

Student Representative Committee (Meeting 3)

Tuesday 3 February 2026 6.00pm to be held in the Matt Spencer Boardroom in the SU Hub at Mile End at 6.00pm

Membership

Position	Name
Students' Union Chair	Mara Bortnowschi
Sabbatical Officers	
Students' Union President	Diya Mary Selastin
VP Barts and The London	Maria Rubbani
Vice President HSS	Samarth Lakhanpal
Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates	Hassam Naeem
Vice President S&E	Tushar Goyal
Vice President Welfare	Eshwinder Singh
Elected Student Representatives	
Activities & Experience Rep	Chaudhry Ali
BL Rep	Amaan Abbas
Careers & Employability Rep	Jiahong Liu
Commuter Rep	Muhammad Khan
HSS Rep	Apoorva Sharma
International Rep	Anushka Rawat
Liberation Rep	Zaib Ali
Postgrad Rep	Prithvirajsingh Bayas
S&E Rep	Tayebur Rahman
Welfare Rep	Viktoriiia Rubanyk
SU Staff in attendance	
Secretary and Governance Officer (Clerk)	Brad Coales
Head of Student Voice and Insights	Marianne Melsen

Agenda

1. Chair's Introduction, Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Minutes from Sub-Groups

4. President's Report to QMUL

The SU President has requested that the report that is produced for QMUL Council and Senate meetings should in future be shared with SRC members. The President's Report contains an update on the work of the President and the Executive Officers, and the work of the Students' Union more generally. A copy of the most recent (November 2025) report is attached.

5. Voting at the SRC

Following the last SRC meeting, it has been requested that voting should in future be conducted electronically. Votes would be anonymous at the time of voting, but will be attributable when the results are published. This is to relieve any sense of pressure on members at the time of voting and so allow them to vote freely. If the SRC agree to this, future votes will be conducted via Teams, or MS Forms.

As a reminder, the voting options are **In favour** of the proposal, **Against** the proposal, and **Abstention** from voting. Abstentions do not count towards the outcome, with the result being decided by the majority of votes actually cast and not a majority of those present.

6. Reports from and Questions to the Executive Officers

The Executive Officers will be invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern. Committee members will then have an opportunity to put questions to the Officers.

7. Reports from and Questions to the Student Representatives

The Student Representatives will be invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern. Committee members will then have an opportunity to put questions to the Representatives.

8. All Students Meeting/Annual General Meeting

The next ASM is scheduled for Monday 2 February 2026 at 6pm and will be held online. The meeting has been advertised to students and the deadline for motions is midday on Monday 12 January. Further information is on the QMSU website at: <https://www.qmsu.org/studentmeeting/>.

The SRC needs to submit a report to the ASM, and the Officers and Representatives reports from this meeting will be used to compile it.

The Executive Officers also need to give a report to the ASM. This can either be given by the SU President on behalf of the Executive team, with questions to the individual Officers or, if time permits, by the individual Officers themselves. We will have a better idea of

timing once the deadline for motions has passed and so it is suggested that the format can then be agreed by the Executive Committee members.

9. Bye-Law Changes

There is a need to make an amendment to the BLSA Bye-Law, to reflect the changes resulting from the Democracy Review with regard to the membership of the BLSA Board, and how the Board can fill any vacant positions post-election. Amendments to the BLSA Bye-Law must first be approved by the BLSA Board, and so a draft amendment will be circulated before this meeting for the BLSA President to take to the BLSA Board and, if approved, it will then be brought to the next SRC meeting for confirmation.

10. QMSU Appointments Committee

The provisional timetable for the appointment of three new External Trustees.

- **Place Ad w/c 5 January – via Charity Jobs and Reach Volunteering**
- **Applications Close Monday 26 January – (circa 3 weeks)**
- **Shortlist w/c 26 January (via circulation)**
- **Interviews w/c 2 February date to be confirmed (full day)**

This is with the intention of having new Board members in place for the 12 February Board meeting. However, it is subject to the availability of the Appointments Committee members.

Any appointments must first be approved by the SRC, and so they will be brought to the next SRC meeting - this also means that, as the next SRC meeting is on 3 February, and interviews are due to take place on 5 February, approval will need to be conducted by circulation - we will circulate a brief profile of the selected candidates and SRC members will be asked to confirm their appointment via an online link. As the Executive Officers and the SRC are represented on the Appointments Committee, the approval process is seen as a safeguard to preserve the sovereignty of the student body, and is not intended to revise the work of the Appointments Committee who will have shortlisted applicants and interviewed the candidates.

11. Policy Renewal

7.1 Policy passed or renewed more than two years earlier will be presented to the Committee with a recommendation from the Executive Committee to renew or lapse.

7.2 SRC members should make clear to the Chair any individual recommendations they would like to be debated separately, and the Chair will bring these forward for debate before being voted on. The rest of the recommendations shall then be voted on in 1 vote.

7.3 Any Students' Union member may, at any time, bring policy that is considered to be out of date to the attention of SRC to be debated.

7.4 If a policy has not been reviewed after two years, it must be put forward for review at the next SRC meeting and will remain as an active policy until the review has been completed.

