

# WE ARE THE UNION



A STUDENT'S GUIDE 2017/18

## About the **Students' Union**

The Students' Union is many things to many people, but the most important thing to know is that it is yours!

As a student of the University of Northampton you are a member of the Students' Union, run by students for students. We exist to represent and support every student at the University and, as a member, you have the power to influence how we operate.

We provide academic representation for those times when things go wrong. Through our democratically-elected Sabbatical Officers, Part Time Officers, Faculty and Course Reps we offer support for when your voice needs to be heard.

Throughout the year we run campaigns and raise awareness of issues that affect students. We campaign on the issues that are important to you on a local level, with the University and nationally.

We have 33 Sports Clubs to choose from, ranging from American football and cheerleading to trampolining and rugby, regularly playing in British Universities and Colleges Sport competitions (BUCS).

The Union also has an array of diverse and popular societies – 43 to be exact – including the Meditation Society, Doctor Who Society, Education Society and Islamic Society! Even if you can't find the one you're looking for, you can start your own!

We have retail outlets on both campuses, offering a range of convenience goods, sandwich deals and the obligatory University hoodie. All the money we raise from our shops, bars and events is used to fund all the other great things we offer and our loyalty scheme will put 5% of all your purchases back into your pocket!

Your time at university is really what you make of it. However, no matter your sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, race, religion or belief, colour, nationality, disability or age, your Students' Union will always be here to help you make the most of your experience at the University of Northampton.



# Hello and welcome to the University of Northampton Students' Union 39

We're your Sabbatical Officers and we're here to ensure that your time at University is the best it can possibly be, that it is rewarding, fulfilling, memorable and above all else fun!

Every student automatically becomes a member of the SU as soon as they enrol and it's absolutely free! This means the Students' Union will be there for you from day one.

As a member you are entitled to all of our great services and opportunities on both Avenue and Park Campus, from student representation to Sports Clubs and Societies, our retail outlets to our nightclub. We have something for everyone. You can come in anytime to see any of us at the Union and we'll help you with whatever your problems are; whether you have a courserelated concern, a financial or a welfare issue, or you simply fancy a cup of tea - our door is always open to you!

In the following pages you will find everything you need to know about the Students' Union. If you have any questions please don't be scared to just come in and ask us or contact us using the details provided throughout this handbook.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

David, Raf & Danjie.



#### Raf Garcia

Rafael.Garcia-Krailing@northampton.ac.uk @YourSUPresident 01604 89 2351

#### Students' Union President 2017/18

Hi everyone, I am Raf Garcia, Your Students' Union President!

I graduated in July in Sports Marketing and Management with first-class honours. My fundamental focus in life has been around sport, I able to apply the lessons I have learnt on the pitch to my day-to-day life in work.

