



de montfort 

WE ARE DSU

Impact Report
2017/18

demontfortsu.com

CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION

“We’ve just come to the end of another academic year jam-packed full of exciting opportunities, activities and stuff to make your life at DMU truly unforgettable.

“While it’s tough to pick out just one highlight, we’ve put together this Impact Report to track some of our favourite bits of the year, from student-led campaigns to events across the globe.”

Ahtesham, Mollie, Mike, Derrick and Jess
(Executive Officer Team 2017/18)



De Montfort Students’ Union (DSU) is an independent, student-run and student-led organisation. We’re here to represent your academic interests, involve and inspire you to make the most of your time at De Montfort University (DMU).

Every single student that enrolls at DMU automatically becomes a member of DSU; and that means you have access to all of the wonderful services, facilities and activities that we offer.

University is not only about education, but also developing and shaping your future through the experiences and memories you create. DSU is here to help you achieve this!

We know that coming to uni is expensive, so we take great pride in being a non-profit organisation (and we’re actually a registered charity). That means every penny spent in the union is reinvested back into making our services and events awesome and affordable.

In 2017/18, we delivered this through our mission and core values to...



At the start of this academic year, we found out we had been named as one of the top 10 students’ unions in the UK as per the National Student Survey (NSS).

The hugely influential survey, which is sent out to every final-year student, ranks students’ unions across the country on

how well we represent your academic interests – and in 2017, our members scored us at 68% (against a sector average of 57%).

We used this to launch into a fantastic 12 months at DSU, which you can read more about in this Impact Report.

OFFICER TEAM

Our Officer Team for 2017/18 was made up of five full-time executive officers and seven part-time liberation representatives, including our first ever Postgraduate Representative;



Our staff team – headed by our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – supported them to achieve their goals and help make DMU the best it can be for everyone.

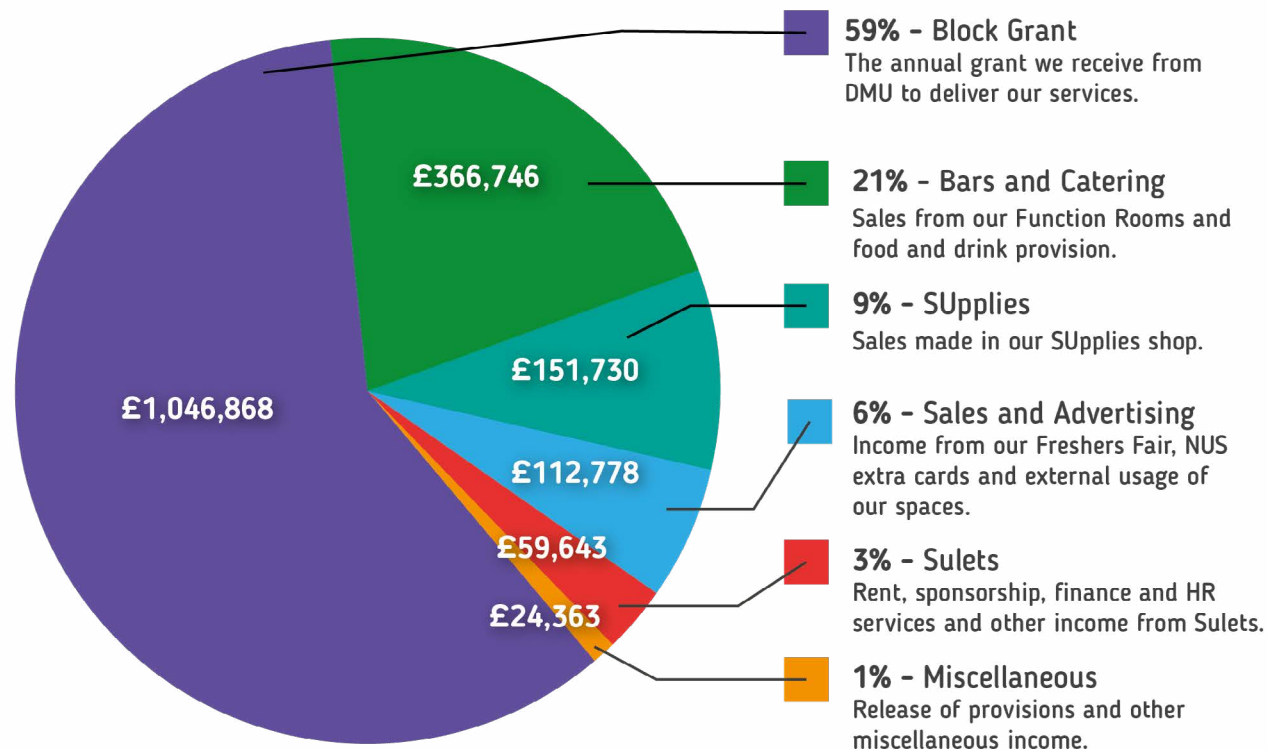


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During this financial year, DSU operated on a budget of just over £1.762million. 59% of this was made up of a block grant from the university, with a further 36% from our Commercial Services plus other contributions.

