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HELLO

Shape your university experience with the Students' Union.

WELCOME TO

ROYAL HOLLOWAY STUDENTS' UNION.

f t i @SURHUL

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Hello.

It's almost time to embark on the journey of a lifetime and start crafting your Royal Holloway story. As your Students' Union, we'll be here with you every step of the way. Whatever you're looking for, we're here to help you shape your ideal university experience.

But what exactly does that mean? Well, think of the Students' Union (SU) as that place that always has your back. Independent from the University, we're here to champion student interests. This means we can fight for your rights and ensure you are always getting your voice heard. The best bit is that upon enrolling at Royal Holloway you automatically become a member*, meaning you can access our services from the get-go.

As your elected Officer team, we'll work on a range of issues relating to student life, listening to your thoughts and opinions while running campaigns and working with key stakeholders to make positive changes to your university experience. We can't wait to welcome you for Freshers' Festival as we kick off the year in style with loads of free events, taster sessions and nights out (if that's your thing).

Throughout the rest of this guide, we'll take you on a journey of everything we have to offer at the SU and how you can get involved.

See you soon!

Maia, Shrey, Zee, Hannah
Your 2022/23 Officer team

*You can opt out of membership at any time. Visit su.rhul.ac.uk/membership to find out more.



We're led by students.

Students shape everything about the Students' Union and are always at the centre of our thinking. From our Trustee Board, which is made up of over 50% students including our sabbatical officer team and legally responsible for the Union, down to casual staff working in our venues, students are involved in every aspect of our work. In fact, we employ 400+ students, as well as having over 3000 involved in our sports clubs, societies and media outlets.

We're not-for-profit.

Legally, the Union is a democratic charity (charity number 1141998) and must follow the laws and regulations which govern UK charity organisations. This means we are not run for profit - every pound we generate gets reinvested into the services we provide, be that student groups (via grants), the Union Shop, our events calendar or our campaigns.

Our Values:

- Student Focused
- High Quality
- Trustworthy
- Inclusive
- Brave

Freshers' Festival 22

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Check out
what's on!



Your experience, your way.

What's on?

Taking place across the first week of term, Freshers' Festival is your introduction to the Students' Union and everything we have to offer. Expect tons of events, taster sessions and cracking nights out, plus don't forget to pick up your freebies at Freshers' Fair!

You can find the full list of events and buy tickets on our website.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS



Wristbands

Desperate to attend the big club nights listed on the next page? You'll want to get your hands on a Freshers' Festival wristband – the only way to guarantee your entry to all our headline events.

Wristbands will go on sale in two phases:

- First-year students: Wednesday 24 August (13:00)
- General sale: Monday 5 September (10:00)

Individual event tickets will go on sale at 10am on Monday 12 September.

Remember, the Union website - su.rhul.ac.uk - is the only verified place to buy tickets to events. If you're unsure you're purchasing from the right place, contact us on social media - @SURHUL or email marketing@su.rhul.ac.uk.

GIVE IT A GO

If you're looking to develop a new skill, flex your creative muscles, or simply unwind after a day of lectures, you'll find something in our calendar of Give It A Go events.

These are smaller scale events that are predominantly alcohol-free and focused on you meeting new people in a fun, relaxed and welcoming environment. Some previous highlights include a campus Colour Run, pamper sessions, a free pop-up ice cream parlour, and loads more including multiple day trips to places like Brighton and Cambridge.

So, whether you're an adrenaline junkie, culture vulture, sports fanatic, or just love trying new things, we'll have something for you!