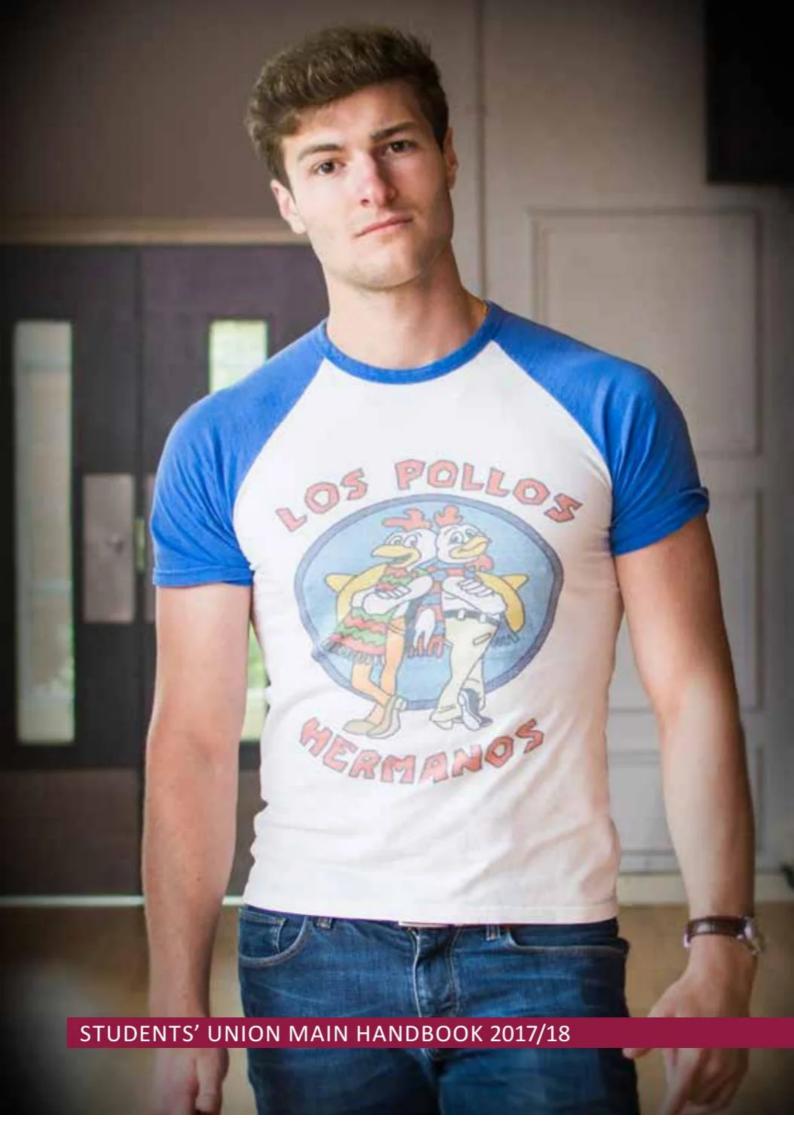
My involvement within the Students' Union came about in my first year through the Men's Football Club. I was subsequently elected as Men's Football President for the 2016/17 season. Through my contributions on the pitch I was lucky enough to receive the award of Students' Union Sportsman of the Year 2017.

The Union has facilitated my unilateral development in supporting my career aspirations. This role will enable me to give something back.

You can contact me via email, Facebook, Twitter and phone or by dropping into the Students' Union. I'm definitely looking forward to meeting you all and wish you the best of luck for the year ahead!

What I want to achieve:

- Firstly, I aim to increase both the awareness of mental health issues and increase the provision to support welfare issues within the Students' Union and the University.
- Secondly, I aim to develop a more inclusive Students' Union that offers a broad range of events and activities that are inclusive and appeal to all members.
- Thirdly, I aim to develop links with local and international businesses to offer the opportunities for work placements and graduate jobs.
- Finally, I aim to empower and facilitate my Executive team to help deliver their aspirations and ambitions for the coming year.



# Danjie Zhong

Danjie.Zhong@northampton.ac.uk
@YourVPEducation
01604 89 2551

#### Vice President: Education 2017/18

Hey there, I am Danjie Zhong, your Vice President: Education of the Students' Union.

I was lucky enough to be re-elected as your Vice President: Education 2017/2018 in order to represent your academic interests. I am an international student so I know exactly how it feels to be far away from home, from your original friends or from your comfort zone.

However, getting involved with the Students' Union in the first place made a huge impact on my life whilst studying at the University of Northampton. I used to be a Course Rep who was elected within the course to represent my classmates' views. In addition, I am part of the Buddy Scheme which allows me to help international students to settle down in the UK.

As a second-year officer, I have already started some amazing projects which I would like to proceed with.

For 2017/2018, I would make sure to:

- Increase the Rep's visibility and recognition.
- Help Faculty Reps to develop themselves and ensure their accountability.
- Keep track of academic issues in light of the transition to Waterside Campus.
- Fight for a fair and welcoming learning environment within the institution.

Last but not least, I would like to keep a close eye on housing issues which have become a persistent concern for students. Due to these worries the Students' Union has established its own Lettings Agency.



### David Lewis

David.Lewis2@northampton.ac.uk @YourVPUnionDev 01604 89 3464

#### Vice President: Union Development 2017/18

Hi! I'm David your Vice President: Union Development here at the Students' Union. This year I'm entering my second term within this role. I got involved with the Students' Union from my first year studying at the University of Northampton. I was part of a Sports Club, I worked at our Students' Union bar and I also became a Part Time Officer.

My role as Vice President: Union Development encompasses all aspects of what the Students' Union does. I oversee all of our activities, so sports, societies, volunteer and social enterprise projects.

Alongside this I work heavily with our commercial side, so looking at the events we put on throughout the year and what products sell well in all of our outlets. I am also enlisted with the task of making sure the way the Students' Union markets itself is welcoming and accessible for all.

