

**Students' Union VP Societies and Communication Report – November 2024
Student Council Report**

Position: VP Societies and Communication

University of the West of England Students' Union (UWE SU)

Academic Year: 2024-2025

Prepared by:

Date:

1. Introduction

As the VP Societies, I am focused on enhancing student experience and fostering a sense of community through active society engagement. My work this year aims to increase the quality and impact of societies, promote employability opportunities, and strengthen diversity and inclusion within UWE SU. This report outlines the key achievements, ongoing projects, and future goals for the remainder of the academic year.

2. Manifesto Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Increase the Sense of Belonging and Community through Societies

Goal: To build a supportive environment where students feel connected through society engagement.

- **Increase the Number of Active and Quality Societies**
 - **Guidance and Training:** We provided training sessions and ongoing support via dedicated communication channels to help society leaders manage their groups effectively.
 - **New Societies Applications:** We received a large number of applications for new societies. To streamline the process, I am working on refining approval processes and managing duplicate applications for a more efficient setup.
- **Raise Awareness of Societies and their Benefits**
 - **SU Stall Drop-in Sessions:** Hosted sessions at all three campuses (Frenchay, Bower, and Glenside) to showcase our societies, allowing students to meet SU representatives, learn about society offerings, and get involved.
- **Increase Collaborative Events Between Societies**
 - **Speed Friending Events:** Organized speed-friending events for society members to foster collaboration and new event ideas.

- **Additional Funding:** Secured funding to support joint events, allowing societies to host larger events and reach a broader student audience.

Objective 2: Promote Employability

Goal: To prepare students for successful careers by connecting them with UWE's employability resources and opportunities.

- **Promote Career Services and Resources**
 - **Awareness Campaigns:** Launched campaigns to increase awareness of UWE Career Services and resources, helping students utilize tools available for career planning and skill-building.
- **Employability Workshops for Education Societies**
 - **Workshops with Careers Team:** Partnered with the Careers Team to create targeted employability workshops, tailored specifically for education-related societies to enhance industry readiness.
- **Networking Events**
 - **Alumni and Employer Engagement:** Planning networking events with alumni and employers, providing students with valuable industry connections and career advice.

Objective 3: Strengthen Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Goal: To ensure all students feel represented and supported within the UWE SU community.

- **Improving Diversity and Inclusion**
 - Collaborated with UWE's Equality and Diversity Team to create events and policies that foster inclusivity across all societies.
- **Support for Diverse Student Groups**
 - **Bangladesh Students Help Initiative:** In response to the crisis in Bangladesh, we provided support for Bangladeshi students at UWE through the SU. With the help of the UWE SU Bangladesh Society, we offered visa, financial, accommodation, and wellbeing advice to affected students.

3. Key Projects and Initiatives

- **NFI Football League:** Relaunched the NFI League this year with improved planning, ensuring the league will conclude by mid-December. This year, we partnered with HUB Radio Society to broadcast matches on social media, increasing accessibility and excitement for this event.

- **E-Sports Society Room:** Responded to the Esports Society's request for a dedicated room on campus, working closely with the university to secure a suitable space. This will help the society grow and create a stronger presence within UWE.
- **Society Member Discounts:** Secured a 10% discount on food for all society members at the SU 2 Bar every Wednesday, encouraging students to engage with societies and strengthen our community spirit.

4. Future Plans and Goals

- **Increase Collaboration and Communication:** Continue supporting societies with resources, guidance, and communication channels to help them grow and connect with students.
- **Enhance Employability Initiatives:** Expand partnerships with UWE's employability services to provide more targeted workshops and networking events for societies in diverse fields.
- **Focus on Inclusive Society Growth:** Work closely with diverse student groups and UWE's Equality and Diversity Team to ensure new societies reflect the varied interests and backgrounds of our student population.

5. Conclusion

The progress we've made so far has strengthened our sense of community, advanced student employability, and fostered an inclusive environment at UWE. I am committed to building on this foundation and ensuring that every student has access to resources, events, and support networks that enhance their university experience. I look forward to continuing this work and achieving our shared goals.