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/GIVEITAGO



£ advance / on the door

Friday Welcome Party

Fri 16 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 5/7

Afterglow ft. The Ed Sheeran Illusion

Sat 17 Sep | 20:00 - 02:00 | Medicine | £ FREE

Saturday Welcome Party

Sat 17 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 5/7

VK Glow Up Party

Sun 18 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 5/7

Freshers' Fair

Mon 19 Sep | 12:00 - 17:00 | Sports Centre | £ FREE

Big Read Night

Mon 19 Sep | 16:00 - 18:30 | Medicine | £ FREE

Ready Set Toast

Mon 19 Sep | 20:00 - 02:00 | Medicine | £ FREE

IBIZA: Dress In All White Party

Mon 19 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 5/7

Freshers' Fair

Tue 20 Sep | 13:00 - 16:00 | Sports Centre | £ FREE

MedsBevs ft. JayR

Tue 20 Sep | 20:00 - 02:00 | Medicine | £ FREE

Glitterbomb ft. Cheryl Hole & Danny Beard

Tue 20 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 10/12

Colour Run

Wed 21 Sep | TBC | Meet at Founder's Field | £ TBC

Board Games & Chill

Wed 21 Sep | 19:00 - 21:30 | TBC | £ FREE

MedsWeds

Wed 21 Sep | 19:00 - 00:00 | Medicine | £ FREE

Flawless ft. Fuse ODG

Wed 21 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 10/12

Treasure Trail

Thu 22 Sep | 10:00 - 16:30 | Meet at Union Plaza | £ FREE

Give It A Go Festival

Thu 22 Sep | 12:00 - 16:00 | Founder's Field | £ FREE

Reggaeton ft. Latin American Society

Thu 22 Sep | 20:00 - 02:00 | Medicine | £ FREE

Smells Like Teen Spirit ft. Nova Twins

Thu 22 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 5/7

Tea @ Tommy's (Meet the Officers)

Fri 23 Sep | 14:00 - 16:00 | Tommy's Lounge | £ FREE

Desi Fusion ft. Desi Society

Fri 23 Sep | 20:00 - 02:00 | Medicine | £ FREE

Juicy ft. Majestic

Fri 23 Sep | 22:00 - 03:00 | Union Venue | £ 10/12

Trip to IKEA

Sat 24 Sep | 12:00 - 17:00 | Meet at Union Plaza | £ TBC

Freshers' Ball

ft. Sigma (DJ Set)

Sat 24 Sep | 20:00 - 02:00 | Founder's South Quad | £ 27.50/30

Outdoor Cinema

Sun 25 Sep | 20:00 - 23:00 | Founder's South Quad | £ FREE

We've also partnered with native to deliver a series of virtual and in-person events. Visit our Freshers' Festival website for all the details.

native.

The line-up looks good, right? Well that's not it, we've got loads more events that we didn't have space to fit on here, including our offering at The Packhorse - our very own pub. You can tuck into food and drink deals throughout the week with Two for Tuesday, Silver and Skin!

Our wristband packages

SILVER

£ 50

GOLD

£ 75

(everything in the Silver package + Freshers' Ball)



Navigating



It can be tricky finding the right balance between work and play but it's doable. While we will be putting on an array of events to help you enjoy the social side of university life, it's up to you to decide how involved you get. Our events are a great way to meet new people and enjoy new experiences in a safe environment, but if you'd rather stay in and watch the latest Netflix series, that's also absolutely fine. There are no set rules, and you can shape your own experience!

Freshers' Festival isn't all about drinking and partying either – we run loads of alcohol-free events, including our Give It A Go programme, your best bet for new and exciting experiences. We'd also encourage you to go out and explore campus and the local area. The beautiful Virginia Water Lake is just down the road, and you can also check out the monument to Magna Carta down in Runnymede. From riverside walks to glorious meadows, memorials and secluded spots, there's something for everyone!

We know that adapting to student life can be challenging. There may be moments when you feel overwhelmed, but you won't be going through this alone. You can find help using our online resources or if you want to speak to someone, our Advice Centre is on hand to offer you free and impartial advice. Alternatively, you can have a chat with the University's Student Services Centre. You can also find out more information about the start to university life by downloading the 'Welcome to Royal Holloway' app from the App Store or Google Play.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/freshers)

Part-time jobs

Each year, we employ hundreds of students in paid part-time positions across the Union to help us achieve our aims: improving your education, making campus fun, looking after your wellbeing, making you more employable, and empowering you to change the world around you.