My plans for the year are as follows:

 To ensure appropriate facilities are available at Waterside for our sports clubs, societies and

- volunteering projects.
- To make sure any future commercial ideas are student-led.
- To ensure the Students' Union's rebrand is what the students want.
- To find a new kit provider for all of our Sports Clubs.
- To create a platform for everyone to be able to have their voice heard within the Students' Union.

If you ever have any questions about the Students' Union, University Life or just fancy a chat, feel free to come and see me at the SU.



# Part Time Officers

In addition to our three full time Sabbatical Officers, the Executive Committee of the Students' Union includes a number of Part Time Officer positions. These students are volunteers who have been similarly elected to represent the students of the University on a particular issue, with respect to a particular Students' Union service or on behalf of a particular student demographic. We have 12 Part Time Officers:

**BME Students' Officer** 

Esther Olorunsomo

**Disabled Students' Officer** 

Avinash Sheo-Rattan

**Entertainments Officer** 

Alex Tomkins

**Ethics & Environment Officer** 

Jemma Vobe

International Students' Officer

Anastasia Ngon

**LGBTQ Officer** 

Sophie Turner

Mature Students' Officer

Francine Smith

**Moulton College Officer** 

**Daniel Flatters** 

**Postgraduate Officer** 

Rebecca Chapman

Societies Officer

Natasha Theophilus

**Sports Officer** 

Gemma Campagna

Women's Officer

Bethel Tadesse





















# Elections & Democracy

The Union's Executive Committee is made up of a combination of full time Sabbatical Officers and Part Time Officers, and elections are held twice a year for the student body to choose their representatives.

The main elections take place in the spring term and all positions become open for the following academic year. The Union also holds by-elections in the autumn term to fill any openings that haven't been filled.

You can hold these Officers to account and ensure you get the experience you want from your time at University by attending Student Council. This is your opportunity to speak out about where you want change on campus and what you want your representatives to work on as a priority.

Student Council is also where all the big decisions regarding Students' Union policy are made. By attending you can ensure you shape the Union's future direction.

To find out more about Student Council, future dates and agendas visit:

northamptonunion.com/ StudentCouncil

or email Mary Oswald Smith, our Member Development Manager (Voice), at:

Mary.OswaldSmith@northampton.ac.uk



### Student Reps

If you're passionate about ensuring the best student experience for your course mates, think about becoming a Course Rep!

Reps are responsible for finding out about any cours-related issues you might be experiencing and ensuring they are resolved by the University and Students' Union.

By becoming a rep you can become the voice of your classmates, drive change or lead one of the Students' Union's campaigns.

You'll develop your skills in advocacy, representation and leadership, increasing your employability, and receive recognition from the Students' Union and the University for the work you put in.

All of our Course Reps and Faculty Reps that make up the Student Representative system are nominated and elected by students.

To find out more information about the role and how to start representing, visit

northamptonunion.com/studentreps

or email Paul Lewis and Aysha Bhatti, our Student Voice Coordinators, at:

Paul.Lewis@northampton.ac.uk

Aysha.Bhatti@northampton.ac.uk















### Stallions Sports

Sport at the University of Northampton Students' Union continues to go from strength to strength.

There are 33 Sports Clubs to choose from, with 29 teams competing in BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) leagues weekly and the rest competing in individual competitions throughout the year in the Midlands and beyond.

Our clubs also offer social sessions where you can come along and play for fun, as well as intramural leagues where you can enter a team of friends into a league within the University.

Best of all, we currently offer FREE sports! We are proud to be 1 of 2 universities in the United Kingdom to offer free sport to our students. So why not give some new sports a go

alongside any you already play! Our athletes receive:

- Professional coaching
- Stallions playing kit
- All matchday costs covered including transport to and from games
- All equipment and facilities needed to play
- Personal injury insurance
- The opportunity to play socially or competitively.

We also contest an annual Varsity competition which we have retained for 4 consecutive years and we round off the year celebrating club and individual achievements at our annual Sports Awards evening.

If you are looking for something a little less competitive just to keep fit, we also offer a range of free fitness classes each week, so there really is something for everyone!

For more information or to sign up, visit:

www.northamptonunion.com/sports



### Student Societies

Joining a society transforms your university experience! It is the best way to feel at home, make friends and to meet people outside of your course, get away from the books and have some fun!

