

**RH  
SU**

**ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
STUDENTS'  
UNION**

**WE'RE HERE TO MAKE  
STUDENT LIFE BETTER AT  
ROYAL HOLLOWAY**



**RECRUITMENT PACK:**  
**ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES  
COORDINATOR**

f @ SURHUL



# Welcome.

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Thank you for your interest in joining Royal Holloway Students' Union (RHSU).

Working in a students' union is a unique experience where a collection of like-minded individuals come together to champion students' interests.

If you're passionate about being part of an organisation that challenges the status quo to deliver real change and unforgettable experiences, you've come to the right place. Whether it's offering helpful advice on that nagging academic issue, campaigning for changes on campus, or laying on great events and extracurricular opportunities, we cover a lot of bases.

By downloading this pack, you've already taken the first step towards joining our mission of making student life better at Royal Holloway. Being part of our new strategy in Building Community, Leading Change you can play a key role in helping us to deliver on our mission and having a real impact on student's lives.

The rest of the pack covers everything about the SU including how we work, our generous benefits package, and the strategy that drives us forward as an organisation. If you like the sound of what we have to offer, we look forward to hearing from you!



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# A bit about us.

The Students' Union is a student-led organisation that represents 13,000+ students across our Egham and Central London campuses. The activities and services we offer are really wide-ranging and include things like supporting 160 student-led Communities, and ensuring we represent students' academic interests. We offer free and independent advice through our professional Advice Centre, put on loads of free events with our Give It A Go programme, and run a shop, a pub, a couple of bars and a nightclub to fulfil students' social life on campus.

We're a charity (charity no: 1141998) registered with the Charity Commission. Why does this matter? Well it means that any profit we make through our commercial or membership services gets reinvested into services that help students during their time at Royal Holloway. That covers everything from funding societies to running national voter registration drives.

## We're independent from the University.

While we work really closely with departments from all across the University, we are an independent organisation. This is important for several reasons, but mainly it means that if students have a problem while studying - whether that is their course, accommodation, or other issues, they can come and talk to us. And they can do this in the confidence that we can take up the issue with the University and help to resolve it.



## Our leadership.

We're a democratic, membership organisation and all students at Royal Holloway are automatically members of the Union. Overall legal responsibility for the Students' Union rests with our Board of Trustees which is made up of four full-time sabbatical officers, three student trustees and five lay trustees.

The sabbatical officers are elected each year by, and from, the student membership of the University. They take a year out of their studies (or immediately after graduating) to take on a full-time paid staff role and to serve as a trustee.

The President of the Union (one of the four sabbatical officers) is the Chair of the Board of Trustees. They are responsible for chairing the meetings of the Board, leading the performance management of the Chief Executive and acting as lead ambassador of the Union to external stakeholders and the wider public.

## Board of Trustees.

President and Chair of the Board	Sharanya Sivarajah
Vice President Education	Madelaine Gray
Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity	Olivia Davies
Vice President Societies & Sport	Bana Asqalan
Student Trustees	Oliver Case Tomasz Ostrowski Eleanor Wooller
Lay Trustees	Lydia Halls Mike Johnson Rory Shanks Nicholas Yassukovich

## **Our management.**

Acting as Secretary to the Board of Trustees, it is the role of the Chief Executive to ensure effective and efficient strategic and operational leadership of RHSU.

In conjunction with the President, the position must balance the need to drive and deliver sustainable income streams with ensuring continuous improvement of student satisfaction, engagement and representation. The role works closely with the elected officers supporting them to ensure that the vision, goals and core values of the Students' Union are achieved.

The Chief Executive is supported by a professional Senior Leadership Team which has specific responsibilities for implementing the day-to-day management of the Union.

We employ a full-time team of c.50 permanent staff and 300 student staff. Last year, we paid over £800k into students' pockets through employment opportunities with us.

## **Our finances.**

The Students' Union has two main sources of income – an annual grant from the University and the income generated through our Commercial Services. We are a charity and a not-for-profit organisation. All surplus generated within the organisation is reinvested into the facilities and services provided across the organisation for our members.