The following policies are now due for review:

Policy	Recommendation
Should the Students' Union lobby the University to decolonise the curriculum?	Renew
Should the union create a Give Blood UK event?	Lapse
The Union Should Broadly Endorse the Aims of the Green Charter, and Facilitate a Method of Direct Democracy in Working Towards its Full Implementation	Renew
The Union Should Discourage Staff and Students From Flying on Trips Associated With the Student's Union	Embed
The Union should introduce a 'Big Green Box' online 'suggestion box' /concern reporting form	Renew
The Union should introduce a new 'sustainability role' within society committees on a voluntary basis	Renew
The Union should introduce sustainability training for all SU staff	Renew
The Union should lobby the University to implement a long-term scheme to provide and distribute free menstrual products on campus	Renew
The Union should make it easier for students to raise issues and participate in mandates	Lapse
The Union should support and commit to pushing the re-evaluation of Queen Mary's ethical investment policy	Embed
Should Disability History Month be added to the calendar of QMSU Liberation Campaigns?	Embed
Should the Students' Union lobby the university to install bidet attachments to at least one male, one female and one male accessible, one female accessible and one gender neutral accessible toilet in all student-facing university buildings where applicable?	Renew
Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to introduce weekly consultation hours to enable students to book one-to-one consultations with their teachers	Renew

12. AOB

Student Representative Committee Meetings for 2025-26

- Tuesday 3 March 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 7 April 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 5 May 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 2 June 2026 (18:00)

Student Representative Committee (Meeting 2)

Tuesday 2 December 2025 6.00pm - held in the Matt Spencer Boardroom in the SU Hub at Mile End at 6.00pm

Membership

Position	Name
Students' Union Chair	Mara Bortnowschi
Sabbatical Officers	
Students' Union President	Diya Mary Selastin
VP Barts and The London	Maria Rubbani
Vice President HSS	Samarth Lakhanpal
Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates	Hassam Naeem
Vice President S&E	Tushar Goyal
Vice President Welfare	Eshwinder Singh
Elected Student Representatives	
Activities & Experience Rep	Chaudhry Ali
BL Rep	Amaan Abbas
Careers & Employability Rep	Jiahong Liu
Commuter Rep	Muhammad Khan
HSS Rep	Apoorva Sharma
International Rep	Anushka Rawat
Liberation Rep	Zaib Ali
Postgrad Rep	Prithvirajsingh Bayas
S&E Rep	Tayebur Rahman
Welfare Rep	Viktoriiia Rubanyk
SU Staff in attendance	
Secretary and Governance Officer (Clerk)	Brad Coales
Head of Student Voice and Insights	Marianne Melsen

Draft Minutes

1. Chair's Introduction, Welcome and Apologies

Mara Bortnowschi had been appointed as the Students' Union Chair for 2025-26. The appointment was made from a field of over 60 applicants, of which 20 were identified for shortlisting, and five selected for interview. The Appointments Committee included Hassam Naem (VP LIP) and Dominique Gracia (External Trustee) who served as Chair. Under the Union's Bye-Laws, the appointment was then ratified by the SRC.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Postgraduate Representative - Prithvirajsingh Bayas, and Hassam Naeem (who was on leave but joined online).

2. Terms of Reference

The Committee agreed its Terms of Reference.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

This was the first proper meeting of the Committee. There were no minutes of the initial meeting chaired by Diya (as the QMSU President) as this was more by way of an introduction to the members and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

However, motions of Commendation were passed in favour of the following Committee members in recognition of their work to date:

- Tushar Goyal
- Samarth Lakhanpal
- Diya Mary Selastin
- Maria Rubbani

It was noted that the commendations needed to be corrected to include Hassam Naeem and Eshwinder Singh.

The Executive Officer's recommendations concerning renewal of policies at the last meeting were also agreed in full.

5. Minutes from Sub-Groups

None for this meeting as there are no sub-groups yet in existence, except the BLSA Board (which is technically a sub-committee of the SRC) and should submit its minutes for information). The Secretary and the VP Barts and The London would follow-up on this outside of the meeting.

6. Reports from and Questions to the Executive Officers

The Executive Officers were invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern.

Topics covered included:

Eshwinder Singh - VP LIP reported on lobbying for additional prayer spaces, work on scholarships with Hassam Naeem, a late-fees benchmarking report (with Finance), accessibility fixes (e.g., Garrod Building lift; follow-up meeting set), visa-process smoothing for international students, streamlining society engagement, and launching the RGSU gender-based violence survey (all genders). Representatives were asked to help promote the survey.

Samarth Lakhanpal- VPHSS reported on Career Catalyst events (large attendance), plans to unify career communications (newsletter concept), student elective choice research, and potential pre-enrolment careers support (Aug/Sep) with the university.

Diya Mary Selastin - QMSU President highlighted adoption of a new investment policy by QMUL (no investments in arms/fossil fuels; commitment to publish direct & indirect investments), set-up of a temporary women-only space (the Yurt) for two hours daily in term-time, coordination around 16 Days of Activism (White Ribbon Day), planning for Women's Week and Women's Sport Month (March), pushing active bystander training and addressing charging sockets gaps; asked reps to pinpoint buildings lacking sockets.

