Academic Board, Academic Standards and Enhancement Committee (ASEC), and EDI Forum. Nominated student reps also provided student voice in the following **additional committees** throughout the year: the Research and Knowledge Exchange, Curriculum Validation, ASEC, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Sexual Harassment and Misconduct, and Mental Health and Resilience Committees. Aja also sits on the new **Accessibility working group**.

This year we held our first ever **speak week**, with a variety of activities, from daily Instagram polls to drop-ins in Legends and Graze, and focus groups. The aim of speak week was to get students talking about things they like about Hartpury, and areas they think need improvement, to highlight the SU’s priorities for the next academic year. As a result, we have found that the catering and transport departments require the most attention, with the SU and ASC performing well. The week was a great success, and we had good engagement both online and in-person.

**Workshops**: ‘how to gather feedback’, ‘wellbeing workshop’ and ‘equality, diversity and inclusivity’ workshops were held for the Rep’s own personal development.

Student feedback and big wins

Our first round of SU **student rep forums** was held in November 2024, with a total of 45 HE and 6 FE reps in attendance. Generally, **students reported** that they liked the early release of timetables pre-September, induction and enrolment was smooth, and lecturers are excellent. However, students felt big gaps still exist within timetables, clarity around the use of A.I has been poor, the buses are expensive and unreliable, food in graze is poor quality, expensive, and too small, and people have been inappropriately parking in disabled bays across campus.

Positive changes resulting from Round 1 feedback: Graze began to offer bigger portion sizes and ASC uploaded an A.I guide to Moodle.

Our **second round of SU student rep forums** was held in February 2025, with a total of 43 HE and 5 FE reps in attendance. Generally, **students reported** that whilst exams during AP1 were organised well, ran smoothly, and feedback was timely and constructive, there were some disruptions, and feedback could be more informative. Transport issues are still ongoing, particularly overcrowding, lack of accessibility and reliability, alongside parking struggles such as limited disabled access and a lack of provision. Catering feedback seems to not be as prominent as semester 1, but there are still some reports of poor-quality food and inconsistent portion sizes.

**Transport** – In response to student feedback, we redesigned the bus timetable and supported the implementation of clearer transport information on the Hartpury website.

**Catering** – We worked closely with Aramark throughout the year to share student feedback and support in continued improvement of the catering provision.

**Accessibility** - Aja and the Officers / SU staff have met frequently with Neil Chatten to support progress with the accessibility action table and raised concerns on lack of progress in the EDI forum. We are pleased to hear that our concerns were taken forward to the Estates team and highlighted actions have been set as priority, with hopes to see completion during summer 2025. In response to an incident that occurred, we also worked closely with the transport team to ensure that the shuttle service is wheelchair accessible.

Focus groups

Ellie ran or helped facilitate **focus groups** to gather feedback on specific topics such as catering (in collaboration with Aramark), the 2030 consultation, Moodle appearance and accessibility, teaching and learning, SU strategy consultation and student bursaries.

Closing the feedback loop

To support students in understanding the work we have achieved as a result of student feedback more effectively, Andrew created an SU ‘big wins’ video released via social media, highlighting the key themes and outcomes. This received over 5.7k views. Ellie also arranged for the live forums minutes to be released on the SU website [student voice page](https://www.hartpurysu.co.uk/student-voice) to improve transparency of our actions for all students.

Local and national representation

In semester two, the SU team have also attended **Gloucester City Centre Commission** and **Gloucester University City** meetings organised by David Evans, City Growth and Delivery Manager. This has given us the opportunity to feed into ongoing projects focussed on younger people in the city and has resulted in plans to host stalls at Freshers Fair and coordinate student feedback sessions to feed into the council’s work.

Andrew teamed up with the International Society to host a [**big litter pick**](https://www.instagram.com/p/DIOSvrsiPqp/) **event** in collaboration with Gloucester City Council. They had 6 Students in total, with three teams and collected 15 full bags of rubbish off the streets. Gloucester City Council supported the litter pick event by providing litter pickers, bags, gloves and hi-vis for free. We hope this will challenge negative stereotypes and demonstrate students’ positive contributions to the city.

Our Officers also attended the **NUS England Conference** at Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln in April. The SU officers report the conference had a strong focus on action planning for the future year. Key topics of discussions involved funding and finance, liberation collective and APPG HE reviews. During their time, they made excellent connections with other SUs which resulted in collaboration on social media posts including:

* A collaboration with Cambridge SU on raising awareness of [student financial difficulties during the ongoing cost of living crisis](https://www.instagram.com/p/DIgbCKzCGMu/)
* A collaboration with NUSUK, Dudley SU and NOS Apprentices on [celebrating wins of apprenticeships wage increase](https://www.instagram.com/p/DIJcQ2iqO47/)
* [Representing international students challenges](https://www.instagram.com/p/DKRpMLoo_ts/) in collaboration with NUS and NUS International students

We are incredibly proud that Andrew participated in the **Student Minds Neurodiversity Steering** **Group** which aims to support Student Minds in co-creating their strategic goals and support with the planning of content for neurodivergent students.