Becoming a student staff member is a great way to meet new people and learn loads of new skills in a professional and fun work environment. It's also a great way to earn some extra money – something that may be really important for you to consider given the cost of living crisis.

Whether you think you would do a cracking job serving up drinks behind the bar, or fancy getting involved with work behind the scenes to make our services tick, we've got something for everyone!

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/JOBS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/jobs)



WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

Confidential. Impartial. Free.

...tre and we're

Our Advice Centre is here whenever you need a helping hand.

Based on the first floor of the Students' Union, our Advice Centre is a free and independent service for all students at Royal Holloway. We're here to support you with a whole range of issues, free from judgement. While our advisors specialise in academic and housing advice, we can offer guidance on just about everything that may affect you during your university journey.

No matter whether you're studying on campus or from home, you'll be able to access support online through email and virtual appointments. You can also visit our Advice Centre hub on the website, giving you instant digital access to support and useful resources, or attend one of our weekly Zoom drop-in sessions.

Some things we can help you with:

- Academic misconduct
- Extenuating circumstances
- Housing disputes
- Free housing contract checks
- Wellbeing services signposting
- Financial support signposting

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ADVICE](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/advice)

We're here to represent you, which means the most important voices in the Students' Union should be yours.

That's why we provide an array of different ways for you to get involved and have your say on how things work at the Students' Union, ensuring students are at the heart of every decision we make. Student Voice might not be the first thing to come to your mind when you think of the SU, but we'll be here for you every step of the way.

Student Collectives.

Making sure that you're valued and represented during your time here is one of our top priorities, so we've established Student Collectives to give underrepresented groups a platform to have their voices heard. As well as organising activities, events and campaigns, Collectives work with the SU to secure the general interests and rights of students. Joining any of our Collectives is completely free. Even if you don't self-define into the group, you can register as a supporter to take part in their activities.

Our Collectives:

- BAME
- Commuting
- Disabled
- International
- LGBT+
- Postgraduate Research
- Women

Student Executives.

We want students to collaborate more effectively on key issues and we achieve this through our three Student Executives: Education; Wellbeing, Community and Diversity; and Societies, Sports and Opportunities. Your officers engage with a wide range of students when planning their work and students feed directly into the development of policy and plans in their area.

Policy Inquiries.

In the past few years, we've published four reports – BAME Inclusive Student Experience, PGR Student Experience, Careers Support, and Student Housing – where we detailed a series of recommendations for ourselves and the University to improve our work in those areas. We're also in the middle of our postgraduate taught student experience inquiry, and there will be more to come throughout the year.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VOICE



LAST YEAR AT YOUR SU

37,594

transactions in our financial system

Advice Centre cases **1089**

773 student group committee members

sports fixtures **669**

418 events held across our venues

academic reps **349**

2497 students voted in the SU Elections

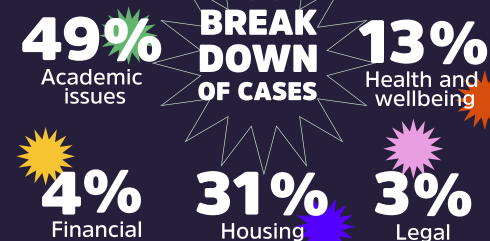
1461 sports club members | **2787** society members

6673 Freshdesk tickets submitted inc. **1454** event proposals, **1694** expense claims

OVER £5230

raised for charity by student groups

Advice Centre



Maia Jarvis

>> President

Hi, I'm Maia - your SU President.

My role involves representing your views to the University and lobbying for changes which improve student life at Royal Holloway. I support the Officer team and ensure we work together to amplify your voices. I also play a large role in the Students' Union's governance and sit on College Council, the highest governing body of the University.