Tushar Goyal - VP S&E reported on work progressing on AI assessment policy (use in teaching, feedback), linking societies with their schools, social-belonging initiatives across S&E, promotion of AskQM feedback survey, and graduate attributes focus groups (meeting scheduled to discuss findings).

Maria Rubbani - VP Barts and The London reported on supporting alumni events, clinical timetables, pharmacy curriculum, welfare gaps, non-sport societies accessing sport spaces, local business collaboration, discrimination survey follow-on from GBV work. Issues raised about TV screen boards stuck on earlier campaigns (e.g., Black History Month); action to raise with Comms.

Hassam Naeem - VP Liberation/International/Postgrad reported on UKRI London stipend proposal (media coverage noted), tailored career support for international students, completion of Black History Month and Islamic Heritage Month, current Disability History Month, Palestinian scholarships lobbying with senior leadership (requested additional student-rep pressure as progress remains difficult).

7. Reports from and Questions to the Student Representatives

The Student Representatives were to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern.

Topics covered included:

Cultural Unity Week/Ball: Planning underway (March, subject to funding);

Surveys to understand commuter students' preferences: (mid-day events highest demand); a bimonthly feedback concept discussed with caution re survey fatigue. Reps

asked to share time-demand data next week; coordination with Careers & Enterprise suggested.

Lecture recording, facilities & space: Mapping rooms lacking reliable recording, asking students to report via IT helpdesk; pushing for library 24/7 hours; need for microwaves; quiet/rest spaces for gaps between classes. The Executive Officers asked for room names/numbers to escalate in monthly IT catch-ups.

Law events & accommodation survey: Recent law-faculty event successes; ongoing accommodation survey aiming for higher response count.

Ethical & Sustainable Investment Forum: pre-meet requested by Diya; planned student feedback survey on investment priorities and exclusions.

Women's Week & volunteers: Coordinating Women's Week (late Feb/early Mar); proposal to recruit volunteers. Reps were asked to promote and coordinate cohorts (including postgraduates).

International/refugee support: Suggestion for workshops/guidance (banking, accommodation, healthcare registration) for new arrivals and refugees.

Goes Continental campaign displays: TV boards stuck; agreed to escalate to Jack (SU Comms) and university comms; Hassam Naeem asked that Maria/team pick this up during his leave.

Staff signposting & vendor contacts: Reps requested a staff contact/signposting list (e.g., Comms and Marketing for vendor approaches); Brad Coales to share.

Funding clarity & training: Queries around Rep funding pots and liberation fund process and timing. Access to active bystander training for Reps - staff support link to be circulated.

8. All Students Meeting/Annual General Meeting

The first All Student Meeting (ASM) of 2025-26 was held on Monday 17 November 2025 (18.00). The meeting was held online via Teams. The Outcomes paper was attached for reference and would be published on the Students' Union's website.

Dates of the other planned ASMs are as follows:

- Monday 2 February 2026 (18:00)
- Monday 30 March 2026 (18:00)

9. Bye-Law Changes

A proposal to change the titles of the five Vice President roles to that of President had been submitted by Tushar Goyal and was considered as a Bye-Law amendment.

This had not been submitted in the form required for a Bye-Law amendment so, although it was accepted for debate, it was explained how any future amendments needed to be submitted. If passed, it would then require approval (as with all Bye-Law amendments) by the Board of Trustees (at their February 2026 meeting) before it could be enacted.

There was extensive and passionate debate upon the matter, including whether students had been consulted and supported the change, the evidence for this, and the actual benefit of the change to students.

The arguments put forward in favour of the motion included Improved student identification of the right representative to contact, parity with certain SU structures elsewhere (e.g. Oxford), and that that it reflected Executive Officers' decision-making scope in their domains.

The arguments put forward against the motion included the risk of external/internal confusion (the QMSU President has a distinct statutory role - QMUL Council seat, BOT chair, CEO line manager), potential misinterpretation by University of QMSU hierarchy, and the need for better communications with students and not title changes.

The amendment was **Passed** with nine members voting in favour (including online and chat).

The amendment would go to the Board of Trustees February meeting (with grammar/formatting corrections before submission) for consideration.

It was noted that there could also be issues concerning the wording of the University's Charter/Ordinances which attribute particular meanings to the role of 'President' in respect of the Students' Union. Therefore, there could also be QMUL Council and governance implications which would need to be taken into account.

10. QMSU Appointments Committee

The Students' Union currently had three vacancies for External Trustees. The process for recruiting new External Trustees requires an Appointments Committee with one member to be drawn from the SRC. Members were invited to nominate themselves for the role. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the Appointments Committee was included at the end of the meeting papers. The Member would be required to participate in the shortlisting of candidates (electronically) and then attend a full day of interviews. It is anticipated that the recruitment process will take place in January 2026. This would occur during the exam period, and this was something to consider for anyone considering putting themselves forward.

Chaudhry Abdul Moiz Ali was nominated as the SRC representative of the Appointments Committee.

11. Policy Renewal

The following policies were due for review and may be lapsed or renewed, but in the absence of the required recommendations from the Executive Officers it was agreed that they should be held over until the next meeting. These policies would therefore continue to be in force until then.

