

IMPACT REPORT

2023
2024

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INTRODUCTION

We would like to thank all the students for engaging with us throughout the 2023-2024 academic year.

This academic year has been busy and challenging for students. We're so proud to see the student community come together to face these challenges, particularly at QMU where we are quite a tight knit community and our students shine at facing the challenges of student life when doing it together.

As ever, the Students' Union has continued to advocate for the student experience in all the of the spaces we occupy a position of influence. This year we're particularly proud of the increased engagement from students putting themselves forward to act as agents of change within the University.

From student representation on numerous priority committees and projects within the University to a record number of students standing for positions and voting in our annual Elections, it's clear that students are determined to have a say in their education.

A huge highlight for the Students' Union this year was our phenomenal NSS score of 80.35%, placing us as the number 1 Students' Union in Scotland for representing students' academic interests and 7th in the rest of the UK. To see our work valued by our members has been the crowning achievement in a transformative year for the SU and we can't



wait to further improve on this in working with and supporting new and returning students in the 24/25 academic year.

We hope you enjoy reading through our 2023-24 Impact Report and the achievements of both our Union and our students.

SU Love,
Jay (President - Academic Life) &
Lou (President - Student Activities)

#BleedBlue

WELCOME WEEK

We started the year off welcoming new and returning students to QMU in September 2023.

There were nearly **4000** student visits to the **22 events** we laid on which included Bowling, BBQ, and casual meet ups for new and returning students to a HUGE party!



COMMUNITIES

QMUSU are proud of all the communities we serve at QMU.

We supported **43 Clubs and Societies** last year with 1273 individual memberships were made with **212 student committee members** running their S&S.

11 of our sports clubs played in the annual Varsity against Napier University in March, and while the overall result did not go in QMU's favour, over 250 QMU students came to support them and enjoyed cheering our teams on.

Our societies have worked so hard this year to provide communities where students with common interests can get together and enjoy a range of activities.



These can be in the form of getting together to play games, rehearse, work on upcoming productions, going to social events, chatting with like-minded students, the list goes on!

The informal support provided by our S&S to all students involved them has proven to be beneficial to QMU students with **94%** of those who took part in the annual S&S survey agreeing that being a part of a club or society has helped them fit into life at Uni.

40+

SPORTS &
SOCIETIES

1273

MEMBERSHIPS

916

INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERS



QMUSU has also embraced our International Community, and as such we introduced a new position in our Officers Committee of International Officer at the 23/24 Student Elections.

Have a look at Badri's story below:



"I'm Badri Basnet, a second-year Business Management student. Currently, I serve as the International Officer for the 2024/25 term at the Students' Union, a PALS Leader, and a member of the Business School Subject Advisory Panel (BEaM_SAP).

My journey at QMU began when I arrived in Edinburgh in August 2023. Moving to a country nearly halfway around the world was a new and challenging experience. The weather was particularly daunting, and I'm still adjusting to it. However, aside from the weather, Edinburgh has been wonderful. I have found Edinburgh to be a compact city with all the necessary facilities, beautiful hills, and stunning castles, creating an ideal environment for students. My first year at QMU flew by in a flash, filled with memorable moments. From the warm welcome week and intriguing modules to the engaging assignments and the Student Union elections, every experience was enjoyable. The excellent study areas, especially the library, and the dedication of the professors and staff, made my year even better.

Initially, I didn't pay much attention to the Students' Union elections until I received an email from the International Office about the vacant International Officer role. After researching the responsibilities and the significance of the Students' Union, I decided to run for the position. As an international student, I felt I could share my experiences and help others like me by being their voice and promoting a more internationally connected QMU. After days of preparation and campaigning, I was thrilled to be elected as the International Officer.

In early June, we had our residential training, which was both informative and fun. I learned a lot from the Officer Committee and Students' Union staff, and I am grateful to be part of this journey. Being around people who aspire to bring positive changes to student life at QMU is incredibly motivating. During the training, we discussed various events and campaigns planned for the 2024/25 academic year. There are many exciting and helpful projects in the pipeline, and we can't wait to implement them for all QMU students. I look forward to working with the Officer Committee to make student life easier and more enjoyable."