## **We represent students.**

Leading on research and insight that can positively influence students' academic and co-curricular student experience, we ensure effective representation locally, regionally and nationally. Our sabbatical officers sit on University committees and engage with key stakeholders to ensure we build stronger student voice and advocate for students.

## **Our departments.**

We have three distinct departments: Community Engagement; Commercial Services; Finance and Resources.

### **Community Engagement.**

Forming the backbone of the organisation, Community Engagement includes Student Opportunities, Student Voice, the Advice Centre, and the Union Helpdesk.

This is a wide-ranging area that encompasses academic representation, elections, and supporting our 160 student-led Communities which range from societies, media outlets and sports clubs to our inclusion and academic communities.

### **Commercial Services.**

We operate a range of commercial services to enhance student experience on campus: the SU Venue, Medicine, The Packhorse, and the Union Shop.

These services enable us to employ over 300 student staff who gain valuable transferable skills, as well as lifelong friendships.

We also run a weekly Market Day during term time featuring fresh fruit and veg, bread and pastries, and a range of international street food stalls.

### **Finance and Resources.**

This department is responsible for everything from finance and processing our £6m annual turnover, to our people and culture team, and the recruitment and engagement of our permanent and student staff workforce, to broader compliance and IT infrastructure.



# Our 24-25 officers.

Every year the student body elects four sabbatical officers to work full-time in the Students' Union for a year.

They work on a range of issues relating to student life, listening to student thoughts and opinions while running campaigns and working with the relevant people and bodies to implement positive policy changes.

Each officer has a portfolio area that sees them take on responsibility for a different area within the organisation, together deciding its strategic direction.



## Sharanya Sivarajah President

The Students' Union President is the Chair of the Board of Trustees, sits on the highest decision-making committee at Royal Holloway, College Council, and is the figurehead of the Students' Union.



## Madelaine Gray VP Education

Not only is the Vice President Education the Deputy President of the Students' Union but they also sit on a number of high-level committees including Academic Board where the academic strategy of the University is decided.



## Olivia Davies VP Wellbeing & Diversity

With a focus on liberation campaigns, mental and physical health provision and general wellbeing issues, the Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity is a key voice for campaigning on campus.



## Bana Asqalan VP Societies & Sport

The Vice President Societies & Sport has joint overall responsibility for developing the support the Students' Union offers to student groups on campus.



# Our strategy.

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**Our overall mission is to make student life better at Royal Holloway but how do we achieve this?**

We are excited to launch our brand new strategy  
Building Community, Leading Change for 2024-2027.

## **Strategic Aims:**

- Building Communities for all Students
- Building Stronger Student Voice and Representation
- Providing Inclusive Activity and Spaces
- Providing Advice and Advocating for Students

## **Enabling Themes:**

- People and Culture
- Physical and Digital Infrastructure
- Well-Governed and Sustainable

Enabling our purpose and strategic aims, these areas form the backbone of our plan. Firstly, we must recruit great people who share our values and believe in our mission, fostering a collaborative and inclusive culture. Next, we must get our governance in order and invest in our physical and digital infrastructure to ensure it is fit for purpose. We also need to think sustainably in our everyday practices to ensure RHSU and the environment can thrive for years to come.

Want to read more about our strategy? Head to [su.rhul.ac.uk/strategy](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/strategy).



# Our values.

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Our core values guide our work and behaviours and we're proud to be an organisation that challenges the status quo, whilst being a fun place to work.

## **Student focused.**

We understand without doubt that we exist for our members. We make sure we know how their needs are changing. We adapt.

## **High quality.**

Quality is fundamental to achieving results. We go above and beyond expectations. We channel our energy into making things better and change or stop things that aren't working.

## **Inclusive.**

We champion and celebrate the importance of diversity, equality and liberation consistently through our work. We are ambassadors for our organisation and speak out if something is not right.

## **Brave.**

We embrace change and opportunity and we are not afraid to try new things. We are ambitious and constantly look for new approaches to doing things.

## **Trustworthy.**

We make decisions based on our values and take responsibility for them, admitting if we get something wrong. We communicate with integrity, even when the message might be difficult.



# STAFF BENEFITS

Get that work-life balance right.

## FINANCIAL WELLBEING

We provide tools for financial planning, early access to earnings, overdraft support, and employee discounts.

