



Impact Report 2023 - 2024

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# Students make Strath Union

*#WeAreStudents*



Strathclyde  
Students'  
Union

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# **“ As President of Strath Union, I am incredibly proud to share the strides we’ve made this year to enhance student life at the University of Strathclyde.**

*This Impact Report highlights our collective achievements, reflecting on the hard work, passion, and dedication of both students and staff.*

*Representing over 25,000 students is no small task, but it’s one that we take great pride in. From securing essential funding for initiatives that build our community, to advocating for students at University committee meetings, the interests of our members is at the heart of everything we do. With over 200 Societies and more than 50 Sports Clubs, Strath Union fosters a sense of belonging and pride in what it means to be a ‘Strathclyder’, elevating the overall University experience. We add value for our students through our wide offering, including our fantastic Advice Hub, which provides independent and confidential guidance on a range of issues. We were especially proud to once again be voted the ‘Best Students’ Union in Scotland’, a recognition of our unwavering commitment to supporting our students. Whether it’s grabbing a quick latte*

*between lectures, helping to establish new Societies, supporting campaigns, or enjoying a well-earned pint of Tennent’s, we are here for our students every step of the way.*

*Representation is at the core of everything we do. Our student Rep system has seen major improvements, ensuring that our representatives are supported at every level – from Class Reps to Non-Exec Reps. The Student Exec play a crucial role in amplifying the student voice at the highest levels of the University, representing students on key committees, including University Court and Senate, the institution’s governing bodies. This year, our officers actively contributed to ‘The Glasgow Student Forum’, a collective of student officers from across the city, where I was delighted to be elected Chair and our VP Welfare Rachael took on the role of Secretary. Beyond the campus, we engaged in national advocacy through participation in campaigns and strikes led by the National Union of Students. We are constantly seeking new ways to elevate and empower the student voice.*

*This year also marked a significant milestone for Strath Union with the appointment of our new CEO, Morna Simpkins. With her outstanding leadership skills and deep commitment to students, I am confident that she will guide the Union to new heights. I would also like to extend a massive thank you to Manish Joshi for his commitment and passion for Strath Union over the past eight years. He was a strong leader and ally to students. We wish him all the best in his new role at The University of Strathclyde. Our Trustee Board has also seen several changes, as many of our Trustees concluded their terms. I am excited to work alongside our new Board as we continue to shape the future of Strath Union.*

*In this time of change, one thing remains constant: our determination to make positive, meaningful change that benefits our students, who remain at the core of everything we do.*

*I look forward to all that we will achieve together in the year ahead.”*

*– Eva Curran  
Strath Union President 2023/25*



*Pictured: Eva Curran (Strath Union President), Morna Simpkins (Strath Union CEO)*

# Strategic Framework Alliance



*Pictured: Eva Curran (Strath Union President),  
Professor Sir Jim McDonald (Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde)*

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**The Strathclyde Strategic Framework Alliance (SFA) is a collaborative partnership between Strath Union and The University of Strathclyde, led by both organisations' Executive teams.**

The SFA is designed to align the goals of both organisations and drive positive change across campus. This framework outlines shared objectives in key areas such as student welfare, sustainability, inclusivity, and community.

By fostering open communication and cooperation, the Alliance ensures that the student voice is central to decision-making processes, helping to create a university environment that supports the success and wellbeing of every Strathclyde student.

A full online copy can be found on the Strath Union website:  
[strathunion.com/union/governance/policy](http://strathunion.com/union/governance/policy)

## We asked 200 Strathclyde students what they think of their Union ...

### 93% understand the role and purpose of Strath Union

14% increase ( 77% in 2022/23 )

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### 95% are pleased with Strath Union

20% increase ( 75% in 2022/23 )

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7.7 out of 10 said being a member of Strath Union had a positive impact on their student experience

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### 95% understand they are a member of Strath Union

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### 92% are satisfied with the communication they receive from Strath Union

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95% are satisfied with the services that Strath Union provides Overall 8.1/10

Most important services to them were:

1. Events & entertainment
  2. Food & drink
  3. Societies
-

*“ [...] University can be, and should be, so much more than just academics. It is the friends you meet, skills you develop, and the memories you make outside of the classroom that help to make the academic side of University life more enjoyable.”*

