



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# Reporter

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## Nexus makes the connection

A new £40m University innovation and enterprise centre will offer a gateway to help businesses access our world-class research.

Pages 2, 3 and 4



**It's official.**  
**We're University of the Year.**



## Leader column

# Focusing on What Matters...

**One of the many great things about our University is the sense of new beginnings at the start of every academic year, as we are joined by around 11,000 new staff and students. Their energy, commitment and inspiration bring a real feeling of renewal, but also continuity as they begin to play their part in building the future.**

Among the 11,000 newcomers are Professors Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education and Hai-Sui Yu, Pro-Vice-Chancellor: International. All three bring vast experience, imagination and drive and will be instrumental in helping us achieve our ambitions.

The feeling of optimism and opportunity all of this engenders is enhanced this year by the fact that we have just been named the Times and Sunday Times University of the Year. The award is among the most respected and high profile in the sector and is clear recognition of our success in developing future generations of independent, critical thinkers and delivering cutting-edge research of real impact and significance.

Of course, the real trick is to do both in combination, so that research underpins education and vice versa. Our ability to do this so successfully is genuinely distinctive amongst our peers and is a driver for the unparalleled investments in people, research platforms and student facilities that we are currently making.

So there is much to celebrate, to be excited about and to build on. It is essential that we remain focused on achieving excellence in student education and research, especially given all the external noise emanating from the Government's higher education reforms and the ramifications of the Brexit vote.

That said, we can't completely ignore these external factors. I recently appeared before the Parliamentary committee that is scrutinising the Higher Education and Research Bill. While there are a number of good intentions behind the Bill, the devil is inevitably in the drafting and my main point was to warn about very significant threats to university autonomy.

Specifically, the Bill as drafted would enable the Secretary of State to 'frame guidance' with



reference to particular courses, something which is explicitly precluded at present. S/he would also have new powers to influence the standards used to mark and classify university degrees and, through the Office for Students, the authority to revoke powers given to universities by Act of Parliament or Royal Charter. In a recent article in the Financial Times, Martin Wolf referred to all of this as "a fully-fledged government takeover of the higher education sector". The Parliamentarians and the sector must remain very vigilant through the passage of this Bill.

On Brexit, I have been impressed by the way the sector has reacted, demonstrating a determination to ensure any new arrangements work for us and to seize opportunities as they arise. And in fairness, given the circumstances, the Government has responded reasonably quickly to reassure the science and research community on near-term funding, although we have still to hear a coherent narrative on immigration and the free movement of people, the key issue for universities.

At a more local level, the meetings I held with staff over the summer – around 1,000 people attended – underlined a deep sense of unease, but also an incredible attachment to the University and its values. We owe it to our friends and colleagues from the EU and further afield to do all we can to ensure we maintain a system that enables us to continue to benefit from their loyalty, commitment and expertise.

On a practical level, we will continue to provide updates to staff as we get them, in particular through our digital media and we have been arranging bespoke events such as expert sessions for staff concerned about the immigration implications of the vote.

While there has been understandable concern about the impact of Brexit on research funding, there has been much in recent months to remind us that we have real strength in this area. Examples include a £2.4 million British Heart Foundation award to help transform the treatment of heart disease in people with diabetes, a new Centre for Doctoral Training in collaboration with other universities in the field

of data analytics, in part funded by a £2.2 million Economic and Social Research Council grant and a £3.8 million award to accelerate the development of infection diagnostic tools to stop the unnecessary use of antibiotics.

We have also reached a significant milestone in our evolution as a truly global university, with the first cohort of Chinese engineering students beginning study at our new joint school with Southwest Jiaotong University. And to continue the international theme, we have re-stated our commitment to the sector-wide #WeAreInternational Campaign, which aims to highlight the value of international staff and students, more important than ever at this challenging time.

Looking ahead to the near future, we will launch the University's Cultural Institute next month. The Institute aims to establish us as a pioneer in harnessing the potential of culture to tackle global challenges, while forging stronger links with the cultural community and creating new opportunities to expand the intellectual horizons of our students. The launch will include live performances and site tours, underlining the institute's aim to open up our cultural treasures to a world beyond the campus.

Slightly longer term, but also hugely significant, the University's new £40m innovation and enterprise centre – named 'Nexus' – has just been given the go ahead by the City Council. You can read more about this in the pages that follow, but in essence it will offer a clear point of focus for innovation and collaboration with industry, enabling us to build on our already impressive track record on enterprise and helping boost our billion pound-plus contribution to the local and national economy. It perfectly encapsulates the outward looking, enterprising spirit that has been essential to the University's past successes and will be equally fundamental to our future.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands

## News

# New centre set to accelerate innovation and collaboration

**Our new £40m innovation and enterprise centre – Nexus – has been given the green light by Leeds City Council, and is expected to open its doors in 2018.**

Positioned at the southern edge of campus, Nexus offers a gateway to help organisations access the University's world-class research and connect with academic partners that may benefit from their work.

"Nexus will further enhance our vibrant community of collaboration here at Leeds, helping drive a culture of innovation and enterprise," says Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation.

"The name Nexus resonates with what we are trying to do – making connections and curating collaboration to bring together the private and public sectors with the University's greatest minds. It will also be a fabulous space in which people across the University can connect and meet.

"We are fortunate here at Leeds to have this great investment; diversification of our income portfolio and the demonstration of the impact of our research are increasingly important, and having a focal point in Nexus to stimulate and support new collaborations is a wonderful opportunity for us all."

The centre will provide high-quality office and lab space for technology-led companies, corporate R&D and new product development teams, and will offer a range of spaces for networking and collaboration, including meeting rooms, a café and a business lounge.

Dr Ceri Williams, Director of Research and Innovation Development, says: "We know that universities offer a huge range of support to drive innovation and enterprise, whether that's new research and expertise, access to our talented students and graduates, or executive development to help businesses innovate, grow and be more productive.

"This centre is specially designed to help new and established companies and other organisations harness the University's capabilities in a more streamlined and inventive way."

Nexus is part of the University's £520m investment in its campus, aimed at positioning Leeds as one of the UK's top higher education institutions.