- Life assurance - 4 x Salary
- Season ticket loan
- Breakfast, tea & coffee provision
- Wagestream - Financial support platform
- Discounts through UniDays, StudentBeans, Wagestream and Westfield

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We fund various personal and professional development options to help you thrive.

- Short training courses
- Accredited qualifications
- Online learning & reading materials
- Conferences & presentations
- Mentoring & coaching
- Shadowing colleagues
- Project leadership & volunteering

**Plus: Free Open University and RHUL courses available!**

## PERKS

We offer many extra perks!

- RHSU loyalty scheme & 10% off food in our venues
- Free parking
- Cycle to work scheme
- Tech scheme
- Summer & Winter celebration events

## ALLOWANCES

We offer allowances to support your life outside work, from enhanced parental leave to time off for significant life events.

- Enhanced family leave: Maternity, Paternity, Adoption
- Enhanced statutory leave provisions
- Relocation allowance

## LEAVE & TIME-OFF

We value time away to rest and recharge, offering generous, flexible leave for you and your family. Staff can also use bank holidays flexibly to celebrate faith or cultural events.

- 22-27 days annual leave + 8 bank holidays
- Discretionary leave during winter
- Annual leave purchase scheme

## WORK LIFE BALANCE

We're committed to a healthy work-life balance, offering flexible hours, hybrid work options, and supportive leave so you can succeed at work and enjoy life outside of it.

- Birthday day off
- Hybrid working
- Flexible summer working
- Development leave

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

Your health and wellbeing are our priority. We provide tools to help you reach your personal wellness goal.

- Employee assistance programme
- Health cash plan via Westfield
- Gym discounts via Westfield



# Our structure.

## Senior Management Team

Senior Leadership Team

- Chief Executive Officer**  
Tony Logan
- Chief Operating Officer**  
Max Ross
- Head of Finance & Resources**  
Min Chauhan
- Head of Community Engagement**  
Dan Curran
- Deputy Head of Venue Operations**  
Frankie Foley

Vacant  
\*Chart shows permanent staff team only

## Staff Team



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- >> Student Opportunities.**  
Student Opportunities Manager  
Societies Coordinator  
Sports Clubs Coordinator  
Helpdesk Coordinator  
Student Opportunities Project Coordinator
- >> Student Voice.**  
Change & Insight Manager  
[Academic Communities Coordinator](#)  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Research & Insight Coordinator
- >> Advice Centre.**  
Advice Centre Manager  
Graduate Advisor (x2)
- >> Marketing & Communications.**  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
Senior Communications Coordinator  
Advertising & Media Sales Coordinator  
Graphic Designer  
Graphic & Web Designer

### COMMERCIAL SERVICES

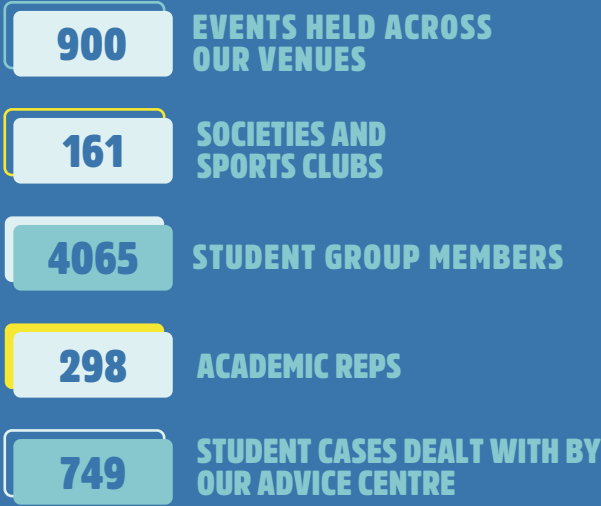
- >> Entertainment & Events.**  
Entertainment & Events Manager  
Membership Events Coordinator  
Venue Technician
- >> Licensed.**  
Venues Manager  
Venues Assistant Manager (x2)  
The Packhorse General Manager  
The Packhorse Grill Chef  
Trading Services Admin Assistant
- >> Retail.**  
Union Shop Manager  
Union Shop Deputy Manager (x2)  
Union Shop Duty Manager  
Administration Coordinator  
Union Shop Assistant (x3)
- >> Premises.**  
Facilities and Maintenance Assistant