*- Jo Fitzpatrick  
Strath Union Volunteer*

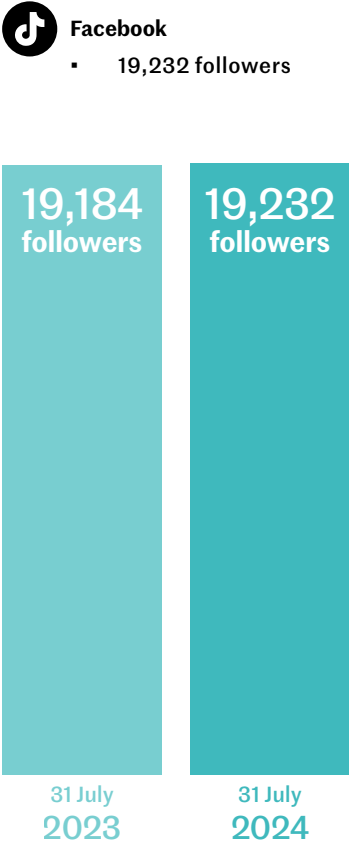
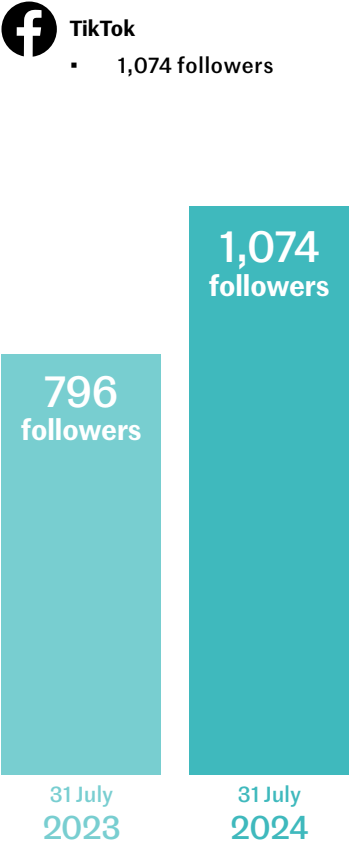
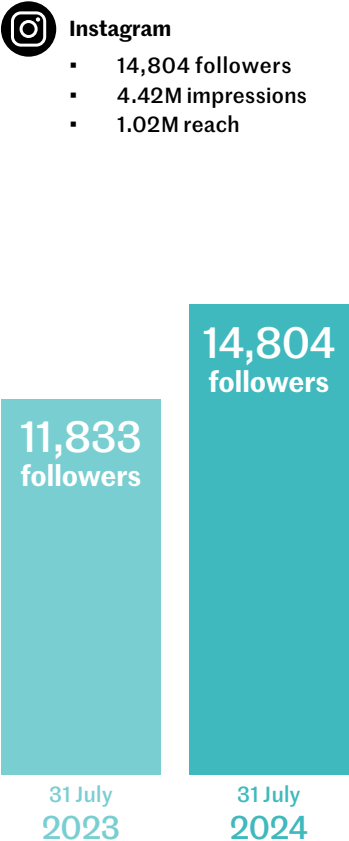




## Strathclyde students think Strath Union's top three priorities should be:

1. Students' mental health & wellbeing
  2. Cost of living
  3. Academic representation
-

# Number of social media followers as of 31 July 2024.







- **161,968 visits to strathunion.com**  
( 135,453 in 2022/23 )

- **372,990 Strath Union emails opened**  
( 365,966 in 2022/23 )

# Full Time Student Representatives 2023/24



## President

Eva Curran

- 
- Secured funding for a *Campus Living Room* and a *Buddy System* for incoming students
  - Successfully lobbied the University to reduce their planned rent increase by 4%, saving £800,000 for students in student accommodation
  - Achieved the introduction of Spring Graduations, to benefit international students
  - Partnered with SUMSA to raise funds for *Medical Aid for Palestinians*, and passed a BDS policy through Student Parliament
  - Supported creating *The Strategic Framework Alliance*, committing to shared objectives between Strath Union and the University



## VP Community

Justyna Kardasz

- 
- Launched the *Quiet Room*
  - Drafted an overarching Sustainability Policy for Strath Union
  - Collaborated with the University and Strath Union's Climate Emergency Action Group to increase student awareness and education about sustainable development goals through events, including Freshers
  - Developed wellbeing initiatives with student societies, including the creation of Welfare Officer roles



## VP Community

Charlie Wilson

- 
- Reviewed the representation system to identify priorities for improvement
  - Created and delivered a new skills and development day for reps and updated rep training
  - Inputted on key issues like AI, extensions, entrepreneurship and reasonable adjustments and got 13 paid student internships to develop AI guidance materials
  - Made sure student voices were key in the new national *Tertiary Quality Framework*

# Full Time Student Representatives 2023/24



## VP Inclusion

Yu-Chu Doong

- 
- Developed and lead the *Diverse Leadership Programme*
  - Reviewed and explored ways to support students on year abroad and placement
  - Promoted accessibility on campus and within education