Find out more at  
[campusdevelopments.leeds.ac.uk](http://campusdevelopments.leeds.ac.uk)

*"Nexus will further enhance our vibrant community of collaboration here at Leeds, helping drive a culture of innovation and enterprise."*

**Professor Lisa Roberts**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation

## Contents

### News

Page 3

### Research and innovation

Page 6

### Public engagement

Page 7

### Students

Page 8

### People

Page 9

### Campus

Page 10

### Partnership

Page 11

### In the news

Page 12

### Honours

Page 13

### News

Page 14

### Events

Page 15

### FAQs

Page 16

## About the Reporter

The *Reporter* is the University's staff magazine and goes out to 7,600 colleagues. It is produced by the Internal Communications team.

If you have an idea for a story or want to comment on this issue please contact us at [the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:the.reporter@leeds.ac.uk) or 0113 343 6699.

The front cover shows Dr Ceri Williams, Director of Research and Innovation Development, and Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation.

### Stay up to date with University news and events:





## News

# Nexus — a gateway for growth

## Nexus facts

- The building's 6,684m<sup>2</sup> is spread over six floors. The ground and first floors are mainly triple-height spaces, focused on communication and collaboration and the hub of Nexus, whilst the second to fifth floors will be rentable office and lab space.
- The ground floor will house: exhibition space; an 80-cover café; a business lounge; a 120-seat lecture theatre; four seminar spaces (each seating 70, with sliding partitions to create two, three or four spaces); and open/semi-private space.
- The first floor will have further extensive open/semi-private collaboration spaces and 12 meeting rooms. It will house the teams from Nexus, Research and Innovation services and other University business-facing professional service teams.
- The second floor will have 12 lab spaces each with write-up space, eight initially fitted out at category 2 and four as generic labs that can be used by businesses for mechanical and electrical/electronic research and development. The second floor also has office space, and the remaining floors are 100% office space. There are some 60 office spaces, ranging from two-person spaces upwards.



The first floor of Nexus



The ground floor



*"Nexus is an exciting opportunity for aspiring business people, a facility where student and graduate businesses can meet, learn from and interact with the wider business community. It will highlight an entrepreneurial mindset, making it more attractive for potential students, both nationally and internationally. Our network in the city itself has commented that they are excited by the building and the opportunities it presents. It professionalises our offering and it will provide an outreach opportunity, it will be seen as a gateway building between the institution and the business world."*

**Kairen Skelley, Spark, Careers Service**



*"A crucial platform in the development and translation of our world-leading research is an environment that nurtures and supports interdisciplinarity and industry partnerships to increase the citation and impact of our research. With its strong clinical platforms in Musculoskeletal Medicine, Cardiovascular disease, Cancer and Genetics, underpinned by state-of-the-art infrastructure that includes clinical trials, medical bioinformatics, imaging, structural biology and health economics, Nexus will provide an invigorating environment where scientists and clinicians in Leeds can further enhance patient outcomes."*

**Professor Paul Stewart, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health**



*"Nexus will help us in our ambitions to broker sustainable relationships which will generate activities and innovation in all the disciplines of the University, well beyond the arts and humanities, and help provide the knowledge and skills that the creative economy requires and boost growth and urban regeneration."*

**Professor Frank Finlay, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures**



*"The centre will provide a high quality place which will form a gateway for the outside world to easily access our entrepreneurial activity and meet our world class, innovative scientists."*

**Professor John Ladbury, Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences**



*"I'm delighted that the University has put forward its ambition for a multimillion-pound investment in this purpose-designed facility."*

*"Local businesses and entrepreneurs will have a place where they can engage and benefit from the knowledge and capabilities of the University, enabling the development of next-generation technologies and products. I believe it has real potential to contribute to regional growth and prosperity."*

**Roger Marsh OBE, Chair of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and member of University's Council**



## News

# Leeds named University of the Year

**Leeds has been named University of the Year 2017 by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide.**

Chosen by a distinguished panel, the Guide showcases the excellent student experience at Leeds.

Alastair McCall, editor of the Good University Guide, said: "The University of Leeds thoroughly deserves our University of the Year for prioritising students' needs first to last.

"Outstanding student satisfaction levels do not happen by accident and reflect the emphasis placed here on getting the student learning experience spot on."

The award is one of the most high profile and respected in the sector and for the last two years Leeds has been named runner-up.

It follows another year of exceptional student satisfaction levels, with Leeds securing 90% satisfaction in the recent 2016 National Student Survey (NSS).

THE  TIMES  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOOD  
UNIVERSITY  
GUIDE  
2017

UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
YEAR

The University also reaches an all-time high in the overall Times and Sunday Times statistical rankings, which creates a league table of universities across the UK based on a broad range of measures. Underpinning the University's outstanding performance – which sees it rising to 13th place overall – are strong results in student experience, high entry standards, services and facilities, and graduate prospects.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said that the accolade came at a significant point in the year as the University welcomes new students and staff.

## University welcomes Chinese Ambassador on first visit to Leeds

**China's Ambassador to the UK was shown a wealth of the University's world-leading research and culture on his first visit to Leeds.**

The main purpose of His Excellence Liu Xiaoming's trip was to watch the world premiere of a new play – *A Midsummer Night's DREAMING Under the Southern Bough* – devised as part of a collaborative project with students from Beijing.

Presentations were also made by the Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, Centre for Plant Sciences and Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology, and the Chinese delegation visited the Business Confucius Institute at the University's Business School.

His Excellence Liu Xiaoming said: "This is my first visit to Leeds. But Leeds is no stranger to me. The University of Leeds is a prestigious university with a long history. Today, 2,000 Chinese students are studying here. This makes the University of Leeds a meeting place for different cultures."



His Excellence Liu Xiaoming meets members of the University during his tour of some of our laboratories





## Research and innovation

# Call opens for 10 new LITE Teaching Enhancement Projects

**The Leeds Institute for Teaching Excellence (LITE) is offering funding for 10 year-long Teaching Enhancement Projects (TEPs) to support student education and teaching scholarship across campus.**

Successful applicants will not only be offered £3,000 to develop their projects, but will also be seconded, each spending 0.2 FTE of their time with LITE from January 2017.

The TEPs complement the Institute's prestigious Excellence and Innovation Fellowship Scheme, which offers five year-long secondments to LITE and one visiting fellowship. These roles will be taken up in the 2017/18 academic year.