Policy	Recommendation
The Union Should Broadly Endorse the Aims of the Green Charter, and Facilitate a Method of Direct Democracy in Working Towards its Full Implementation	tbc
The Union Should Discourage Staff and Students From Flying on Trips Associated With the Student's Union	tbc
The Union should introduce a 'Big Green Box' online 'suggestion box' /concern reporting form	tbc
The Union should introduce a new 'sustainability role' within society committees on a voluntary basis	tbc
The Union should introduce sustainability training for all SU staff	tbc
The Union should lobby the University to implement a long-term scheme to provide and distribute free menstrual products on campus	tbc
The Union should make it easier for students to raise issues and participate in mandates	tbc
The Union should support and commit to pushing the re-evaluation of Queen Mary's ethical investment policy	tbc
Should Disability History Month be added to the calendar of QMSU Liberation Campaigns?	tbc
Should the Students' Union lobby the university to install bidet attachments to at least one male, one female and one male accessible, one female accessible and one gender neutral accessible toilet in all student-facing university buildings where applicable?	tbc
Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to introduce weekly consultation hours to enable students to book one-to-one consultations with their teachers	tbc

12. AOB

Student Representative Committee Meetings for 2025-26

- Tuesday 13 January 2026 (18.00)
- Tuesday 3 February 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 3 March 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 7 April 2026 (18:00)

- Tuesday 5 May 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 2 June 2026 (18:00)



Outcome requested:	To note
Executive Summary:	<p>The report is an update from the start of the academic year on activity within the Students' Union. It includes the following sections:</p> <p>Key Updates Employability Student Opportunities Sport and Physical Activity Student Voice</p>
Appendices	
Author:	Diya Mary Selastin, Students' Union President
Date:	November 2025
Senior Management/External Sponsor	

Presidents University Council Report

Key Updates

Autumn Elections

As part of the implementation of our Democracy Review, we have now held the elections for the ten new Student Representative positions and one vacant Student Trustee position. A total of 72 students had nominated themselves for the 11 positions, and 568 students cast their votes.

The Autumn Election is traditionally a smaller election than our main Spring Election (where we elect the full-time officers), and we used this election as an opportunity to trial some new approaches. This included a trial of in-person polling stations for students on our largest London-based campuses, with online voting enabled for distance learners and students on our smaller London-based campuses. All students were also able to request an online vote if they were unable to come to an on-campus polling station. The polling stations enabled Students' Union staff to have a more direct presence and foster a more positive campaigning culture, but it took significant staff resources to deliver polling stations on four campuses across the four days of voting. We are currently undertaking a full evaluation of the trial.

All Student Meeting

The first All Student Meeting (ASM) of this academic year took place on 17 November. The meeting is the first ASM under the new structures that we have implemented based on the Democracy Review, and we have been pleased to receive a very high number of motions and ideas for the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the newly appointed Students' Union Chair, Mara Bortnowschi, who is a current medical student. The meeting reached quoracy of 120 students, and several motions were passed, including motions regarding the provision of faith spaces and ethical careers events.

In line with the recommendations from the Democracy Review, we will have at least three All Student Meetings per year, with the next one scheduled for early February.

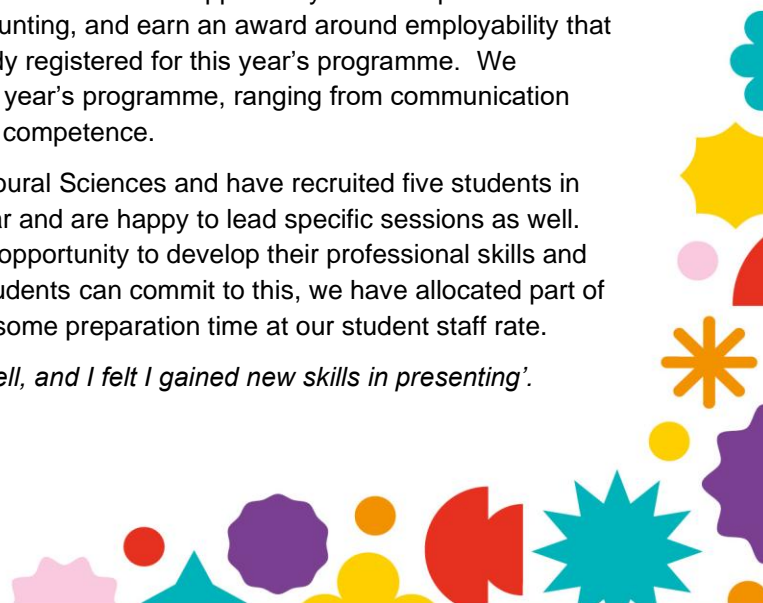
Employability

Employability

Our main employability programme, the Skills Awards, gives students the opportunity to develop their soft skills, learn from others, prepare for post-graduation job hunting, and earn an award around employability that features on their HEAR transcript. 111 people have already registered for this year's programme. We currently have 39 skills award sessions scheduled for this year's programme, ranging from communication and problem-solving to mental health first aid and cultural competence.