At the heart of my manifesto is inclusion: I want to ensure all students feel welcome and comfortable on campus by lobbying for a more supportive mitigating circumstances policy, making sure you feel safe in our venues, and working closely with culture and faith societies to ensure lived experience is at the heart of solution-making.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to pass on some feedback or chat about how to improve student life!

President@su.rhul.ac.uk
[@RHSUPresident](https://www.instagram.com/RHSUPresident)

How we're led.

Every year, the student body votes to elect a team of full-time sabbatical officers who lead the SU.

As a democratic organisation, we believe that elections show the best of what we can achieve when we work together. Any student can become an officer and have the chance to stand up and lead on issues that really matter to the student body.

This is one for the future but if you're passionate about making a positive impact, you may be interested to know that nominations for the 2023/24 officer positions will open at the start of Term Two. Keep your eyes peeled for further information closer to the time!

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ELECTIONS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/elections)

Campaigning.

Students like yourself direct the issues we campaign on and we're not afraid to tackle complex pieces of policy to improve students' rights. Alongside this, our student groups lead the way on liberation campaigns such as Disability, LGBTQ+, Women's, and Black History months. Check out some of our previous campaigns to see how you can change the world around you, or have a chat with one of the officers.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/CAMPAIGNS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/campaigns)

Representing your academic interests.

Want to become a student leader? Want to work with lecturers and your peers/friends to improve your course? You can do just that!

It'd be very easy to think the Students' Union is here to purely focus on the social side of campus life, but that's only half of the story. At the end of the day, you're here to get a degree and one of our core goals is making sure that this happens. That's why we run what's known as the academic representation system, made up of a mix of individuals who represent you and your course.

Course reps work on ensuring your degree programme is everything you expected it to be, senior course reps look at department-wide changes, school reps work across several departments to instigate change, while the Vice President Education works across the wider College.

As a new student, you can volunteer to be the course rep for your chosen degree programme, giving you the chance to directly influence what happens on your course and give a voice to your peers. Registration opens on Friday 16 September.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ACADEMICREPS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/academicreps)

Shrijeet Shrey

>> VP Education

Hi, I'm Shrey - your Vice President Education.

This year is pivotal to our repositioning back into in-person university experience, and I cannot wait to tailor extraordinary experiences for students.

As VP Education, I will be the voice for all our students' academic interests and feedback. I will constantly communicate your messages to senior staff in the University, ensuring their topmost priority is always students' interests.

As we advance into this tranquil transition back to an in-person university experience, we recognise the challenges associated with the reintegration process. I stay optimistic about our ability as a Union to deliver direct human interactions and experiences in the upcoming months. It's time to optimise the University to be run by our brilliant young thinkers!

Let's get student voices being heard like music, get in touch anytime you wish. I'm listening.

VPEducation@su.rhul.ac.uk
[@RHSUEducation](https://www.instagram.com/RHSUEducation)

Zee Iqbal

>> VP Wellbeing & Diversity

Hi, I'm Zee – your Vice President Wellbeing and Diversity.

This year, I aim to provide a platform for everyone's voice to be heard by promoting equality and inclusivity. Mental health is a very important topic and I want students to feel supported. I will lobby for out-of-hours counselling and work closely alongside the other officers to support students' mental health both academically and pastorally.

Further, I will be working with our Events & Entertainment team to make students feel safe throughout our events calendar and put more anti-spiking measures in place across the year.

I plan to host several campaigns to ensure students feel represented, holding meetings with elected students on the Collectives and Executives to make sure inclusivity and accessibility are being maintained.

I am here for you throughout the academic year so please reach out if you need any support.

VPWellbeingDiversity@su.rhul.ac.uk
[@RHSUWellbeing](https://www.instagram.com/RHSUWellbeing)

Cost of living.

We know that the cost of living crisis may be a concern for you, with energy prices and the cost of your weekly shop soaring. We will do our best to support you with opportunities like paid part-time jobs, free events, and discount deals on food and drink, but we know that's not always enough. Your student loan will only stretch so far so it's good to know about support that is available to you if you're facing financial difficulties.