The call for both initiatives is now live on the LITE webpages at [goo.gl/VLvsah](http://goo.gl/VLvsah)

"I'm very excited about the opportunities these initiatives offer," comments Dr Raphael Hallett, Director of LITE. "Leeds already has fantastic student education leaders across many

disciplines and a host of National Teaching Fellows. These two schemes will not only enrich this community but will secure powerful outputs in terms of curriculum design and teaching scholarship."

LITE's new building sits in the middle of the campus at 18 Beech Grove Terrace, reflecting the central role it will play in bringing together teaching excellence and innovation at Leeds. "The strategic advantages of developing a vibrant Institute are obvious," Dr Hallett explains. "We need to tell the world about the outstanding quality of student education at Leeds, and have precise evidence and eloquent narratives ready for the roll-out of the Teaching Excellence Framework."



Dr Raphael Hallett, Director of LITE

Lydia Bleasdale Hill (School of Law), one of LITE's current Fellows, comments: "Having the time, space and funds to develop my student-focused research project, whilst also being part of an inclusive hub of people from across the University, is incredibly exciting. I'm looking forward to learning more from my colleagues, as well as to contributing to the evidence-based approach to student education at Leeds."

## Talks on the wild side

**The wild places of Europe, 'rewilding', and how we perceive and value wild lands were all under discussion during The Future of Wild Europe – an interdisciplinary conference co-organised by the Schools of English and Earth and Environment in conjunction with an EU-funded international doctoral programme involving the University of Munich, the Deutsches Museum, and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm.**

Although aimed at early-career researchers, sessions open to the public attracted a full house. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, the President of Iceland, gave a keynote address, speaking on the 'The past and future of wild Iceland', explaining how people had only lived in Iceland for 1,000 years; its history embodied its settlers' constant efforts to control and master nature. He said in recent decades doubts had arisen about whether this course of action was the right one, and questions about the future management of its wild places should be addressed.

Filmmaker and explorer Céline Cousteau, giving the closing keynote address, talked about the work of her oceanographer father Jean-Michel Cousteau, the legacy of her grandfather Jacques Cousteau, and her many years of exploring and mapping the world through oceanography. She brought to the audience's attention the fragility of earth's underwater ecosystems.

Other speakers included writer, vet and barrister Charles Foster, author of *Being a Beast*. As part of his philosophical investigations relating to authenticity and identity, he has tried living as various animals, including a badger.

The conference organisers, Professor Graham Huggan (English), Dr George Holmes (Earth and Environment) and Dr Roger Norum (English), were delighted with the response to the conference. Professor Huggan commented: "We welcome the different approaches the conference has shown to current problems attached to rewilding and conservation more generally. We also appreciate the valuable work being done by humanities scholars as well as by social and natural scientists in these areas – work that our international doctoral programme is carrying forward, and that younger as well as more experienced researchers and practitioners are carrying out."

Further information is available at [goo.gl/t9Af34](http://goo.gl/t9Af34)



## Public engagement

# Getting the media message across

**PhD student Emma Bolton attended a Voice of Young Science (VoYS) media workshop hosted by Sense about Science, a charity that challenges the misrepresentation of science and evidence in public life. The workshop turned out to be extremely valuable, as she explains here.**

"As a pharmacist, understanding scientific evidence and translating it for the benefit of my patients has always been important. This became essential when I started my PhD as I critically appraise literature every day. I now realise the amount of literature there is and how it's necessary to fully understand it before using it. When I had the opportunity to apply for a place on the VoYS Standing up for Science media workshop it was a no-brainer.

I hadn't heard much about VoYS or Sense about Science until I saw the workshop advertised, but it immediately struck me as something important to all scientific researchers. All researchers will produce results and literature of their own, and it's helpful to understand the processes involved in dispersing these results through the media. Researchers have to protect themselves from their results being misrepresented, and we heard multiple examples of this and also how researchers can safeguard themselves.

The workshop included academics with extensive experience of the media, journalists from the BBC and Quartz, and members of Sense about Science, and covered a range of topics such as surviving a radio interview and promoting your work. The benefits of blogging and publicising work on websites such as *The Conversation* were also highlighted. Journalists often find experts to comment on news stories by googling the relevant field, meaning your name could pop up if you're regularly blogging and writing articles.

The workshop inspired me to make more effort to communicate my research process and findings, and I'm in the process of starting a blog. It also encouraged me to be more sceptical of the stories and interviews I read and hear! I feel more confident speaking about my research, and I think that I'd now be well equipped to give a successful interview if given the chance.

The workshop was extremely useful and I'd definitely recommend that researchers attend and look into the work of Sense about Science. The more people involved in Sense about Science, the better chance we have of seeing good evidence reported well by the media.



### Media training at Leeds

The University offers staff training and advice about interacting with the media.

This ranges from broadcast interview courses through SDDU to informal guidance from the Media Relations team.

For more details, contact

[pressoffice@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pressoffice@leeds.ac.uk)

or call (0113) 343 4031.

## News in brief

### New £2.2m Centre for Doctoral Training in New Forms of Data

The University has won funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for a new Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in New Forms of Data in partnership with Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester. Professor Mark Birkin (Geography) will be Director of the new CDT, which will provide focused training for postgraduates. Twenty per cent of the studentships will be funded by a combination of private, public and voluntary sector collaborators.

### Funding available to help medical charity-funded researchers

If your research is funded by Arthritis Research UK, Breast Cancer Campaign, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research or the Wellcome Trust, funding is available to pay article-processing charges for gold open access publishing. Apply now at [goo.gl/kCpXyw](http://goo.gl/kCpXyw) Terms and conditions apply.

### Study Abroad Fair

All staff and undergraduate students are invited to visit the Study Abroad Fair on Wednesday 19 October, 11am-3pm, in Parkinson Court, to see a showcase of the University's study abroad programme and to find out more about the opportunities for undergraduates to study abroad as part of their Leeds degree. There will be an opportunity to have an informal chat with study abroad office staff, as well as a chance to talk to both returning students and incoming exchange students about their experiences all over the world!

See [students.leeds.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://students.leeds.ac.uk/studyabroad) for more information about the study abroad year, as well as our summer opportunities.