## VP Sport

Molly McHugh

- 
- Organised *Girls Night In*, with over 600 attendees
  - Continued the Sports Union governance review
  - Worked with *Glasgow Clyde Rape Crisis* on their *Fair Play* project, to provide Sports Clubs with access to free gender-based violence (GBV), Bystander Allyship, and many other workshops
  - Worked with the SU Governance Officer to review Club Score and implement a new way of working, to provide Clubs with a recognition and reward system which will be implemented in 2024/25
  - Brought the *Taxis Cup* back to Strathclyde



## VP Welfare

Rachael Okoh

- 
- Delivered a series of *Creative Hub* events, showcasing student talent
  - Worked on *No Homeless Students* (#NHSC) campaign
  - Secured University agreement to deliver a *Guarantor Scheme* for eligible students
  - Redrafted the University's *Student Mental Health Agreement* (SMHA)



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**We are  
students**

*In 2023/24 ...*

# We represented

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**742 Student Representatives**

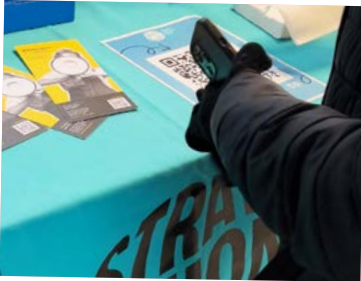
(611 in 2022/23)

**NSS score: 80.2%**

## Autumn Elections 2023

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**10 positions** ( 8 in 2022/23 )  
**17 candidates** ( 77 in 2022/23 )  
**213 voters** ( 476 in 2022/23 )



## Spring Elections 2024

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**19 positions** (238 in 2022/23)  
**51 candidates** ( 82 in 2022/23 )  
**2,622 voters** ( 3,605 in 2022/23 )



## Student Parliament 2023-24

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**5 Parliament meetings** ( 5 in 2022/23 )  
**8 policies passed** ( 3 in 2022/23 )





***“Embracing the privilege of representing our diverse student body and course brings immeasurable rewards; empowering equitable progress and fostering an inclusive environment, all while cherishing the honour of advocating for a brighter future for current and future students.”***

**- Nadia Riaz,**  
Course Representative MSc. Autism

# We made change



StrathRISE Campaigns Week

## 16 Days of Action

- Fight for the Night



Spring Graduations



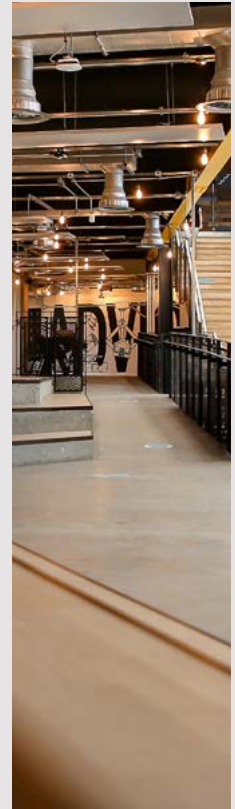
Black History Month



LGBTQ+ History Month

## Palestine Solidarity Society Campaigns:

- Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions
- Starbucks Off Campus
- Gaza Walkathon



Quiet Hour



*“ It gave me a lot of purpose to be part of something so important and empowering. The highlight was the HUGE turnout on the night.”*

- Women's Rep  
on Fight for the Night



# *We stayed active*



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**2,825 Sports Union members**

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**48 Clubs**

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**57 BUCS Teams**

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**293 StrathActive members**

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## Performance Sport



- 57 BUCS teams
- Ranking 32/141 institutions
- 1,511 BUCS points
- 614 fixtures
- 50% overall win rate

## Club Sport



- 48 clubs
- 2,825 members

## Social & Recreational Sport



- 293 StrathActive members
- 1,317 StrathActive participants
- 120 session hours of StrathActive
- 100 Intra-mural participants



*" My time  
volunteering as  
a StrathActive  
Leader was truly  
beautiful. Trying  
new sports, helping  
others learn,  
and constantly  
growing – it was  
an experience  
I wouldn't trade."*

- Arunabh Bhowmik  
StrathActive Leader

# *We found our people*



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152 societies

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6,162 memberships

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4,432 individual members

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6 sustainability-aware societies

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265 members in sustainability-related societies

*“ Being part of the Climate Emergency Action Group at Strath Union helped me as a student by encouraging me to put into practice the change I wish to see at the University.”*

- Ashanti Magoma  
Strathclyde Climate Emergency Action Group



# *We developed skills*



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**1,573 volunteers**

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**40 charities supported**

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**20,194 volunteer hours**

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***“I loved meeting and making connections with new people. The team was great and it was an overall fun experience. It made me realise that I would love a career that involved working with lots of people.”***

**- Welcome Team member**





## ***We offered support***



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**1,886 clients**

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**2,012 cases opened**

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**2,265 cases worked on**

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**57 students supported by  
the Participation Fund**

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**£81,303.11 of financial gain  
put back into students' pockets**

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## We asked 200 Strathclyde students what they do to lift their mood ...