Our Disabled students Liberation Rep, Aja, attended the **Naidex conference** in April (the ‘leading event for disability, accessibility, and independent living’) and is keen to implement ideas from this, as she plans to continue in her voluntary role next academic year. Ideas for next year include creating a bank of resources and helpful guides for disabled students, and setting up a disabled students network.

**Wellbeing and Inclusivity**

Morgan developed web pages for the **SU website ‘Guidance & Support’** section, including safety on a night out, LGBTQ+ support, and a DSA process guide. We also added additional external resources to our ‘information station’ in the SU Loft.

**Campaigns this year** included:

* **Movember**, with £144.46 raised through selling stick-on moustaches at rugby games
* **International men’s day** event in collaboration with external charities to raise awareness of support and hand out free flowers
* **LGBT+ History Month** with a pop-up event in the Lounge with organisations from the LGBT+ Partnership, an SU guidance table and a drop-in art class
* **International Women’s Day** event, with women-founded brands and guidance
* Sammy created multiple social media content to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ issues.

**EDI month** - Morgan created an EDI round for the ‘**Big Quiz’** in Legends during refreshers week, which saw a good turnout of 8 teams. The SU Team also delivered an update as part of the EDI month **symposium**.

We continue to support students through the **cost-of-living** crisis:

* Student **finance team pop-ups** to promote bursaries and financial support
* The **swap shop in Loft** - which has been successful in rehoming many books and items of clothing
* Morgan shared weekly student-friendly cost effective ‘**recipes of the week’**
* We provided **free toast** **and hot drinks** (FCSC) in the Loft every week
* Morgan produced a student **recipe book**

We also hosted a **student money saver event** on 22nd October which included a pop-up clothing shop (discounted clothes from Goose and Gander), headshot wall (professional photos), recruitment drive, Hartpury student finance on bursaries and budgeting, ICE careers support, student money-saving tips, and Severn-Wye energy saving tips. We received a great turn out, with approximately 350 students across the day.

Morgan and Andrew attended three **international student** welcome events this year which helped them to develop a good relationship with our new international students. This resulted in the start-up of the new **International Society**, which has flourished throughout the year and members plan to support international enrolment next academic year.

**Clubs and Societies**

All our clubs and societies successfully completed their AGMs and **handovers**. We delivered a **training** session for all new/retuning committees on 1st April.

**Clubs and Society** activity throughout the year:

* Christian Union – weekly bible readings, Christmas party, and end of year BBQ with a live acoustic guitarist
* Hockey Club – weekly training sessions, socials and competed in BUCS league (separate men’s and women’s teams)
* LGBTQ+ Society – weekly gaming socials
* Polo Society – weekly practice at Beaufort Club and competed in the Exeter Invitation Competition (finishing 3rd, with one member awarded ‘most valuable player’), SUPA Winter Nationals, and SUPA Summer Nationals
* Cheer Society – our new committee are arranging sessions at a local facility in Gloucester for next academic year
* Agriculture Society – hosted a farm and abattoir visit and regular socials, and organised a ski trip which was a huge success (33 attended)
* Equestrian Club – run regular riding lessons and a range of other equestrian activities and demos and hosted The Equestrian Club anniversary dinner with quest speakers
* International Society – hosted a ‘welcome back social’, ran a litter pick event in Gloucester in collaboration with Glos County Council and hosted regular social activities including movie nights such as their Mexican theme night in May
* Clay Shooting Club – run regular sessions at Barbury Shooting school, enter multiple competitions against other universities, including St Andrews, Cardiff and Bath Universities, organised an incredibly successful Hartpury competition at Barbury followed by an ‘acorn ball’ (107 attendees) – raising £1,285 for Yellow Wellies – and hosted an end of year meal for their members.
* Wildlife society – hosted a movie night, rock painting activity and crochet event
* Sports Therapy Society – no activity this year

We also have two **new groups** that were ratified by student council on Thursday 1st May:

* Breeding and showing (equestrian-related)
* Sustainability Society

Groups that will not be continuing next year (due to student interest): Wildlife Society and Sports Therapy Society

During the **applicant days** this year, we had three societies supporting us in welcoming prospective students: International Society, Agriculture Society and Clay Shooting Society. We were based up in the SU Loft, offering fun interactive activities.