OUR 2024 EVENTS



QMUSU held three big events for students in Semester 2. The first was Grand Ball, where over 500 Sports and Societies members came together to celebrate their achievements.

114 awards were given out, including the Bleed Blue Award which is given to a student who has gone above and beyond to support their S&S members.

This year's Bleed Blue was awarded to 23/24 President of Dance, Lucy Barker.

"When I was accepted into QMU, the first piece of advice I got from my peers who were current university students or graduates, was to join a sport or society. I had always been aware of the social and wellbeing benefits joining a team had, but never did I ever think that being a part of one would have easily been one of the best experiences I have had, not only in university but in life. As I graduate this year, I can successfully vouch that joining a sport or society when you get to university is one of the best pieces of advice you can get.

From the minute I got to QMU, I signed up to the QMU Dance Team. I had danced my entire life and was ecstatic to continue this passion. That being said, all sports and societies are incredibly accessible regardless of prior experience. During my four years with the team, I captained both the competition jazz and contemporary teams, held the position of Vice President and ultimately President. Being one of the biggest teams on campus, the running's of QMU Dance could not have been possible without the help of the Students Union. From booking studio spaces to helping organising fundraisers, the QMUSU has always been there to help no matter the question or query. Most importantly, assisting the Dance Team in becoming a recognised Sports Team within the university at the start of the 2023/2024 season.

Being a part of QMU Dance has meant I have not only made friends for life, but I have gained a wealth of experience and knowledge, which I will be able to transfer into my career following university. The QMUSU annual Grand Ball is the perfect way to recognise and celebrate the achievements and progress of S&S from the previous season. During my time with the team, we collected several prestigious awards which reflected our success from the year including 'Most Improved Society' 2022, 'Society Committee of the Year' 2023 and 'Society of the Year' 2023. Yet this year I was delighted to receive the 'Bleed Blue Award' for my contribution as President and Captain to the Dance Team. Despite receiving the Bleed Blue award solo, the success and improvement of the team would simply not have been possible without the support and dedication from both the entire team and the Student's Union, and so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their everlasting commitment. No matter your degree, experience or background the Students' Union will always help you find your place at QMU and will help you foster your passions no matter what they are."

The next big event was Big Bang. This is an annual event where students gather in University Square to celebrate the end of the academic year.



This year over 700 students came and partied late into the evening.



Our STaR Awards ceremony was held in March and was well attended.



164
NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

101
NOMINEES

14
WINNERS

STAFF AWARDS

Excellent Teaching: Natasha Price

Runner up: Zoe Johnstone

Best Support Staff (not for Academic Staff): Tamsyn Sloan

Runner up: Fiona Anderson

Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) of the Year: Suzie Dick

Runner up: Marc Robertson

Best Research Supervisor: John Docherty-Hughes

Runner up: Lynsay McGill

The Douglas Award (Most Inspirational Staff Member within Health Sciences): Bahareh Mansoorian

Runner up: Sarah Smith

The Jamie Hayes Award (Most Inspirational Staff Member within ASSaM): Andy Henry

Runner up: Sian Jones

Programme of the Year: MA Applied Arts & Social Practice

Runner up: MA Arts, Festival, and Cultural Management

Academic Inclusivity: Gemma Blackledge-Foughali

Runner up: Emma Wood

STUDENT AWARDS

Class Rep of the Year: Hannah Todd

Runner up: Katie Graham

Outstanding Engagement: Hannah O'Connor

Runner up: Leonie Tuxhorn

Student-Staff Role: Colin Slattery

Runner up: Findlay McAdam

Officer of the Year: Ruth Lawlor

The President's Award: Louise Ford

Unsung Hero: John Dean

REPRESENTATION

Representation is at the heart of what QMUSU does. The Student Voice is something we passionately believe should be heard at various levels of decision making within the University and we do this through several student roles.