*Hang out with friends*

*Roasters coffee*

*Go out with friends*

*Write*

*Various Union events*

*Spend time with Societies*

*Enjoy good food*

*Read a book*

*Go for a walk*

*Go shopping*

*Listen to music*

*Terrace fries & pakora*

*Draw*

*Have a nap*

*Cooking/eating comfort food*

*Watch feel-good movies*

*Spend time with friends & family*

*Paint*

*Monday night quiz*

*Enjoy the vibrant buzz of Strath Union*

*Watch a film*

*Spend time with friends*

*Sport*

*Have concerts when alone at home*

*Go to The Venue events*

*Spend time in a relaxing atmosphere*

...

# *We created memories*



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**537 student-led events**

( 635 in 2022/23 )

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**150 Terrace events**

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**33 winning teams at quizzes**

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**55,676 visits to  
[strathunion.com/events](https://strathunion.com/events)**

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*“It makes you connected to student life. If you feel alone you can just go to Union and there is always something happening.”*

- Strathclyde student



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**Over 5,000 participants  
in Freshers' events**

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**89 Freshers' events**

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**Over 5,380 prizes  
handed out**

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**400 ducks won**

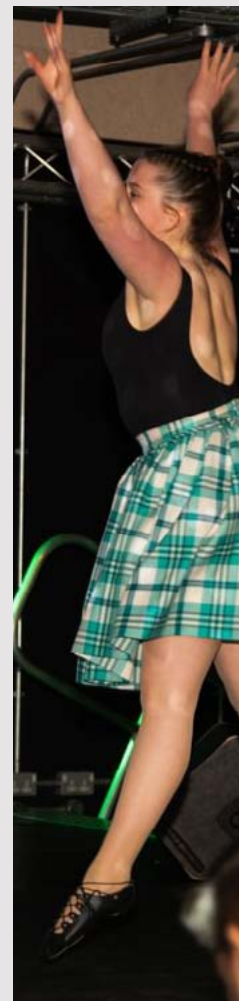
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*“ Girls Night In was a brilliant event; it pushed me to join Judo and stick with it which is something I wouldn't have done before, and the atmosphere on the night was so nice and non-judgemental.”*

- Strathclyde student



Diverse Leadership Course



Creative Hub



'Unissued Diplomas'  
Ukraine Photo  
Exhibition



'Girls Night In'



Skills and Development (S.A.D.) Day

## ***We refuelled***



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**115,550 pints poured**

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**8,463 pizzas sold**

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**1,826 games of darts played**

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**77,385 games of darts played**

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**5,854 stamps on Roasters  
loyalty cards**

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# *We celebrated our community*



- 558 Teaching Excellence Awards (TEAs) nominations
- 173 Student Volunteer Awards (STAR) nominations





# We met future students



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2 applicant days events

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1,000 chocolate ducks handed out

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150 students signed up to our Freshers' mailing list

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## *We loved our legacy at Re:Store*



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**1,931 Hoodies and  
Sweatshirts sold**

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**518 Bears sold - totaling  
to £4,583.10 towards the  
Alumni Fund**

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**2,500 In-store sales**

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**948 Graduation sales**

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# Students make Strath Union the No1 Scottish Union!

Ranked 1st in Scotland and 4th in the UK, the *Whatuni Student Choice Awards* (WUSCAs) are the largest annual awards in the UK where the outcome is decided exclusively by students. For the last two years, Strath Union has been the only union in Scotland to be shortlisted.



WE'VE BEEN SHORTLISTED!  
#WUSCAs



Education Campaign Award

NUS Green Impact

EXCELLENT AWARD

Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability - UK



Responsible Futures

Accredited institution



51 Richmond Street, Glasgow, G1 1XU. Strath Union is a trading name of the University of Strathclyde Students' Association. A charity registered in Scotland No: SC005914. Registered company in Scotland No: SC568857.

# We are grateful for our supporters

Thank you for the trust you've placed in us.

On behalf of the entire Students' Union, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters and funders for supporting and investing in our vision of creating an extraordinary experience for every student at Strathclyde. All contributions have played a pivotal role in shaping our vibrant community and have helped us stay committed to our core principle to empower and support every student at Strathclyde to succeed to the best of their ability at university and beyond. The generous donations and continuous backing have allowed us to implement transformative initiatives, establish valuable resources, and organise memorable events; all tailored to enrich the academic and social lives of our students.

**£137k**  
Alumni Grants

**£2.9**  
million  
Block Grant