At the University of Northampton Students' Union we make things easy - all our Societies are FREE to join. This means you can join as many as you like.

Societies fall into a number of groups: Faith, Culture or Nationality, Interest or Academic. They regularly run a number of social events, meetings and trips throughout the year — so you can get involved as much or as little as you want.

With 43 Societies at the last count - ranging from the Salsa Society to the

Meditation Society - there is a society for everyone, and if you can't find the one you're looking for, then you can start your own!

You might start a Society around your degree programme or set up a Society for mature students – or just to bring together like-minded people such as a religious or political group.

Whatever your passion, the number of opportunities for involvement are limitless!

For more information or to sign up, visit:

www.northamptonunion.com/ societies

Have any questions? Contact:

societies@northampton.ac.uk



# Volunteering Projects

If you want to get involved in something new and make a difference, why not think about volunteering?

The University of Northampton Students' Union has a wide variety of Volunteering Projects, led by students and by external partners, for everyone to get involved with including our allotment, NURadio, food bank scheme, Nightline service and Marrow.

We also support a number of international expeditions and in the past have sent students to the Philippines, Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.

Volunteering can make a real difference to your own life and the lives of those around you. It is also a great way to meet new people, whilst developing transferable employability skills and gaining valuable learning

opportunities alongside your University studies.

To find out more about our Volunteering Projects and opportunities, visit:

northamptonunion.com/volunteering

or email Kerri Wheeler, our Member Development Manager, on:

Kerri.Wheeler@northampton.ac.uk

You can also contact:

heritage.volunteer@northampton.ac.uk



## Employment Opportunities

At the Union, you'll see a lot of our venues are staffed by students, and as a result of this we employ over 100 part-time student staff each year across our two campuses. We rely on staff to workinourbarsandshops, as well as many other paid and voluntary opportunities outside of the Enterprises department, so there is something for everyone.

All of our work opportunities provide a fantastic way in which to develop your skills in a range of environments, as well as gain valuable working experience which will stay with you long after you leave university. You'll be able to expand your social life by networking with other members of student staff, in a professional, fast paced and fun environment, which can fit conveniently alongside your studies.

We recruit twice a year, and if you feel like working for us is something you would like to do, then visit www. northamptonunion.com/jobs to see all the opportunities available, or visit us during Freshers' where we will be able to answer any questions you may have.



### Student Advice

Your time at University should be enjoyable and rewarding and not spoiled by unnecessary worries. As soon as you are aware of a problem, seek help, and remember, it is never too late to ask for advice.

The Students' Union is an independent organisation to the University, so we can provide you with free, impartial and confidential information, advice and support on a range of academic and non-academic issues.

The Student Advice Service is staffed by a Student Advice Coordinator who is trained to advise in both general and specialist areas. You will be able to get support and advice from us in a private, friendly and relaxed office which is located on the ground floor of the Students' Union building on Park Campus. We aim to ensure that no student is adversely affected because of a lack of information about their rights and responsibilities - so you can make an appointment by visiting our receptionsat Park Students' Unions, by calling 01604 89 2818 or emailing our Student Advice Coordinator, Wei Zhao:

Wei.Zhao@northampton.ac.uk.

Appointments can also be made for meetings to be held at Avenue Campus or during vacation periods.



### Our Venues

Ranging from advice to anime, badminton to beer and hotdogs to housing, each of our five Students' Union venues across both campuses can provide you with different services to suit all of your needs.

Park Campus boasts three distinct venues that offer everything from coffees and paninis to pints and Pinot Grigio, in addition to our fantastic Membership Services and retail outlets. Whatever your tastes, we have the perfect offer for you.

In the evening, Park Students' Union is home to our Nightclub. This is where the wonderful Insane Tuesdays happens on a weekly basis, which has included:

- A-list DJs such as Danny Howard, Charlie Sloth, DJ Russke and Nathan Dawe.
- Live performances from S Club, Five, Reggie N Bollie, Dappy, Basshunter, Fatman Scoop and even the Chuckle Brothers, twice.
- Celebrity meet-and-greets from Phil Mitchell, Max Branning, Arron Crascall and Verne Troyer.
- Themed food nights such as Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Nando's and Domino's Pizza, alongside foam parties, popcorn parties and even a few fancy-dress parties being thrown in for fun.