## Students

# Students to check out 'Check-in' for attendance

**All our taught students are being asked to automatically register their attendance at lectures and seminars using a new 'Check-in' function on an updated UniLeeds app.**

Check-in does away with the need for paper sign-in sheets. It also helps schools identify and support those students who may have problems with attendance, and ensures that the University complies with legal requirements.

To access Check-in, students need to download the new version of the UniLeeds app. This is compatible with Android and iOS mobile devices and can be accessed at [www.leeds.ac.uk/Apps](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/Apps). Once downloaded students will need to ensure that Bluetooth and location services are enabled on their devices.

Check-in registers students' attendance at timetabled activities by using low-energy Bluetooth 'beacons' installed in all teaching rooms which interact with the app to verify their location. Students unable to access a device can check in manually on one of the University's campus-based PCs within 24 hours of the teaching activity.

"The University is committed to delivering excellent, inspirational learning and teaching, and an exceptional student experience," says Professor Neil Morris, Director of Digital Learning. "Check-in supports our commitment to deliver the Digital Strategy for Student Education by offering flexible and innovative solutions using digital technologies.

"Check-in has already been successfully tested in the Leeds University Business School and the School of Dentistry, and is now

being introduced across the whole University. As well as streamlining the way we collect information about our students' attendance at their timetabled activities, from semester two onwards, colleagues can also use the app to run in-class interactive quizzes and collect end-of-module surveys and programme data."

Technical support and advice about installing and using the UniLeeds app is available from IT Service Desk on 33333 or [itservicedesk@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:itservicedesk@leeds.ac.uk). Frequently asked questions for both students and staff are at [goo.gl/qBD5Oy](http://goo.gl/qBD5Oy) and a short animation is available at [goo.gl/Et1hih](http://goo.gl/Et1hih).

More information about attendance monitoring processes is at [goo.gl/x5j8wg](http://goo.gl/x5j8wg) and queries about how Check-in will be used to monitor attendance in specific schools can be directed to school education service managers.



## Online applications bring benefits

**Faculties are now processing online applications from postgraduate taught (PGT) students using CRM\* technology, providing quicker, more consistent admissions and giving the University valuable marketing information.**

Managed online by admissions and academic staff, the CRM also automates payment and documentation processes, and speeds up the time taken to address student queries.

In October further functions will be added, providing course marketing information, issuing invitations to events, and engaging students with 'tasters' of the prospective study experience. The faculties are currently configuring their PGT marketing campaigns using the CRM, and it's anticipated that these will be delivered online by December, enabling faculty teams to focus on timely, personalised communications to applicants.

The IT Service Desk (33333) provides frontline support for queries and questions, and a specialist team of three – the CRM Support and Development team – prioritises and progresses technical issues. This team works closely with the Business and Admissions teams to ensure that the CRM system works optimally and that prospective students receive the information and selection information they require.

Jim Glee from the CRM Support and Development team explains: "I'm the link between the technology and the user, dealing with various departments in IT and with our external suppliers. I try to

be the oil that helps the engine run smoothly – or at least with fewer clangs and bangs!

"The team starts each day by allocating requests in Service Now, then we meet the Business team. I tackle urgent requests brought forward by the Business team and progress ongoing issues. The day can shift depending on problems or issues arising, such as servers not running correctly, interfaces failing, development teams requiring assistance, etc. It's a busy role, trying to help as many people as possible so that best use is made of the CRM system.

"I think my 'hands on, knock on the door and meet the people' approach is a positive way forward. It helps to build teams and pool resources and knowledge to problem-solve in a more proactive and sometimes faster way.

"It's really rewarding seeing my job list decreasing – this is starting to happen now, thankfully! It means that people are having their questions resolved, their glitches sorted and are gaining experience with a new system. Change is always hard but it's nice to feel that I can help with moving the University forward."

\*Customer relationship management



Jim Glee of the CRM Support and Development team



## People

# This year's University-wide Mentoring Scheme is now open!

**Our University-wide Mentoring Scheme aims to support the professional development of our staff by matching mentees with mentors from a different faculty or service (although both parties can elect to be matched with someone from their own area).**

The scheme is open to all University staff, regardless of job type or grade.

If you would like a mentor, you can register online, with the application window remaining open until the end of October.

### STEMM academic mentors urgently needed

To ensure the continued success of our scheme, we urgently need more STEMM academic colleagues to sign up as mentors. Colleagues with these particular areas of expertise are most in demand:

- publications
- research impact
- research submissions and resubmissions
- student education
- supervising Masters/Doctoral students.

People with experience of returning to work following family leave are also invited to register as mentors; we have a growing demand to support those returning to work at this potentially challenging time.

Mentors benefit from the challenge and stimulation of sharing their expertise and experience, learning from their mentee, seeing their mentee's increase in confidence and success, and University recognition of their interpersonal skills. To manage the complexities of the role, mentors are:

- strong communicators, able to listen and offer positive and constructive feedback
- experienced professionals who are prepared to share their own learning in order to support the development of others
- passionate about their own and others' learning and development.

### Support for mentors

In order to ensure a valuable and professional mentoring experience, all mentors are asked to attend a three-hour Mentoring Others session, covering basic ethical considerations, practical mentoring tools and preparing for a mentoring partnership.

Mentors will also be invited to a voluntary networking lunch later in the academic year.

### Next steps

Visit [goo.gl/SjGYi9](http://goo.gl/SjGYi9) to register as either a mentor or mentee. For more information about the scheme, you can visit [goo.gl/tNpqbR](http://goo.gl/tNpqbR)

## Travel survey results

**This year's travel survey had a much higher response rate than in previous years, with over 5,000 students and staff completing it. The results show:**

- an increase in staff using public transport to commute to work
- car sharing and walking to work have slightly increased; however, staff cycling rates have fallen slightly
- staff single-occupancy car use has fallen by 1%
- students' commuting patterns have remained relatively constant, with a slight increase in walking, accompanied by slight decrease in public transport use and cycling, and an increase in single-occupancy car use, up from 1.6% to 3%.

The Sustainability Service collects data annually on how students and colleagues travel to and from University to help inform transport planning initiatives and measure progress against sustainable travel targets.

Sustainability Service's travel focus for 2016/17 will concentrate on increasing cycling rates. This will be helped by a new staff bike hire scheme run from the Bike Hub, and engagement with public transport suppliers to improve their offerings to staff and students.