Where can I get support?

The College's Financial Wellbeing team can assist you with financial difficulties you may experience, including:

Study Support Grant: a fund which can provide financial assistance if you're experiencing unexpected difficulties. It can support accommodation and living costs, travel for study, and applying to rent guarantor schemes. Students at a digital disadvantage may be eligible for a free laptop.

Short Term Loans: The University can provide short-term, interest-free loans of up to £500 to students in emergency financial difficulty, to assist in cash flow problems such as awaiting late student loans.

They can also advise you on a range of topics including budgeting, student loans, student bank accounts, working while you study, and referral to a local foodbank.

MONEYMATTERS@ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK

Find your passion.

Nothing shapes your university journey more than the people you meet and the experiences you share together. Our student groups are the perfect way for you to get the most out of your time at Royal Holloway and we've got something for everyone with 130+ groups available for you to join.

Access Fund.

We know that sometimes the cost of joining a student group can feel overwhelming, especially if your budget is tight. We also know that joining a student group can be one of the most rewarding parts of university life. It can introduce you to new people, perspectives and passions, and we're really keen to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience that.

That is where our access fund comes in - you can request up to £150 each academic year if you need it.

What does it cover?

- Group membership fees
- Kit and essential travel
- Competition entry
- Event entry
- Non-essential costs (e.g. trips, conference fees, individual competition costs, and social activities)

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ACCESSFUND](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/accessfund)

Hannah Hockin

>> VP Societies & Sport

Hi, I'm Hannah - your Vice President Societies and Sport.

I'm so excited for the upcoming year and can't wait to meet you! I will represent the University at BUCS and NUS conferences, chair the Societies, Sports and Opportunities Executive, and work on a variety of campaigns such as This Girl Can.

My plans for this year include increasing participation through incentives, and I am eager to push for alternative payment methods such as pay as you go or monthly instalments. I'll work closely with Zee to raise awareness of stigmatised subjects through student groups, while ensuring an equal amount of publicity and support for all our sports clubs and societies.

I know how essential student groups are to student life on and off campus, and I will endeavour to make sure you can get the most out of your time at Royal Holloway.

VPSocSport@su.rhul.ac.uk
[@RHSUSocSport](https://www.instagram.com/RHSUSocSport)



Our societies do amazing things.

Whether you've already found a passion or you're keen to discover a completely new hobby, there's a place for everyone within our societies.

Quite simply, societies are a great way to get involved in university life. They allow you to meet new people, try new things, and also massively benefit your mental wellbeing by getting you out of the library and doing something that you love! Society events can range from day trips and big celebration events in the SU to socials at the local pub, showcases and performances. Throughout the year, societies put on a variety of activities that will massively enhance your Royal Holloway experience.

Our Freshers' Fair on 19 and 20 September is a great place to meet societies and find out more about what they get up to. If you can't find a society that piques your interest, why not form one of your own? The SU can support you through the process of creating an entirely new group! Alternatively, you can revive one of our dormant societies through our new Adopt A Group process.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/SOCIETIES](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/societies)

Our media outlets are ace.

Your first port of call for the latest news and entertainment on campus, our media outlets are the perfect home for any budding journalists, broadcasters, or creatives.

Orbital Magazine distributes a monthly magazine with a variety of articles ranging from artist interviews to breaking news stories. Stay up-to-date with what's happening on and off-campus in their online articles.

Broadcasting around campus, Surrey and beyond, Insanity Radio 103.2FM is our resident radio station. With a schedule of chart, chat, and specialist shows, plus news broadcasts, you're guaranteed great music, great presenters and great coverage.

If you have a passion for television, perhaps you could bring rhubarbTV back to life – one of our dormant groups that needs new members!

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/MEDIA](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/media)



Home of the Bears.

The Students' Union is home to 30+ sports clubs that offer a mix of recreational and competitive opportunities. Whether it's a casual game of Badminton or vying for the league title with American Football, you'll soon know what it means to be part of the Bears family.