We work closely with the School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences and have recruited five students in partnership with them who have done their placement year and are happy to lead specific sessions as well. This means these student-led sessions give students the opportunity to develop their professional skills and build a supportive peer learning community. To ensure students can commit to this, we have allocated part of our budget to be able to pay for their sessions as well as some preparation time at our student staff rate.

One student spoke about how *'The session went really well, and I felt I gained new skills in presenting'*.



During the 24/25 Academic year, we had 316 students register for our skills award and 182 participated in at least one session, with 68 receiving the Gold Award for their attendance which was a slight increase from the previous year. A total of 36 skills sessions and 6 reflection sessions were offered.

A student attendee at one of last year's reflection sessions said that *'The programme has made them more confident in interview techniques, transferable skills and attempting to enter the professional world after graduating'*.

Sports Employability Academy

The Sports Employability Academy is QMSU Sport's leadership and workforce development programme, supporting QMUL students and external community organisations across Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs. Through the programme, students access a wide range of professional development opportunities, including free UK Coaching Premium Membership, CPD workshops, employment references, one-to-one support from full-time staff, and financial support for a sports-based qualification of their choice. Students engage in both traditional roles such as coaching and officiating, as well as degree-relevant roles including football-focused media and communications and fan-experience positions.

During its debut year in 2024–25, the Academy received over 50 applications, supported more than 340 hours of sports-based delivery, and professionally upskilled over 20 students through CPD opportunities. The programme also secured over £12,000 of external funding to enhance community-outreach activity and student development. Several students who gained qualifications through the Academy have progressed into paid roles within Get Active, Social Leagues and Qmotion, demonstrating clear pathways into employment.

A student testimonial reflects the impact of the programme: *"Being part of this programme has hugely enriched my student experience by giving me opportunities to lead, volunteer, and connect with diverse communities. It has strengthened my confidence, teamwork, and communication skills, which I know will support my future career in medicine. Most importantly, it has allowed me to give back to the student community while building a strong foundation for my employability."*

Student Opportunities

Societies

Since the start of the Academic year, we have had 25 new groups approved and they are now all being set up ready to organise their first events. Our existing groups have raised £80,092.66 from their membership sales income alone so far, this academic year, with 11,648 society memberships sold (compared to 10,007 at this time last year). Our societies have also secured an additional £30,000 in sponsorships to go towards their group activities.

£13,924.10 of funding was distributed in the 2nd round of the grant fund; this funding is covering items or activities such as 3D printing of remote-controlled boats for the Engineering and Material Sciences Society, Portage fees for the Game Dev Society, and Pilates equipment for QMBL Pilates Society. Ensuring that our groups are well-equipped for the year ahead and are able to offer their members the best experience possible!

We had more groups than ever in attendance at the welcome fair with 132 groups present at Mile End and 73 at Whitechapel and in general, student group leaders have been super engaged this year with over 800 of them having already completed finance training as well as many of them setting up meetings with the societies team to discuss how they can expand and find new and exciting ways to create great experiences for their members.

Volunteering

We had a very successful volunteering fair at the end of September with 35 stalls and over 200 students in attendance. Our partner organisations gave incredibly positive feedback about their experience at the fair. One respondent said *'It was a great, successful day, and it was a pleasure speaking with so many keen and super interested students. As for the set-up, the space, the voucher and all on the day, all was great!'*

645 volunteering hours have been logged this academic year. We have hosted 3 Give Volunteering a Go events so far: Race for the Kids, Canal Clean and London Museum Santa's Grotto. Student feedback from these events has been very positive, as all respondents have also rated their experience highly. Our Volunteering Champions are currently working hard to organise a donation drive and care package making session for Haven House Children's Hospice. Planning has also begun for Student Volunteering Week 2026.

There are 12 active volunteering groups with 527 members in total. Our second volunteering board meeting saw the Volunteering Champions meet to allocate £779.53 to our volunteering groups, for items such as funding towards portering costs for Barts Community Smiles and SAMDA's collaboration hosting a Dentistry Taster Day for schools. We have implemented online safeguarding training and revised the system for students to get DBS checks, increasing efficiency and allowing students to start volunteering with our student led volunteering groups without delays. 281 students have completed the online safeguarding training.

We have also opened applications for the QMSU London Marathon Place and are looking forward to recruiting our team of volunteers for the event!

Welcome Crew

We had a hugely successful Help Squad and Welcome Crew programme this year with a total of 99 volunteers over arrivals weekend and the freshers' fairs at Mile End and Whitechapel.

We had a lot of lovely feedback from the weekend itself and the thank you event at Drapers:

'I found the experience refreshing, it definitely helped me get out of my comfort zone and make friends'.

'Rachel and Isabelle were so easy to talk to and friendly and the QMSU staff were very supportive.'

'I loved the thank you event, it has been lovely and a great way to socialise with friends'

'I believe my communication skills have improved, and I have made some good friends who I volunteered with'.

RAG

We have had a hugely busy and successful start to the academic year in terms of fundraising. Over 60 RAG events have been planned and submitted by student groups via the Adopt a Charity Form, and over £22,000 has been raised for charity. This includes a charity football match organised by Queen Mary Men's and Women's Football Clubs, which raised an impressive over £7000. Charity week has also been a great success for our Mile End and Whitechapel Islamic Societies, raising nearly £6,000!