## Bike hire now available

**Staff can now hire bikes from the Bike Hub on campus for only £20 for three months.**

The Bike Hub – open Tuesday to Thursday, 12-4pm – has a great range of services to support active travel, from bike maintenance to route advice. For further details contact [transport@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:transport@leeds.ac.uk) or visit the Bike Hub at the end of the EC Stoner and Roger Stevens buildings, at the bottom of the steps.

Cycle repair stations are also outside the Social Sciences Building, The Edge, the Engineering Building and the Business School. The stands are free to use.



## Campus

# Inspiring new places



### Worsley Building on track for completion

The £41m investment to upgrade office space and teaching facilities in the Worsley Building is 75% finished, with completion expected by the end of the year.

Staff from the School of Medicine have settled into the Faculty office on level 9, and the refurbishment of laboratories will be complete for the start of term. The new PURE café is open on level 9, focusing on offering fresh, healthy and seasonal food to support health and wellbeing amongst students and staff. The café even has its own special coffee blend. Find out more at [www.gfal.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.gfal.leeds.ac.uk)

Other completed areas include the roof garden, level 11 offices, and the western half of level 10 which is occupied by Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research.

Work to the main building entrance and dental changing areas on level 4 is under way, and good progress is being made on improvement to teaching spaces on level 8, with most of the work being done at nights and weekends to limit disruption.

### A new space for art and culture

A complete £7.6m refurbishment has given an inspirational new home to the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies (FAHACS).

Staff moved into the building – which used to house the School of Geography – in September and it's now fully operational, providing a first-class learning environment for students. Ranging across five floors, the building provides seven studios, a dark room, facilities for specialist techniques such as screen printing and casting, as well as lecture rooms and social spaces.

Abigail Harrison Moore, Head of FAHACS Studies, says: "We're delighted with our new building. The sympathetic restoration of this historic building – linked through its architect, Paul Waterhouse, to the architectural style that formed the beginnings of the University 100 years ago – has enabled the development of a School that's ready for the next 100 years of excellent teaching and research.

"Our students are excited to be starting or continuing their degrees in the amazing studio, workshop and teaching spaces. Studying in this impressive space for art and culture will enable them to continue to benefit from the unique interdisciplinary approaches to the subjects that our School is celebrated for nationally and internationally."

### Edward Boyle Library

Phase three of the refurbishment programme for the Edward Boyle Library will see the opening of the new Postgraduate Research Hub on level 13 in the autumn. Levels 9-12 will also be partially open to students this term, offering 1,000 new study spaces. Full completion of the project is on schedule for early 2017.

### A home in the heart of campus

A dedicated space for postgraduates and teaching staff to further enhance the research capabilities of the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science (PRHS) has been created by the £1m refurbishment of Botany House.

The building is situated right in the heart of campus, and will allow students to continue to explore philosophy, religion, and history of science in unparalleled depth and breadth.

Louise Hawksworth, School Manager, says: "The refurbishment of Botany House is a huge step for PRHS. It means we have been able to rethink how we use our accommodation, including existing space in Michael Sadler and Baines Wing, to improve facilities for our staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and visitors. Until now, the School has been spread out over seven buildings, but now it feels like PRHS has a home right in the heart of campus."



Edward Boyle Library



PURE café



Fine Art building



## Campus

# LUU unveil new facilities

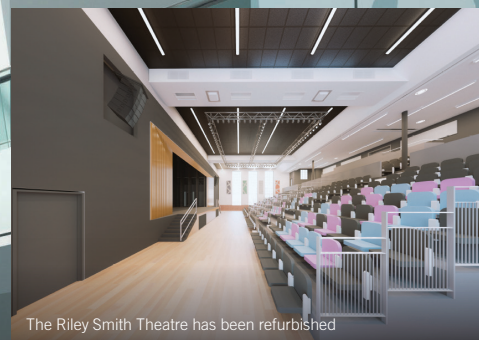
**With the £20m Union upgrade now well under way, a number of facilities have been reopened to use as the new term starts.**

Phase one of the work is complete, and the Union has reopened the much-loved Old Bar and the renamed Riley Smith Theatre, as well part of the new venue, Pyramid.

Old Bar has now been reopened after some much-needed maintenance work. After passionate feedback from both staff and students, Old Bar's original interior and atmosphere has remained as unchanged as possible. The menu has been updated to include new dishes like 'create your own' topped chips, however Old Bar's main focus of serving 'real food, real ale and real sport' has remained.

Structural changes to the building include extending the space by knocking through into the surrounding corridor, expanding the kitchen, and making the bar more wheelchair-friendly.

The Riley Smith Theatre has also been reopened after undergoing a full refurbishment. The popular theatre space has new flooring, a new stage and balcony, as well as multi-coloured retractable seating to maximise space. The modern interior includes state-of-the-art acoustic panels and lighting, as well as improved disabled access.



The Riley Smith Theatre has been refurbished

In addition to the reopening of original spaces, one section of the new Pyramid venue has been opened. What was once Mine bar is now a multifunctional space – a relaxed eatery during the day serving simple, good-quality food, a pre-theatre bar in the evening, and a nightclub venue at night. The other half of this new facility, the Pyramid Theatre, will open during phase two of the upgrade.

## Partnership

# Brussels office welcomes interns

**Three interns have taken up nine-month placements at the White Rose Brussels Office which, now more than ever, following the referendum result to leave the EU, is key to supporting the long-term strategy of the White Rose University Consortium\* to influence the development of European policy.**

All three universities are fully supportive of having a continued presence in Brussels and encourage academics from the universities to continue to apply for EU funding and to engage with European partners.

Alumna Nabihah Parkar (English and Spanish 2016) is one of the interns, and

will have a specific focus on supporting the communications function of the office. She says: "I'm excited about the next venture in my professional life. Being part of the student newspaper, volunteering, getting involved in Union campaigns and meeting new people through societies helped me improve my communication skills, while taking a year abroad allowed me to travel and use my languages. I am looking forward to getting to know a new city and being involved in EU affairs, especially as Britain will be in the process of creating new policies and relationships within Europe."

Nabihah will be joined by Sam Dawkins from the University of Sheffield, who will be concentrating on matters of policy, and Natalia Grzomba from the University of Silesia, Poland, and the University of York.