We had **287 Class Reps** in 23/24 which meant that **85% of our students had a voice** within their cohorts. **100%** of those who attended the Class Rep training would recommend it to others.

Our Class Rep of the Year, Hannah Todd, has let us know how the last year has been for them.



"It has been an incredible year at QMU, and myself and my classmates are all so grateful to the team at the SU for making it possible! Jay, Louise, and the rest of the team have held fantastic social events, stood up for students' rights, supported us and celebrated all of our wins. Jay, with his sparkly suits and infectious enthusiasm, has truly made a mark on our campus. His unique style isn't just about looking cool (though he definitely does); it reflects his vibrant and inclusive approach to everything he does. We are so lucky to have such a brilliant president for another year! His leadership has brought a new level of energy and excitement to our campus, making every event he's involved in memorable.

Louise has been the absolute backbone of the sports teams and societies. So many incredible events have been the hard work of Lou and the rest of the societies team, and we all wish her the best of luck in her next adventure! Her dedication has ensured that everyone finds a place where they belong and can pursue their interests passionately.

Being a Class Rep this year has been a brilliant experience, and one I hope to continue during my second (and final) year of my degree. Class Reps are given so much support to look after our year groups, and I truly do feel that our voices matter. We, as a team working with the SU, have been able to make changes that truly impact the student experience. The support from the Union has been invaluable, giving us the tools and confidence to advocate for our peers.

A highlight of this year for me has definitely been the STAR awards! So many people, staff and students, in celebration of each other and full of love and support, was an incredible evening run by the Union! Whenever I start to feel a bit down, I look at my shiny "Class Rep of the Year" trophy and it reminds me that all of my hard work has been worth it.

So many fantastic memories of my first year at QMU have been due to the hard work of the Students' Union. They have offered support during difficult times, allowed me to support others through wonderful training opportunities and collaborative meetings, and celebrated our successes. The SU works tirelessly to ensure that students and staff are recognised and appreciated, studying effectively and having a party during it!

The efforts of Jay, Louise, and the entire Students' Union team have not gone unnoticed. Their dedication to creating a supportive, inclusive, and vibrant community has left a lasting impact on all of us. From fun events to crucial support systems, the SU has been a pillar of strength and joy throughout the year. Here's to another year of amazing experiences and unforgettable memories at QMU!"

The QMUSU **Student Elections 2024** received its highest turnout of student voters for some time.

898 students voted casting 6900 individual votes for their incoming Presidents and Officers' Committee. We introduced **2 new roles** and re-named 2 other roles to reflect the student population and its current needs.

The new roles we introduced were Black Minority Ethnic Officer and International Officer, and the amended officer roles have become Student Voice Officer and Wellbeing Officer.

Our Officers' Committee for 24/25 has already spent 2 days of intensive planning together and have great projects ready for the upcoming year.



23/24 Officers' Committee played a huge part in the promotion and delivery of some great projects which included, the Rainbow Laces Campaign, where our sports teams were encouraged to wear the laces to training and competitive games to show QMU's support of inclusivity with our student communities.

The 7th annual LGBTQI+ Flag raising was held in February with record numbers attending. Entertainment was provided by our Music Society and the crowd enjoyed speeches from Dr Anthony Schrag and the President of QMUSU LGBTQI+ Society Eilidh Brodie alongside our President - Academic Life, Jay Brown.



In line with our key priorities for the year, the Students' Union has been co-leading the development of a trans-inclusion policy with the university which aims to provide support, understanding and build a positive culture around trans and non-binary students and staff. The policy, augmented by guidelines, is on track to be implemented in September 2024.

QMUSU supported nearly 400 students through our Helpzone with a range of issues which included Academic Appeals, support with Disciplinaries/Fitness to Practise or Study, and welfare.



Of those 400 students surveyed **98%** were grateful for the support they received and would recommend the service to others should they require assistance.



THANK YOU!