Student media

We held the first board meeting of the academic year with a full turnout from all Outlets and elected a new chair. The new student media outlet 'Fashionably Late' which showcase creative expression through print and digital issues, visual campaigns, blog posts and collaborative projects that combine photography, styling, and film have been set up!

University Challenge

We have been trying to create a team of highly knowledgeable students to take part in University Challenge. We had 72 students sign up to take part in the round 1 trials which will be spread over three days, testing

general and specialised knowledge. The highest scoring of these will then move to round 2 where they will practice as individuals and teams to put together the Queen Mary, University of London's 2026 University challenge team. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to show off their knowledge as well as create a feel of community across different years and subject areas. The project has been promoted across the Students' Union as well as the University, engaging all demographics of students.

Sustainability

We run our first Big Green Canal Clean in October. Despite the terrible weather we had 15 students attending, ensuring our Canal and adjacent areas are litter free and safe for students to enjoy.

Our Sustainability Intern was elected to represent QMUL as a primary delegate at the 2025 BISA Chatham House climate simulation. Using examples and experience from her internship helped her secure this incredible opportunity.

Sport and Physical Activity

Social Sport

The Social League programme launched in October with a series of 8–10-week leagues designed to provide recreational competitive opportunities for societies, departments and groups of friends. This year's offer includes basketball, 7-a-side football, netball, indoor cricket and singles/doubles badminton. Participation has grown from 2024–25, with 16 football teams compared to 12 last year, and basketball participation doubling from 3 to 6 teams. To further enhance accessibility, individual entry tickets were introduced, enabling students without an existing team to either join established groups or form new teams.

All sessions are delivered and refereed by QMSU Sport Activators, providing students with opportunities to develop leadership capabilities and improve their understanding of the sport. In collaboration with the Sports Employability Academy, Activators also access training and qualifications that build their professional skills and strengthen the quality of league delivery. Volunteers involved in the programme have received additional support to grow confidence in officiating and further develop their existing sport knowledge.

Get Active Programme

The Get Active programme has continued to offer a weekly timetable of 14 pay-and-play sessions for students and staff. Since the start of the academic year, 156 hours of delivery have taken place, attracting 268 unique participants. Engagement remains strong, with 47% of participants attending two or more sessions.

Throughout November, the programme will support both Movember and Talk Club through targeted activity designed to encourage men to engage in conversations about mental health while taking part in physical activity. This includes a Talk Club archery session delivered in partnership with the QMSU Archery Club, combining sport with peer-to-peer discussion. Additional initiatives include an Introduction to Strength Training session led by a qualified Qmotion instructor and an Introduction to Climbing session at Bethnal Green Climbing Centre, aimed at encouraging men to try new activities that support both physical and mental wellbeing.

Performance Sport

Support for student-athletes within the Performance Sport programme is now fully underway. Weekly Strength and Conditioning sessions have been introduced, reducing financial barriers and providing consistent training support. Academic flexibility and sports therapy services are already being utilised, supported by an updated Academic Flexibility Agreement that reflects recent case studies and best-practice examples for academic staff and personal tutors. This ensures institutional compliance with TASS accreditation guidelines and helps communicate the needs of dual-career athletes effectively across the university.

A new Sports Medicine Clinic for QMUL student-athletes has been finalised in partnership with QMUL and Barts NHS Trust. Accessed through local GPs, the clinic will provide free physiotherapy, rehabilitation and injury management at Mile End Hospital. This service will support diagnosis, treatment and recovery throughout the year, ensuring athletes receive timely and appropriate care.

Student Voice

Engaging with Professional Services, Education and Faculty teams:

Over the past weeks, our staff and officers have been working closely with the AskQM steering group and Faculty of Science and Engineering to collect feedback on the AskQM system. The approach will involve setting a 'feedback focus' for Course Reps to ask about three key areas and bring this to the Student Voice team and their SVCs and then presented to stakeholders in the AskQM team. The areas include: familiarity with the system, navigation/experience; and finally specific questions to gauge the level of 'preferred notification' for students. Similarly, we have worked with the Student Experience Directorate; VP Education's office and Faculty Education and Experience teams to host three Course Rep workshops, aimed at familiarising Course Reps with senior stakeholders and processes, and providing clarity on feedback pathways and opening up opportunities for networking. In total, 54 Course Reps attended across the three sessions, and took the opportunity to network and meet with fellow Course Reps.

Finally, our staff and Exec have engaged in the Module Experience Steering Group, to support key priorities including closing the feedback loop, driving response rate and the pilot of new response windows' in the MBBS programme.

Course Rep Elections

We started our Autumn Course Rep elections on the 9th of September, with the nominations window running until 29 September.

At the start of the elections, there were 636 vacancies across 485 posts, including 188 vacancies carried over from the Spring elections, when we typically elect all reps for continuing courses (for example year 2+). The voting period took place from the 1st – 8th of October. Engagement during nominations was highest in HSS, while S&E saw the strongest engagement during the voting period. In total, we successfully elected 254 reps, bringing the number of confirmed reps for the 2025–26 academic year to 388.