Alumna Nabihah Parkar joins the White Rose Brussels Office

Dr Phil Holliday, European Public Affairs Director of the office, says: "The three interns will make an important contribution to the White Rose Brussels Office during their placements. Not only will the office benefit from their work, but it is an excellent opportunity for the interns to acquire key skills at an international level that will stand them in good stead for their future careers."

"We already have some events planned for the coming academic year, including one on climate change which we hope to hold in the European Parliament. Obviously, there's an enormous amount of activity taking place here, and it's vital that universities continue to make their voices heard, work with existing partners and stakeholders, and form new relationships and opportunities."

\* The White Rose University Consortium is made up of the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York



## In the news



The University Library's Special Collections appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* and *Yorkshire Post*. It is home to **an archive collection relating to Swallows and Amazons author Arthur Ransome**, with revealing letters to his mother.

The *Mail Online* featured Dr Priya Subramanian's (Mathematics) article about a new model explaining **'neverending' patterns in quasicrystals**. The mathematics behind how such never-repeating patterns are created is very useful in understanding how they are formed and even in designing them with specific properties.

Professor Liane Benning and Dr Jim McQuaid (both Earth and Environment) talked to Keeley Donovan on the *Paul Hudson Weather Show* on BBC Radio Leeds. They had just returned from Greenland for the Natural Environment Research Council's Black and Bloom project, which is aiming to **quantify the 'bioalbedo' contribution to the darkening of the ice sheet**.

Dr David Churchill (School of Law) appeared on *BBC Look North* to discuss the Leeds Parks Project, which is being conducted by researchers from the University of Leeds and the University of Bradford. The project is exploring **the role of public parks** in the city now, compared to the purpose they served in the 19th and 20th centuries. The research findings will be presented to Leeds City Council to help shape the recreation spaces of the future.



**Women have a 50 per cent higher chance than men of receiving the wrong initial diagnosis following a heart attack**, according to a study by Dr Chris Gale (Medicine). This featured in the *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*, was mentioned on *BBC Breakfast* and *Radio 4*, and appeared in international news such as *Russia Today*.

Dr Mark Hetherington (Biological Sciences) was interviewed by *Sky News*, describing **the training regime which the Brownlees and members of the women's Team GB triathlon team go through**, including the University's environment chamber, which helps simulate weather conditions like those in Brazil.

Professor Tim Bishop's (Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology) joint study with the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute appeared in the *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *ITV Online* and *U.S. News*. The study found that **gene variants associated with red hair, pale skin and freckles** are linked to a higher number of genetic mutations in skin cancers.



Dr Steven Wright (Engineering) discussed **airline Jet2's new investment announcement**, which will create almost 1,000 new jobs on *BBC Look North*. He also talked about Ryanair's concerns about growth after Brexit.

Stewart Ross, Director of Sport, was quoted in the *Telegraph* regarding the **inspiration provided by the Olympic Games**, saying that they have raised the public appetite for trying out new sports.

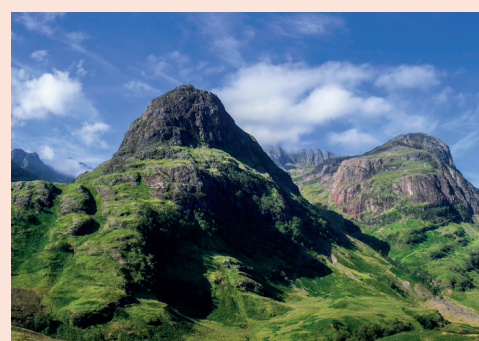


Dr Victoria Honeyman (POLIS) wrote in *The Conversation* on **Theresa May's politics** and how she may deal with issues surrounding nuclear power, relationships with China and the US – particularly with the US presidential election looming.



Professor Janet Cade (School of Food Science and Nutrition) was featured in *BBC Science Focus*, the *Independent*, and *Mail Online*, explaining a University study that found that Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food **cooking courses significantly improved participants' eating habits**.

Dr Laura Gregory (Earth and Environment) was heard on *Radio 4* commenting on the **tectonic fault lines which causes earthquakes** like the one that hit Italy in August. She also appeared on *BBC Online*, explaining that earthquakes in the Apennine regions of central Italy cause so much destruction, despite being quite small faults, because the quakes occur at shallow depths below the Earth's surface.





## Honours

**Professor Andy Hooper** (Earth and Environment) has been awarded an American Geophysical Union (AGU) James B Macelwane medal. The awards are given to outstanding early career scientists who show depth, breadth, impact, creativity and novelty in their research. Professor Hooper also becomes an AGU Fellow.

**Dr Peter Ho** (Food Science and Nutrition) has been made a Fellow of the ISEKI-Food Academy (IFA), recognising his professional reputation, international work in the food industry and contribution to the food science profession. Dr Ho's has research interests in sensory science, food product development, process measurement and food analytics.

A team in **Leeds Institute of Medical Education** has been awarded an ASPIRE-to-Excellence award from the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) for its outstanding performance in the area of Social Accountability. This follows ASPIRE awards for Assessment and Student Engagement in 2014 and 2015. The School is now one of only two medical schools internationally to have been awarded three ASPIRE awards, a scheme that recognises international excellence in medical, dental and veterinary schools.

Postgraduate researcher **Jade French** (Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies) has been awarded an Arts Council England grant for her Art as Advocacy project to commission artworks.

**Heather Swinsco** (Faculty of Engineering HR team and Athena SWAN Faculty Self-assessment team) received Leeds Beckett's annual Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development prize as the top student on the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management. A major piece of coursework was an action for her Faculty's successful Athena SWAN silver award, producing a report on how best to attract female applicants to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) roles within higher education.

The report's findings – '(Re)gendering STEM recruitment' – are based on a case study of women offered research and academic roles within the Faculty during the past 24 months. A small group of women were interviewed to explore their experiences of the recruitment process and within academia generally to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the Faculty's current approach.

**Professor Tony May** (Institute for Transport Studies) was awarded the Jules Dupuit Prize at the World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR). The prize recognises his contribution to the development of transport research, and to the work of the Society, of which he was President from 2007 to 2013. The prize is the highest award made by the WCTR Society.