Insane Tuesdays spans over both floors of the Union building, with two different rooms of music, allowing for the ultimate experience. With a welcoming atmosphere and student-friendly prices, you'd be absolutely 'Insane' not to attend!

In the daytime, the upstairs of Park Students' Union can be booked out for meetings by students and is often home to lots of training run by both the Students' Union and the University.

Across Park Campus, next to the bank, is the Students' Union shop, UniExpress. This is the perfect convenience store for all of your needs. Here, you can pick up a 'meal deal' for lunch, a 'food-to-go' throughout the day and basic essentials such as bread, milk, toilet roll, toothpaste and frozen pizza. There is also a fantastic array of University of Northampton clothing. UniExpress is open seven days a week.

Located just on from UniExpress, by Spencer Perceval and Simon Senlis Halls, is the Pavilion. This is a cosy and comfortable venue offering fresh pastries, cakes, homemade sandwiches and salads all year round. In addition, the Pavilion proudly serves a full range of Starbucks coffees, teas and beverages. So whether you need something to wake you up in the morning or cool you down in the afternoon, the good news is that our fully-licensed bar serves refreshments throughout the week.

Inside the Pavilion, you will also find numerous large-screen TVs, a pool table and countless board games. In the evenings, it hosts movie nights, live music, pub quizzes and even the occasional bingo session.

Over on Avenue Campus, the Students' Union is home to a sleek and modern bar, a small shop run from behind the bar and its own radio station. As well as a fun, vibrant and widely-stocked bar, Avenue SU has a large outdoor seating area, and serves hot food all day. Also, it proudly serves Starbucks coffees and teas, making it the perfect location to meet friends between lectures or enjoy a drink after a long day of being creative.



In the evenings, it plays host to a variety of activities ranging from:

- Weekly karaoke nights.
- Twice-monthly comedy nights with big name comedians such as Joel Dommett, Bobby Mair, Patrick Monahan and Toju, who previously was Ant and Dec's golden buzzer act on Britain's Got Talent.
- Open mic nights and live bands, often celebrating the talent within the Faculty of Arts, Science and Technology.

Meanwhile, the Maidwell Building houses The Art Shop. As its name would suggest, the venue sells a comprehensive range of quality art materials, but at far more reasonable prices than those in town. Whether it's paintbrushes, paper, pencils or putty erasers, we've got everything you'll need for class - so the only thing you need to worry about is your work.

Available in every Students' Union venue is our loyalty scheme. This provides you with five pence back for each pound you spend with us. It also gives you certain discounts throughout the year. All you need to do is swipe your student card whenever you buy something from one of our venues.



## E PLATFORM

Scheduled to open in late 2017, the Students' Union's town centre complex on George Row will house a number of the Students' Union's most popular and utilised services. It will play host to a brand new nightclub, café bar, volunteer training space (and in 2018) art shop and student lettings agency, in addition to being the new home of UniTemps in Northampton.

Our café bar will be a bright, airy and contemporary venue offering a wide variety of light snacks, pastries and sandwiches, as well as soft and alcoholic beverages. It will be open to our members and the general public throughout the day and across the full calendar year.

Our nightclub will be a premium evening destination that caters to our core student market (through exclusive student nights offering high-quality entertainment at affordable prices during the week) and to the general public (through club nights, independent events and private bookings).

The nightclub will make use of luxury, comfortable furnishings offset against contemporary fixtures in a predominantly industrial setting. Together with premium spirits and beverages, it will be distinct from other venues in the town centre.

Northampton Student Lets will continue to bring together quality accreditation based on the University's existing mechanisms and Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) accreditation scheme. The service will remain free at the point of enquiry and application to students in an attempt to increase the quality of housing available and reduce their cost.

















50 For Every £1 Spent

Plus
Sports and Societies
can receive great
sponsorship
deals through the
loyalty scheme.

northamptonunion.com



#### Where can I earn points?

UniExpress, The Art Shop, Avenue Shop, Pavilion, Park Campus Students' Union Avenue Campus Students' Union

and coming soon at



There is an additional

10%

Off food at
Park Students' Union
Avenue Students' Union
Pavilion and The Platform.
Plus Meal Deals at
UniExpress

**T&Cs Apply** 