Following the elections, we opened a co-opting period to fill remaining vacancies and took steps to make this a much clearer and simple process; utilising a form for staff and students to opt-in to co-opting Course Reps which was then shared through the faculties, and any student who expressed interest was directed to complete it. Through this process, we appointed an additional 197 reps, concluding the co-opting window with a total of 585 Course Reps across all faculties.

This year, we decided to give course reps a deadline for completing the mandatory training module to ensure that all reps were trained before their first SVC meeting. The deadline was the 17th of November. 87% of reps managed to complete their training before this deadline.

Study Well

Our bi-yearly Study Well campaign has begun with our Winter edition, after a productive meeting with university colleagues, the calendar has begun filling with a range of events aiming to help our students with their wellbeing during the exam and assignment period. We have a range of hot drinks and hot food giveaways, a petting zoo provided by Spitalfields Farm and chances to let out your artistic side in craft workshops!

Black History Month

We had a busy black history month, with a range of events raising awareness and celebrating our students. For example, we hosted workshops making waist beads and exploring traditional basket weaving techniques,

and delving into text written by an Alumni, Caleb Femi in our Black History Month Book Club. One of our largest events was a cultural showcase, hosted by multiple societies which brought over 200 students showcasing their talents and sharing a range of traditional foods.

Islamic Heritage Month

We are currently hosting Heritage Month, looking to finish the month with Friday Prayer in Library Square near the end of November. We have also hosted book clubs, organising Hijab stalls, exploring a range of topics under Islam.

Disability History Month

Our second Disability History Month begins alongside the National campaign on the 20th of November. We are hosting a range of events such as sign-language workshops, movie screenings and sensory-friendly events in Drapers.

Diya Mary Selastin
QMSU President
20th November 2025

Bye-Law 5

Barts and the London Students' Association

1. General

1.1 The Barts and The London Students' Association (BLSA) shall be a division of the Union and is responsible for representing students and working with the Union to ensure appropriate services are provided for students in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

1.2 BLSA shall not make statements on religious issues.

1.3 BLSA shall not make political statements about issues that do not affect its members in their lives as Medical or Dental Students, or in their future careers as Medical Professionals, as deemed by the BLSA Board.

1.4 The Vice President Barts and The London is the Executive Officer of the Students' Union with duties and responsibilities as defined in Bye-Law 7 - Executive Committee. They may also be known as the BLSA President.

2. Aims

2.1 The aims of BLSA shall be:

- i) To be the voice of students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry to the University and other relevant organisations:
- ii) To organise campaigns for the benefit of BLSA members:
- iii) To provide activities and services for the benefit of students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

3. Membership

3.1 All students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry shall be members of BLSA unless they choose to opt out.

3.2 Members may request to opt out of membership by contacting the BLSA President.

3.3 Members shall be entitled to:

- i) Hold Full Membership of a BLSA club or society- full membership of Student Groups provided by the Student Union is available to each and every full member of the Students' Union;
- ii) Vote and speak at a GCM or AGM of BLSA as referred to in this Bye Law;
- iii) Vote in and stand for office in the Union elections for a BL position in accordance with Bye Law 6 - Elections.

4. Staff President

4.1 BLSA will have a member of staff elected at each AGM to act as the BLSA Staff President.

4.2 The Staff President is an honorary role in BLSA.

4.3 The Staff President must be a member of staff working within BL.

4.4 There is no maximum number of terms that a staff member may serve as Staff President.

5. Annual General Meetings

5.1 BLSA shall hold one Annual General Meeting (AGM) each academic year. The AGM will be chaired by the BLSA President or their nominee.

5.2 BLSA clubs and societies should send a minimum of two members to the AGM.

5.3 The duties of the AGM are:

- i) To hold the BLSA board and the BLSA President to account for the work they have been carrying out to meet the aims of BLSA;
- ii) To act as a forum for all clubs and societies to feedback on their activities;
- iii) To allow the staff president to address BLSA members;
- iv) To elect or re-elect a staff president of BLSA.

5.4 The quorum will be 50 members and at least 2 representatives from 50% of BL clubs and societies.

5.5 The AGM may choose to dissolve the BLSA Board, however there must be a 2/3 majority in favour of dissolving the Board for the vote to be passed.

6. General Committee Meeting

6.1 BLSA shall hold a General Committee Meeting (GCM) at least once per a term, chaired by the BLSA President.

6.1.1 Additional meetings can be called by the Chair with at least one weeks' notice.

6.2 BLSA clubs and societies should send a minimum of two members to every GCM.

6.3 The duties of the GCM are:

- i) To hold the BLSA Board and the Vice President Barts and The London to account for the work they have been carrying out to meet the aims of BLSA;
- ii) To discuss issues affecting BLSA members and recommend policy to All Student Meetings;
- iii) To fulfil the responsibilities as listed in the Bye Laws of the Union.

6.4 The BLSA President is responsible for ensuring that the meeting is accurately recorded and the minutes are sent to the next meeting of the Student Representative Committee.

6.5 The quorum for a GCM shall be at least 30 BLSA members, including a minimum of two representatives from at least 50% of all the BLSA Clubs and Societies.