**Professor Anne Neville** (Mechanical Engineering) has been awarded the 2016 Leverhulme Medal by the Royal Society for her work revealing diverse physical and chemical processes at interacting interfaces, emphasising significant synergy between tribology and corrosion. She was further commended for 'exceptional research which has enhanced the understanding of basic processes and addressed major industrial problems'.

The award is supported by the Leverhulme Trust, established under the will of Victorian entrepreneur William Lever. It is awarded triennially for 'an outstandingly significant contribution in the field of pure or applied chemistry or engineering, including chemical engineering'.



**Professors Julia Barrow** (Medieval Studies) and **Fiona Williams OBE** (Social Policy) have been made Fellows of the British Academy, elected on the basis of their outstanding contribution to research in the humanities and social sciences.

Professor Barrow is Professor in Medieval Studies and Director of the Institute for Medieval Studies. Her research interests lie chiefly in church history c700-c1300, especially English episcopal charters and administration, and the career structure of the medieval clergy in western Europe.

Professor Williams OBE is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Academy of Learned Societies in the Social Sciences. Her research interests are in the fields of gender, 'race', ethnicity, and care in contemporary society.

**Professor Gregory A Houseman** (School of Earth and Environment) has been elected to membership of the Academia Europaea in recognition of his international scholarship and sustained contribution to European research.

**Dr Catherine Scott** (Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science) was voted favourite scientist in the Climate Change Zone of the outreach competition 'I'm a Scientist, Get Me out of Here'. The competition – [www.imascientist.org.uk](http://www.imascientist.org.uk) – enables school children to ask scientists questions about their work and science. Dr Scott says: "I couldn't have imagined how much I would enjoy taking part – the children asked some great questions and it was reassuring to see how aware they were of the need to protect the environment. In fact, they were pretty annoyed with us grown-ups for having messed it up!"

Postgraduate researcher **Maxim Samson** (Geography) was awarded an International Placement Scheme (IPS) Fellowship and will spend just over three months at the Library of Congress in Washington DC – the largest library in the world. He will pursue his research into the role of Jewish faith schools in constructing young people's Jewish identities.



**Adam Strickson** (Performance and Cultural Industries) has been awarded an International Placement Scheme (IPS) Fellowship at the Shanghai Theatre Academy (STA) by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). He will examine the act of translating Ming Dynasty plays for performance into English, and adapt Tang Xianzu's Handan Dream play as contemporary music-theatre or opera.



## News

# Yorkshire Year of the Textile: transforming campus

**Yorkshire's rich textile heritage is providing inspiration for a year of outstanding artistic activity and public engagement, as the University celebrates weave and knit traditions and synthetic fibres history, working with a wide range of partners across the region.**

The programme, which was awarded £98,000 by Arts Council England through its National Lottery-funded Grants for the Arts programme, launched earlier this year with a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Man-Made Fibres Building, now Clothworkers South, and the newly conserved Mitzi Cunliffe sculpture of the same name. The celebration included new poetry by Linda France, a poem inspired by synthetic fibres research by Helen Mort, and a dance response by Turveyworld.

Another response to Cunliffe's work, entitled *Texere*, a collaboration between artist Sue

Lawty and poet Helen Mort, will appear on campus this autumn. This 'pavement piece' in front of Clothworkers South will draw attention to the sculpture, which is the focus of new research and adorns the cover of the Public Art Trail leaflet.

Two related exhibitions celebrate the *Synthetics Revolution*. One will be held at ULITA, an Archive of International Textiles, until December, while *Revolutionary Fabrics* in the M&S Company Archive will show how synthetic fabrics are woven into everyday life.



A series of workshops led by artists Elizabeth Gaston and Jane Scott (School of Design) is inspiring groups to hand-knit, while poets Malika Booker, Linda France, Helen Mort, Kate Scott and Rommi Smith reflect textile memories in poems. Workshops have taken place around Leeds and on campus, and two more are planned at the Craven Museum in Skipton for the Yarnale festival in late September. The Community Canopy sculptures produced across Yorkshire are gradually being installed across campus, transforming open spaces in time for Light Night on 6-7 October.

# Conferences keep campus on the go

**The University's campus is alive with visitors from far and wide during the summer months, attracted by the numerous conferences and events that are hosted by MEETinLEEDS.**

"Contrary to the idea that the University is quiet from late June to mid-September, it's an incredibly busy time for us," says Harriet Boatwright from MEETinLEEDS. "This year, the summer conference season saw over 25,000 people attend conference and events activities on campus, and an equal number of 'bed nights' spent on campus and in Devonshire Hall.

"MEETinLEEDS are here to help our schools and faculties attract and deliver exceptional conferences, and we can offer full facilities and expert support – whatever's needed, we'll do our best to make sure it happens."

This year's events included: the British Neuro-Oncology Society Conference; Crystal Growth of Organic Materials 2016; the International Kansei Engineering & Emotion Research Conference; Think Ahead – the new fast-track programme for exceptional graduates to become mental health social workers; the Communication Matters National AAC Conference (CM2016); the WES (Work, Employment and Society) Conference; and, of course, the International Medieval Congress (IMC). A variety of educational engagement activities and summer schools also took place.

"Some of the statistics are amazing and will give people an idea of the scale of the events we have," continues Harriet. "During the IMC we provided 4,000 breakfasts, 1,100 lunches, 940 evening meals, and drink receptions for over 1,000 people. The Teach First event – which

we hosted in partnership with Leeds Beckett University and First Direct Arena – saw over 4,300 attendees visit Leeds over two days."

The MEETinLEEDS team has one big, final conference to organise before the academic year begins. "We'll be welcoming 800 delegates to the British Education Research Association (BERA) Conference in mid-September," says Harriet. "BERA is a member-led charity that champions the best of educational research and aims to build momentum within and beyond the field. The three-day conference attracts around 1,000 national and international delegates representing a wide range of academics, policymakers and practitioners, all with a strong interest in educational research. I'm sure that some colleagues from the University will be attending."





## Events

### FUAM Graduate Art Prize Exhibition 2016

**Leeds University Libraries Galleries (formerly the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery) until Saturday 1 October**

The fourth Friends of University Art & Music Graduate Art Prize Exhibition is now open, with the work of four finalists on display.

The FUAM Graduate Art Prize rewards the artistic excellence of the top students completing studies in design and fine art. The four finalists are Emii Alrai, Francesca Ivaldi, Zoe James and India Pierce and their work is now on display. The overall winner will be announced on 28 September.