### FINANCE AND RESOURCES

- >> Finance.**  
Senior Finance Coordinator  
Finance Coordinator (x2)
- >> Human Resources.**  
Interim HR Manager  
Senior HR Advisor  
HR & Training Coordinator  
HR Coordinator



A LITTLE ABOUT US



300+

STUDENT STAFF

50

PERMANENT STAFF

£808,021

01/08/23 - 31/07/24

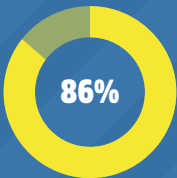
PAID TO STUDENT STAFF, PUTTING MONEY STRAIGHT BACK INTO THEIR POCKETS

CONGRATS!

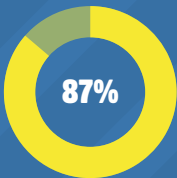


AWARDS HANDED OUT ACROSS COLOURS BALL SOCIETY AWARDS, AND REP AWARDS

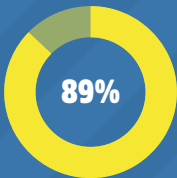
12,822 votes cast in the Leadership Elections



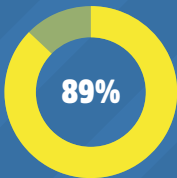
Staff say they can work flexibly when appropriate



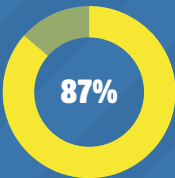
Staff feel colleagues trust and respect each other



Staff feel that their work contributes to the organisation's performance



Staff agree it's common practice for experienced colleagues to coach and mentor new starters



Staff feel they are treated with fairness, respect and dignity at work

Academic Communities Coordinator

Responsible To:	Change & Insight Manager
Department:	Community Engagement
Contract Type:	Permanent
Hours of Work:	35 hours a week - Some unsociable hours may be required to support projects and events across the year.
Salary:	£27,736
Purpose of Role:	The post-holder will support the delivery of a defined programme of support for academic communities at Royal Holloway, empowering them to positively impact on the quality of their educational experience.
Strategic Alignment:	The role will make a significant contribution to delivering our strategic aims of 'building stronger student voice and representation' and 'building communities for all students' by working towards two of our big ideas:

The role will deliver an impactful academic representation system, in partnership with the University, by supporting students to make positive changes to the educational experience at Royal Holloway.

They will also look to enhance the role academic societies play across campus by working to deliver a framework to support and facilitate their development alongside academic departments.



### **Academic Community:**

- Work with Key Contacts from academic departments to oversee and develop the academic representation system.
- Produce briefings and associated guides for Academic Reps, Committees and academic/professional services staff related to academic representation at RHUL.
- Provide support to the Education Executive as required (i.e. acting as Secretary and producing reports and papers as requested by the VP Education).
- Work with the Student Opportunities team and relevant University staff to ensure collaboration in the support and development of Academic Communities.
- Support the delivery of Academic Communities and act as a key contact between students and staff involved in the project.
- Support the Community Engagement team to deliver on priority setting which will allow students to direct the work of the Union.

### **Recruitment, Training and Impact**

- Work with Key Contacts from academic departments across the University to coordinate the recruitment of all Academic Reps and other Academic roles as needed.
- Develop and deliver an annual induction that engages all Academic Reps and gives them an overview of their role and responsibilities and embed support for them across the year.
- Using information gathered through the academic representation system to identify themes and trends across departments and where the Students' Union can better support Academic Representation.
- Work with academic reps and academic departments to identify positive changes achieved for their peers, ensuring effective impact reporting of these.
- Deliver the reward and recognition scheme for Academic Reps and University staff, ensuring effective promotion and engagement with students and staff alike.
- Support the delivery of the annual Student Leader Conference with support from the wider Community Engagement team.

