



LBSU

2025-26 | Leeds Beckett Students' Union



Impact Report



Introduction

LBSU is led by students, for students!

At Leeds Beckett Students' Union (LBSU), we make students' lives better! Everything we do is shaped by our students and we do this by bringing communities together across campus to create positive change. This year our Officers, Student Community Organisers and student leaders talked directly to students like you across campus and beyond to campaign on the issues that matter most!

- 338 conversations with students were recorded by Student Community Organisers
- 440 Course Reps trained
- 52 societies and communities supported
- 198 student leaders trained
- We hosted 2 Student Assemblies

Your Students' Union (SU) is here to support you throughout the year!



Community, Belonging and Inclusive spaces

We heard what you think would make campus spaces even better, and our student leaders have been busy turning those conversations into action!

We've built a strong relationship with Leeds Beckett's Director of Estates and Facilities to make sure student needs are at the centre of all future campus plans.

Together, we're working towards:

- More welcoming 'third spaces' for students to relax and connect
- Better use of underutilised campus areas
- Embedding student voice directly into the University's plans
- Creating more social spaces that work for commuter students

Our Student Leaders have also met with other Student Officers across the country to hear about what works well on their campuses to bring great ideas back to Beckett!

Working 9 to 5 (for fair opportunities!)

As part of our Work and Employability Campaign, your student leaders have been working to make finding and accessing opportunities easier and fairer for students.

This year they've:

- Developed a strong relationship and regularly collaborated with the University Careers Team
- Proposed student-informed improvements on MyHub, based on real experiences and listening from students like you
- Campaigned nationally with UNISON, where a motion on fair conditions for student staff passed at conference!
- Started work with West Yorkshire Citizens to strengthen regional employer engagement



Renters' Rights and our Housing Campaign

This year we saw lots of changes to student housing in Leeds, and we made sure your student voice was heard loud and clear! The long-awaited Renters' Rights Act 2026 came into effect, and we've provided students with up-to-date advice and resources to help understand how this affects them.

We also:

- Joined Citizens UK nationally, taking student stories straight to Parliament Square
- Met with MPs to push them to commit to fighting for better housing conditions through the Warm Homes Plan
- Met with our local MP Alex Sobel to keep student housing on the agenda



Shuttle bus improvements driven by students

Getting to and from lectures shouldn't be a barrier to education. After lots of bus rides with you and listening to your experiences and concerns, you told us what needed to change and we've helped to deliver real improvements:



- Timetables and QR codes are now installed at stops
- Shuttle information will now be more visible across campus with more information across the Portland Building
- Live updates will be available through the Beckett App
- Improved branding to increase visibility
- A double-decker bus is now permanently in service

Further improvements are under review, including a potential new stop at Hyde Park Corner! We can't wait to see how this campaign progresses!

Stand-out student groups

Our student groups are at the heart of campus, and whether they've been delivering events or campaigning for change, they've continued to create real community across campus!

While we can't shout about every single success throughout the year, here are just a few highlights:



- Our Speech and Language Therapy society hosted Makaton classes (a communication programme that uses signs, symbols and speech) with the help of funding from LBSU
- The Islamic Students' Community hosted a series of events for students throughout Ramadan, including regular iftars, and organised vibrant Eid celebrations on campus
- Launch of the LGBTQ+ Gender Expression Fund in partnership with our LGBTQ+ Students' Community

Alongside this, there were:

- 225 society and community events
- £4,715 distributed through the Community Development Fund to support student groups

Stronger student democracy

Our Student Elections are a vital part of democracy here at LBSU and this year loads of you made your voices heard!

This year's elections saw:

- Increased voter turnout - 3,372 students took the time to vote
- Improved candidate engagement
- A significant drop in complaints - helping create a more positive campaigning culture
- Our student staff led on the rebranding of our election helping us create a brand-new look!



LBSU goes to Varsity!

It was a brilliant year for Beckett student athletes and their supporters! While Leeds Beckett may have fallen just short of winning the overall 3-day competition, they demolished their opponents 42-5 at the Leeds Varsity Rugby Union Finale!

Our Student Content Creators were there to not only capture great content of our student community coming together to support the team, but also to work with our Business Development team to sell over 350 Varsity t-shirts! Well done to everyone involved!



Leeds Pride 2026

This year we had the privilege of walking in the Leeds Pride Parade with colleagues from the University, Students' Union and students! Our LGBTQ+ Students' Community joined us and had a brilliant time too! It's an event we never want to miss!

Building communities through events, opportunities and support

It's been a huge year for our Business Development team here at LBSU, with thousands of you getting involved with events across our venues!

Over 24,500 people bought tickets to events on our website this year, showing just how much students and the wider community value what's happening on our campus. From Freshers through to the end of term, there was always something to look forward to.

Freshers brought the biggest buzz, with over 15,000 students attending, alongside another 3,000 at Winter Freshers - helping you settle in, meet new people and kick off your year at Beckett!