7. Barts and The London Students' Association Board

7.1 There shall be a BLSA Board chaired by the BLSA President;

7.2 BLSA board meetings shall be called by the BLSA President with at least one week's notice. They shall be a minimum of two meetings per term.

~~7.3 The members of the BLSA Board shall include:~~

- ~~i) All Members elected in accordance with Bye-Law 8 – Student Representatives who are BLSA members, including the non-representative positions;~~
- ~~ii) Other positions as the BLSA Board may create to fulfil the duties of the BLSA Board.~~

7.3 The members of the BLSA Board shall include:

- i) Vice President Barts and The London (BLSA President) and the Barts and The London Representative, who shall also be members of the QMSU Representative Committee.
- ii) The BLSA Non-Representative positions, who will not be members of the QMSU Representative Committee.
- iii) Other Non-Representative positions as the BLSA Board may create to fulfil the duties of the BLSA Board.
- iv) Non-Representative positions shall be elected in elections organised by QMSU and governed under the Elections Bye-Law.
- v) If a BLSA Board member resigns or is removed before the end of their term in office, they shall be replaced as follows:

Vice President Barts and The London as - outlined in Bye-Law 6 (Elections);

Barts and The London Representative and Non-Representative positions - as outlined for Student Representative Positions in Bye-Law 6 (Elections) except that the BLSA Board shall take the role otherwise given to the Student Representative Committee.

7.4 The duties of the BLSA Board are:

- i) To discuss relevant issues affecting BLSA members and propose and pass policy relevant only to Barts and The London students;
- ii) To receive a report from the BLSA President about the work being carried out to meet the aims of BLSA;
- iii) To organise campaigns and activities for the benefit of BLSA members.

7.5 The BLSA President is responsible for ensuring that the meeting is accurately recorded and the minutes are sent to the next meeting of the Student Representative Committee,

7.6 The quorum for a BLSA Board meeting shall be at least 50% of the members of the BLSA Board.

7.7 BLSA members can attend all BLSA Board meetings as observers.

7.8 Any changes to this Bye-Law need to first be passed by 2/3 majority vote at BLSA Board before being brought to the Student Representative Committee, and subsequently the Board of Trustees.

8. BLSA Malta Board

8.1 Students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in Malta, are (unless they have opted out) already automatically members of both QMSU and its BLSA division.

8.2 Students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in Malta shall be represented locally by 'BLSA Malta' which is part of the The Barts and The London Students' Association (BLSA) and is governed by the BLSA Bye-Law.

8.3 There shall be a BLSA Malta Board, which is a sub-committee of the BLSA Board.

8.4 Membership of the BLSA Malta Board shall be as follows:

- BLSA Malta Co-President (Activities)
- BLSA Malta Co-President (Education)
- Engagement Officer (Malta)
- Entertainments Officer (Malta) - 2 positions (not a job share)

- Secretary (Malta)
- Sports Officer (Malta)
- Societies Officer (Malta)
- Welfare Officer (Malta)

The BLSA President shall be an ex-officio member of the BLSA Malta Board (although not counting towards the quorum for Board meetings) and may attend any BLSA Malta Board meeting.

8.5 The positions of:

- Engagement Officer (Malta)
- Entertainments Officer (Malta) - 2 positions
- Secretary (Malta)
- Sports Officer (Malta)
- Societies Officer (Malta)
- Welfare Officer (Malta)

are created by the BLSA Board, who may agree to create further such positions if requested by the BLSA Malta Board. ~~These positions are responsible to the BLSA Malta Board and shall not be considered as 'non-representative positions' under the Student Representatives Bye-Law, and therefore shall not be members of the BLSA Board.~~ **These positions are responsible to the BLSA Malta Board and shall not be members of the BLSA Board.** These positions shall be elected from and by students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in Malta, in elections organised by QMSU and governed under the Elections Bye-Law.

~~8.6 The positions of:~~

- ~~• BLSA Malta Co-President (Activities)~~
- ~~• BLSA Malta Co-President (Education)~~

~~fall under the Student Representatives Bye-Law and as such are members of the BLSA Board. These positions shall be elected from and by students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in Malta, in elections organised by QMSU and governed under the Elections Bye-Law.~~

8.6 The positions of:

- BLSA Malta Co-President (Activities)**
- BLSA Malta Co-President (Education)**

are members of the BLSA Board. These positions shall be elected from and by students studying in the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in Malta, in elections organised by QMSU and governed under the Elections Bye-Law.

8.7 BLSA Malta Board members shall work with relevant members of the main BLSA Board on areas of common interest.

8.8 The work of the BLSA Malta Board shall be governed by Terms of Reference which are subject to the approval of the BLSA Board. The BLSA Board shall review those Terms of Reference annually. Any amendments to the BLSA Malta Board Terms of reference must also be approved by the BLSA Board.

8.9 As The BLSA Board Malta is a sub-committee of the BLSA Board, any of its decisions may be over-ruled by a vote of the BLSA Board.

8.10 If a BLSA Malta Board member resigns or is removed before the end of their term in office, they shall be replaced as outlined for Student Representative Positions in Bye-Law 6 (Elections) except that the BLSA Malta Board shall take the role otherwise given to the Student Representative Committee.