Admission is free.

### Light Night – 6-7 October 2016

The 12th anniversary of Leeds' biggest free annual multi-arts event will take place over two nights this year. See the city come alive with spectacular light projections, as well as film, dance, music, theatre, exhibitions and street performances. There will be several events taking place across the University campus. Please see the Light Night website for details at [goo.gl/TXK8Mj](http://goo.gl/TXK8Mj)



### Mahler Song series and masterclasses at the Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall – October/November 2016

Held in the Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall, and in association with the Kathleen Ferrier Awards, the songs of Mahler are explored in a series that champions the finest young British Lieder singers. Pre-concert talks will illuminate the programmes and explore Mahler's song repertoire and that of his contemporaries. Masterclasses will be staged to work with student song duos. These concerts will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 for deferred broadcast.

Mahler Series I – 12 October: Ruby Hughes (soprano) and Joseph Middleton (piano). BBC New Generation Artist laureate and past winner of the Borletti-Buitoni Award performs *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and *Songs of Youth*, alongside late songs by Schumann.

Mahler Series II – 5 November: Jennifer Johnston (mezzo-soprano) and Joseph Middleton (piano). Jennifer Johnston has forged an international career that places her at the forefront of British singers. Her programme for Leeds Lieder includes Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* and Rückert Lieder and songs by Wagner and Liszt.

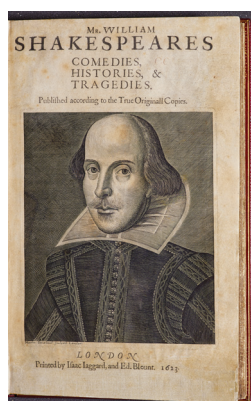
*Mahler Series III will be held in March 2017.*

### For All Time: Shakespeare in Yorkshire – 5 September 2016 – 31 January 2017

The next special exhibition at the Treasures of the Brotherton will explore the relationship between Shakespeare and Yorkshire.

Four hundred years after the death of William Shakespeare, this remarkable exhibition displays for the first time in one place the rare Shakespeare materials left to Leeds University Library by Lord Brotherton. It looks at how Shakespeare dramatised Yorkshire history, and explores how directors today are still using his work to ask questions about regional identity.

All these books and more are on display in a new exhibition at the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery. Discover how Shakespeare and his contemporaries dramatised Yorkshire history and how modern theatre companies and directors are still using his work to ask questions about regional identity.



## Save the date!

### Be Curious 2017

Be Curious 2017 will take place at the University on Saturday 25 March 2017. Please save the date and come along; bring family and friends and have an interactive day out investigating the ongoing research happening at the University. If you would like to help shape, organise or coordinate the event, or participate during the day itself, please get in touch at [peteam@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:peteam@leeds.ac.uk)



## FAQs

# Sarah Mace Project Head, Digital and Content Development, Leeds University Union (LUU)

## What's your role at LUU?

I've been Marketing Manager at the Union for four years, and in the last six months have taken a secondment to become the Project Head for Digital and Content Development. I'm developing and delivering our digital communication strategy, which includes overseeing the design and build of a new web platform. I'm also leading on the development of our new brand and a new communications and content strategy to work across web and our freshly refurbished spaces.

## What do you like most about your job?

The Union is a great place to work. The organisation, our members and the work we deliver are so diverse; no two hours are ever the same! I've been in marketing for 10 years now, and the Union is by far the most vibrant and energising place I've ever worked. Working with young people really appealed to me, and I haven't been disappointed. Working with our members, our societies, our Student Exec and our youthful staff ensures that you never stand still and are always in tune with the next generation of students.

## The Union has got some rather splendid new branding – how did that come about?

Thanks! We've wanted to develop our brand for quite a while. We've always received great feedback from students on how we look but some of our communications were starting to look tired and we didn't have enough consistency across our many services and campaigns. So we've evolved our brand to be a bit more vibrant and current, at the same time tidying it up and putting a bit more discipline into how we use it.

## How are student demands changing and how does LUU respond?

We do a lot of research; we regularly talk to our members to gather feedback, views and

opinions and also analyse youth and student trends on a national and sometimes international scale. Higher fees have impacted on how pressured students feel to do well at university. Our research shows that stress and anxiety are increasing as students pile more pressure on themselves to perform academically whilst still fitting in their friends and socialising.

We know that joining in student activities such as clubs and societies helps students to feel happier and healthier, so recruiting students into those groups is very important. We currently have over 21,000 members of our clubs and societies, so we're doing pretty well. We're also seeing much more diversity amongst our members, so our events and activities programmes are becoming more varied to enable every student to get involved in something that interests them.

## What has LUU got planned for Freshers' week?

Loads! Freshers is way more than a week these days. Our Welcome Week, which starts on 12 September, is when we welcome most of our international students and it's just as jam-packed with stuff as the following week. We have so many events and activities going on, all designed to ensure students have the best possible start at Leeds and are able to meet people and settle in easily. We've got some great live music, comedy gigs and creative craft sessions, as well as an alcohol-free festival and an afternoon workout class.

One of the most exciting things is the opening of some new spaces in the Union, and during Freshers we'll be opening Function and the Pyramid canteen. Plus we'll be reopening a refurbished Old Bar (applause!) and will be touring campus with our welcome talks to meet as many new students as possible. See [luu.org.uk/freshers](http://luu.org.uk/freshers)

## And the rest of the year?

The Union upgrade will dominate much of this year; ensuring that our spaces look and feel great and work well for students is an absolute



priority. Our digital work will also be ramping up as we build a new website for students. Our major activity and campaigns won't slow down though. We've already started planning our next leadership race and are working closely with the Exec to run some very interesting, thought-provoking campaigns on topics such as the cost of student living and our zero tolerance stance on sexual assault in Leeds.

## What's your favourite area of the Union?

I like the Old Bar. It has a great vibe and some cracking beer!

## What's your most frequently asked question?

Did you get my email?

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I live in Slaithwaite, a little village on the moors just outside Huddersfield, so I love walking and enjoying the countryside. Slaithwaite is on the Real Ale Trail so my walks do often finish with a nice pint! I also love furniture renovation, interior design and good food.

## What three items would you want on a desert island?

iPhone, cheese and a big fat book.



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