This year we delivered:

- 31 gigs
- 70 student activities in SU venues
- 39 brand activations working with partners to raise money for student support

And once you bought a ticket, you showed up - with just a 6% drop-off rate, well below the industry average! That tells us one thing: you really want to be here.



Helping students break into the events industry



We've continued to invest in opportunities that help you build experience alongside your studies.

This year we invested over £5,000 - and more than 300 hours - into our Student Venue Reps, giving students hands-on experience in an industry that can be tough to break into. From event delivery to brand activations, these roles are helping students build skills, confidence and employability.

Investing in our students

We're run by and for students – and we really mean it! Our organisation isn't just led by students democratically; student staff make up an integral part of our team delivering everything from key events and content on our social media channels to pulling pints behind the bar.

In the 2025/26 academic year, LBSU invested £165,908 in wages from 8,760 hours for a team of 59 student staff members in 11 roles across all our departments!

Not only are we helping put money back into students' pockets by providing great on-campus job opportunities, but we're also giving students fantastic chances to improve their skills and boost their employability.

Bringing your favourite brands to campus

From Ben & Jerry's to Subway and so much more, our activations programme brought exciting brands directly into student spaces! While we love bringing freebies to you, these activations also help us generate income that goes back to students through our support and initiatives across LBSU.



Some of the standout activations this year included:

- MONDAY Haircare
- Lounge Airstream
- Ben & Jerry's
- Subway
- I Heart Wines
- Deliveroo x Wingstop
- OddBalls Foundation

Leading and supporting our staff

This year we've continued to invest in creating a positive, inclusive and supportive working environment for our entire staff team! We've updated a range of our policies to ensure we're a great employer including:

- Sickness Absence Policy & Procedure
- Grievance Policy & Procedure
- Sabbatical Leave Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- and a new Recruitment and Selection Policy

We also welcomed 3 new student trustees as well as a new Chair of the Board of Trustees!



The heart of student life!

From social spaces to food and drink, our venues on campus remained at the heart of student life.

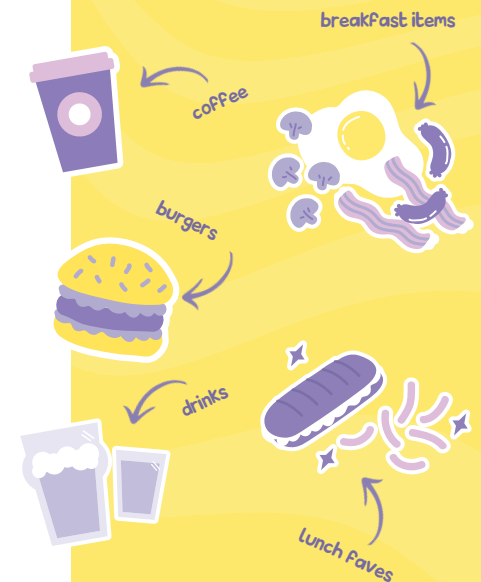
This year you enjoyed:

- 4,850 coffees and iced drinks
- 1,961 breakfasts
- 1,542 burgers
- 1,727 loaded fries
- 2,980 paninis
- 4,823 sides

Not to mention, many drinks from the bar:

- 32,978 pints
- 27,393 soft drinks
- 5,357 bottled drinks
- 17,589 spirits

Every £ spent in The Hive goes back into the Union! Allowing us to organise fun events as well as representing and supporting you during your time at Leeds Beckett University.



We also hosted 23 Sports Wednesdays, reaching capacity at 14 of them – showing just how important these moments are for our student community.

We're also committed to improving spaces on campus for you to relax with your friends. Our new Pixel Bar gaming space proved so popular that we're expanding it next year!

Supporting you when it matters most

University life can be overwhelming, and we all need help from time to time. We know the right support can change everything, so our Advice Service has been hard at work to support Beckett students.

This year, we supported 1,025 students across 1,274 cases, offering free, confidential and independent advice.

Most of this work (72%) focused on helping students understand academic processes. This gave you the confidence to make informed decisions and advocate for yourself.



We supported students with:

- 365 extenuating circumstances cases
- 168 academic honesty cases
- 164 academic appeals
- 61 formal complaints
- 44 withdrawals due to engagement concerns
- 11 fitness to practise cases
- 112 housing issues

Making a real difference for you

Whether it's been trouble with housing or understanding academic integrity, each one of our cases this year represents a student who needed guidance and support.

This year, our Advice Service has:

- Helped students stay on their courses
- Supported students to challenge decisions
- Provided reassurance during stressful situations
- Empowered students to understand their rights and advocate for themselves

We heard from students:

"They helped me through a very difficult time and I can now progress with my studies."

"Your support made a significant difference - I'm really grateful."

"My appeal has been approved... thank you so much for your help."



Our impact overall

From the events you attended to the changes you shaped on campus and the support you received from our services, this year has been all about building a stronger, more connected student experience - together. We couldn't have done it without you! To find out more about opportunities to get involved with our campaigning work, check out our webpage here:

<https://www.leedsbecketttsu.co.uk/your-voice/community-organising/>