If you want to join a club, check out our Freshers' Fair on 19 and 20 September where you can meet each team. If you see something that takes your fancy, get in touch with the club to find out more about training or attending a trial session. Want to take it further? Represent your club in matches and competitions. If you're after something with less of a competitive edge, then campus leagues or social events could be perfect for you – these are run by the University's Active Lifestyle and Sport team.











Our sports teams compete in several competitions run by British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) and London Universities Sports Leagues (LUSL). We also have an annual Varsity – the biggest clash of the year as we take on our local rivals, the University of Surrey, across a range of disciplines. After hosting in 2021/22, we will be heading over to their turf next year and attempting to bring the trophy back to Egham for the first time.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/SPORTS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/sports)

VENUES FOR DAYS.

Whether it's food, drink, or a little boogie you're after, we've got something for you to do every night, seven days a week, all year round.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VENUES](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/venues)

-  Wi-Fi
-  Gender neutral toilet
-  Accessible
-  Child friendly
-  Pet friendly
-  Food
-  Drink
-  Bookable rooms
-  Live sport
-  Board games

Union Venue.



Home to our weekly Wednesday and Friday club nights, we've had some incredible artists performing over the years from Sigma and Nathan Dawe to Big Narstie and Becky Hill. It's not just big club nights you'll find here though as we also host loads of student group performances on our main stage.

Tommy's Kitchen.



Situated downstairs in the SU, we serve banging burgers and a range of other tasty dishes, catering for all dietary requirements. Grab yourself something quick to takeaway, sit in for a meal with mates, or chill outside on the Union Plaza.

Medicine.



Our second biggest venue plays host to a number of events and society performances throughout the year, including our favourites MedsBevs and Toast. We've also got a spacious beer garden which is perfect for drinks in the sun (don't worry, we have heaters for those cold winter nights).

The Packhorse.



The SU's very own pub where you can enjoy a range of food and drinks deals, including our ever popular Two for Tuesday - 241 on a load of the menu. In addition to a pool table and table football, we also screen live sport seven days a week and have tons of other events including karaoke, live music, and our weekly Pub Quiz.



Keeping you safe.

While Freshers' Festival is obviously about having loads of fun, our number one priority is ensuring you can enjoy our events in a safe environment.

As part of our work around student safety, we've invested heavily in anti-spiking measures, and we also have a Good Night Out Crew in our venues. You'll see them wearing pink hi-vis jackets on a night out and their role is to ensure students have the support they need when attending evening events at the Union Venue and Medicine.

Whether it's related to mental health, physical injury, or as simple as helping you access lost property, find the right queue or bring up a complaint, the Good Night Out Crew are there to support you!

All staff are Mental Health First Aid trained to engage in open discussion, recognise triggers and signpost to the relevant support services both within the College and SU, as well as external services.

>> [SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/freshers)



Get the supplies in.

Who wants to walk 20 minutes to the shops and then carry their bags back up a hill?

Literally nobody. Luckily, the Union Shop is located on the ground floor of the EWD Building, selling fresh produce, drinks, clothing and more. We also have a dedicated vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free selection - lovely stuff.

Finding a new student pad.

You're just starting your Royal Holloway journey so this may be one for the future, but it's still something to bear in mind.

It's easy to get carried away in the excitement but you shouldn't feel pressured into jumping straight into a house share with your new flatmates. Take your time and wait for our Housing Fair where you can meet local landlords and estate agents.

Also make sure to check out RHUL Studentpad - your free portal to hundreds of properties in the local area. Whether you're looking for a place in Egham, Englefield Green or further afield, it's your best bet for finding high-quality private accommodation that's the perfect fit for you.

>> [RHULSTUDENTPAD.CO.UK](https://rhulstudentpad.co.uk)

50%

OFF PIZZA WHEN YOU SPEND £15

USE CODE: 50SEPT22



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@SURHUL / SU.RHUL.AC.UK