During summer of 2025, we updated clubs and society processes and guidance, including the following:

* Updatedvolunteer agreement and role descriptions
* New Expenses claim form **–** we’ve made it a lot easier to claim back funds
* Fresh new look to the committee hub so it’s easier to navigate
* Introduced a new sponsorships application process
* Introduced additional guidance on use of Logos and branding
* Introduced guidance and process for internal events (which take place on campus)
* IntroducedClubs and Society mailboxes – so students can contact them more easily
* New process for club membership registration – simplified for members and easier for committees to track new members

We have been **collaborating with UOG SU** to hopefully open up some additional club and societies opportunities to our students through associate memberships. We are hoping to launch this next academic year.

**Opportunities**

We collaborated with Go Volunteer Glos to embed a live feed of **volunteering opportunities** in the [SU website](https://www.hartpurysu.co.uk/volunteering). This makes it easier for students to find out about a variety of local opportunities and allows us to signpost more effectively.

We facilitated a **photography development opportunity** for one of our students, whereby they shadowed Mike, a Hartpury professional photographer and videographer, to learn top tips.

During the Christmas Market and International Men’s Day event, **we supported current students** (3) and alumni (1) in growing their own businesses.

We also hosted two **professional ‘headshot hub’ events** in collaboration with Hartpury ICE and with support from SU events volunteer Bryton Maina, which allowed ~60 students to get free professional photos to support them in **developing professional profiles** for job searching.

**Events**

We are pleased that our **SU alcohol-free welcome week activities** received a record high in student turnout: Welcome Firepit (~70 students), Board Games Night (~50 students), Wellness Walk with ASC (~8 students), and Bottomless Brunch (~20 students). Freshers Fair was also very well received with excellent feedback from both students and exhibitors (44 exhibitors including support services, recruitment agencies, Hartpury academies / support teams, discounts and deals from local organisations, and our clubs and societies).

This year we hosted 17 free events for students throughout the year, aimed at building community, supporting wellbeing, and enhancing the student experience, including:

* **Sustainable Fashion event** in collaboration with the Head of Sustainability on the 24th of September which included a pop-up clothing store with Pre-loved Country Clothing and National Star Collective (charity shop), as well as student tips on repurposing and upcycling clothing.
* **Money saving event** in October (more information in the ‘Guidance’ section of this report)
* **Halloween** cookie decorating on the 31st of October
* **Bonfire night** (a firepit event with marshmallows, hot chocolate, and sparklers) on the 5th of November
* **International Men’s Day** event in collaboration with CoppaFeel, Farming Community network and Rugby Wardrobe
* **Christmas Fair** on the 10th of December where we supported local businesses as well as current students and alumni in selling handmade gifts. Our clubs and societies also attended to raise funds for their clubs and/or relevant charities.
* Two **pop-up clothing stalls** with Goose and Gander and one with Whale of a Time
* **Valentine’s day** movie marathon and friendship bracelet making.
* **LGBTQ+ History** Month with pop-up event on 11th February with exhibitors from the Gloucestershire LGBTQ+ Partnership and a free art class to provide a creative and inclusive space
* **International Women’s Day** on 6th March with a Goose & Gander pop-up and giveaways from women-owned businesses Fibe/Fix8 and Pri Bakes, alongside stalls ran by Hollie Gazzard Trust and CoppaFeel
* **Recruitment Fair** on 29th April, where 14 exhibitors joined us, including recruiters, local businesses, SU societies, RKE team, ICE, Hartpury HR, and volunteering organisations to promote opportunities to students
* **Big Hartpury Uni Picnic** on 2nd May was one of our most successful events to date. With over 200 students attending, the afternoon featured music, snacks, free Gumbies pizza, a jewellery-making class with Moon and Made, and games including volleyball, badminton, and basketball.
* **Leavers Farewell event** on 16th May with free Gumbies pizza, snacks and drinks, to offer students a heartfelt send-off and a chance to say goodbye to lecturers and peers.

This year we had 320 nominations for our annual **StAR Awards**! 74% of votes were for staff members (58% FE, 29% HE and 13% professional services) and 26% for peers (77% FE and 23% HE).

We are thrilled to announce the winners of this year’s [StAR awards](https://www.hartpurysu.co.uk/star-awards):

STAFF AWARDS

* HE most supportive tutor - **Lucy Bearman-Brown**
* FE most supportive tutor -**Melissa Orritt**
* HE most inspiring lecturer - **John Binks**
* FE most inspiring lecturer - **Dani Richardson**
* HE expert in their field - **Clare Thomas-Pino**
* FE expert in their field - **Graham Matthews**
* Heart of Hartpury –**Kate Poole**

STUDENT AWARDS

* Most supportive friend - **Abby Beech**
* Most dedicated student -**Imogen Balaam**
* Most knowledgeable student - **Kiera Parsons**
* Most improved student - **Charlotte Rankin**
* Rep of the Year – **Abby Beech**
* Committee of the Year – **Polo Club**
* Community members of the Year – **International Society**

**Special SU award:**Outstanding support to the SU**- Richard Whincup!!**