### **Communication and Engagement**

- Act as the Key Contact within the Students' Union for Academic Reps, supporting the VP Education to provide advice and coaching on how to tackle and resolve specific issues, ensuring VP Education is kept up to date with any issues.
- Support elected Reps, through regular 121s, planning their goals, connecting their work to other similar projects, understanding the right channels to progress or resolve issues, and empowering elected Reps to offer the same support to other Student Leaders.
- Develop a programme of networking opportunities with Key Contacts from academic departments to ensure a fully joined up partnership approach to academic representation and enhance effective communication channels between the Students' Union and academic departments.
- Produce regular student facing updates to promote education policy and/or successes achieved through Academic Representation, increasing awareness of change.

### **Health and Safety Management**

- Comply with and actively promote relevant health, safety and wellbeing policies, seeking to minimise hazards for others and nurture a healthy organisation.

### **Ethical and Environmental Management**

- To support the organisation in equality of opportunity, challenging discrimination, championing diversity and promoting inclusiveness.
- To support delivery of work related to ethical and environmental issues and compliance with relevant legislation and Union Policy.

### **Other Duties**

- To attend appropriate meetings and develop reports as and when required by the Union.
- To abide by the Union's Constitution, policies and procedures and all relevant University policies and regulations at all times.
- To contribute to the positive image of the Union with students, the University and the local community.
- To undertake other tasks and responsibilities compatible with the level and nature of the post as required by the Chief Executive Office.



# Person Specification.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ESSENTIAL      DESIRABLE

Undergraduate degree or equivalent experience.

x

## EXPERIENCE

Experience of working or volunteering in a campaigning, lobbying or democratic environment

x

Experience of supporting and mentoring students, student staff, and volunteers in their roles.

x

Experience of working as part of a multi-functional team.

x

Experienced in writing public facing documents of a high standard that persuade others of conclusions.

x

Experience of delivering training and support for student volunteers.

x

## KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge of structures, issues, and trends affecting higher education, students' unions and the wider charity sector.

x

Knowledge of representation structures and how they can empower volunteers.

x

## SKILLS AND ABILITIES

A clear grasp of the English language, using this to write clearly, concisely and professionally.

x

Ability to plan and project manage to ensure service delivery.

x

Highly organised with the ability to multitask and juggle multiple competing deadlines.

x

Ability to create and maintain strong working relationships with a wider range of people including staff, students and external providers.

x

## VALUES, ATTITUDES & PERSONAL STYLE

Student Focused: everything we do will have students at the heart of it.

x

High Quality: your expectations are high & we must exceed them

x

Inclusive: we will offer a diverse range of activities and services which are fulfilling and accessible.

x

Brave: we should be bold and not afraid to challenge the status quo.

x

Trustworthy: we will ensure that we are transparent, honest and fair in what we say and do.

x



# Next steps.

Simply head over to [su.rhul.ac.uk/jobs](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/jobs), navigate to the role you'd like to apply for and fill in your contact details. Remember to add your CV and covering letter at this point when requested by the system.

We can't accept any applications that are sent direct by email so you need to ensure it all goes through our online portal. After applying we'll be in contact via email using the address you used when filling in the application form.

Finally, we wish you the best of luck in your application. If you have any questions, you can email us at [surecruitment@su.rhul.ac.uk](mailto:surecruitment@su.rhul.ac.uk).

## The legal stuff.

All positions are subject to applicants making themselves available to attend interviews, inductions and training days.

Successful applicants will need to submit proof of eligibility to work in the UK before employment. The document submitted will be photocopied and held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR. This will be done after an offer of employment is made.



## Data protection when applying for a role at RHSU.

We're committed to data protection and it's important to know what's happening with your data when you apply for a job role. That means we'll only use the information you supply for the purposes of progressing your application (or to fulfil legal or regulatory requirements if necessary) and we'll never share your information with any third parties for marketing purposes or store it outside of the European Economic Area.

For detailed information on data protection during the recruitment process head over to [su.rhul.ac.uk/privacy](https://su.rhul.ac.uk/privacy).

## Equal opportunities.

We're committed to ensuring our workforce accurately reflects the diversity of the world we live in. We positively encourage applications from all individuals irrespective of their gender, age, home country, ethnic background, sexuality, religious beliefs or disability.

All candidates will be treated equally and all appointments made on merit. If you have any questions about any of the roles, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [surecruitment@su.rhul.ac.uk](mailto:surecruitment@su.rhul.ac.uk).