INCOME

*Every penny
of profit is
reinvested
back into you*



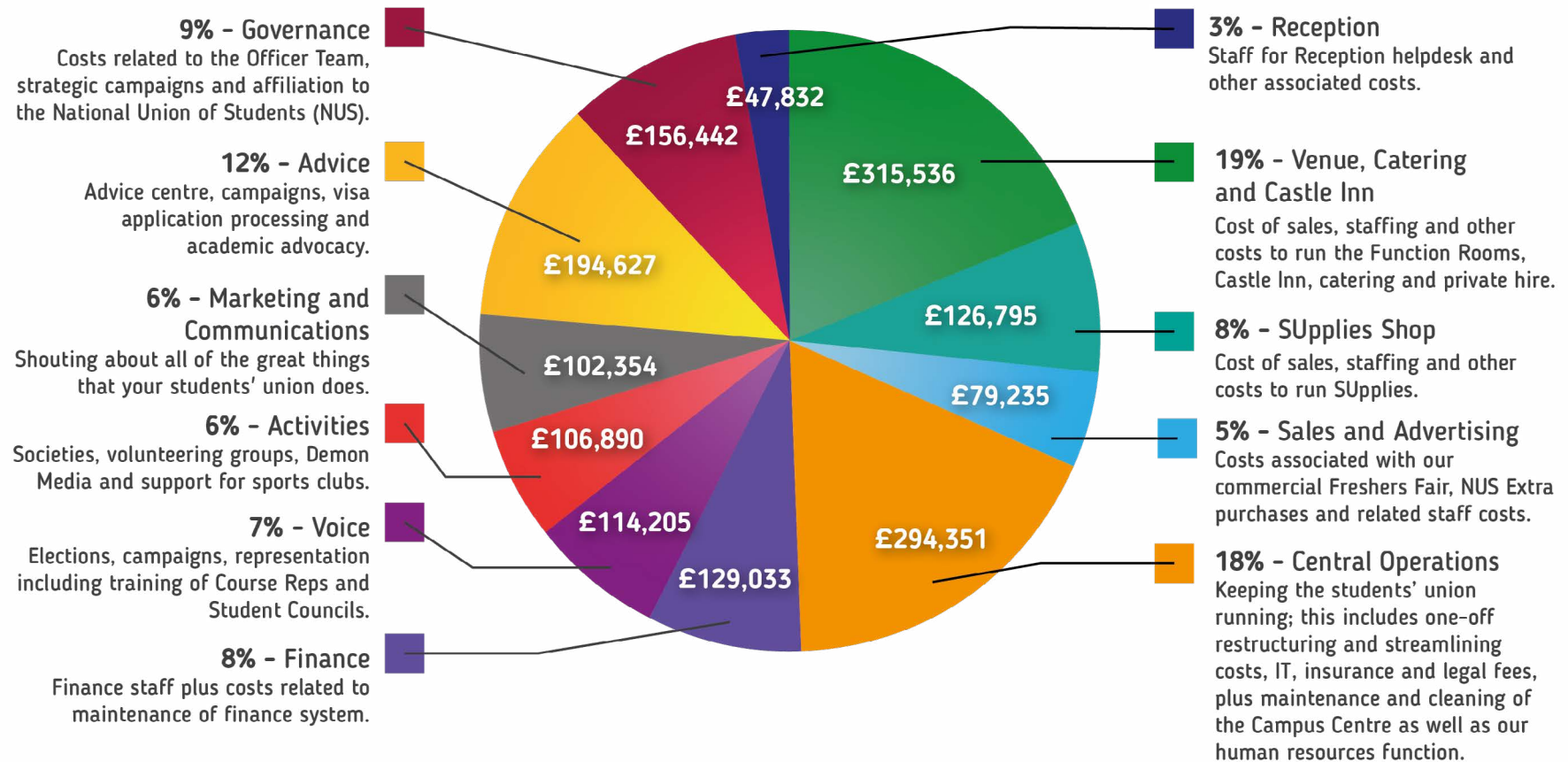
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Every penny of profit we make from our commercial services – including Supplies and SU’s Diner – is reinvested back into the students’ union to help us deliver a great quality service and opportunities for everyone at DMU.

During 2017/18 we were also supported by a block grant of £1.047 million from the university. Here’s where that money was spent;

Every penny
of profit is
reinvested
back into *you*

OUTGOINGS



FRESH FEST 2017

We kicked off the new academic year with #FreshFest17, which was our series of events to both welcome the newest students to DMU, and welcome back our existing members.

International Welcome Week, designed especially for international students new to DMU and the UK, ran from Friday 15 to Friday 22 September, and our Freshers Week took place between Friday 22 September and Sunday 1 October with a tonne of day and night events.

Manchester-born grime MC Bugzy Malone headlined our #FreshFest17 Opening Party at the O2 Academy, while Tom Zanetti and K.O Kane were top of the bill for our #FreshFest17 Freshers Ball at the Athena. Other events included films on the Vijay Patel-Iy, freebies galore at Freshers Fair, ColourFest on Bede Park and trips to places like the Harry Potter Studio Tour and Twycross Zoo.



Activities Fair, taking place in the university's QEII Leisure Centre for the first time, saw thousands of students sign up to our sports clubs, societies, volunteering groups and Demon Media (but more on all of them later).

Our team of Freshers Reps – made up of students who have been there and done it all before – were also on hand to help our newest members settle into life at uni, through helping us deliver events and being on hand to answer questions from students, families and friends.



#FreshFest2017 | Impact Report 2017/18


VOICE

Our Officer Team delivered a number of campaigns throughout the year, from an expanded Black History Month to cheaper printing and our first ever DSU Question Time.




AHTESHAM MAHMOOD
President

Opened up our Campus Centre home to give more space for work on the DMU campus with The DSU Study Space



MOLLIE FOOTITT
DP Education

Successfully lobbied for the university to roll out exam feedback to all students for the first time after a pilot in 2017/18



MIKE MAYES
VP Media and Communications

Saved students almost £200,000 this year by lobbying to reduce the cost of printing across campus



DERRICK MENSAH
VP Student Activities

Provided opportunities for hundreds of students to socialise on campus and increase their sense of belonging with the first Faculty Championships



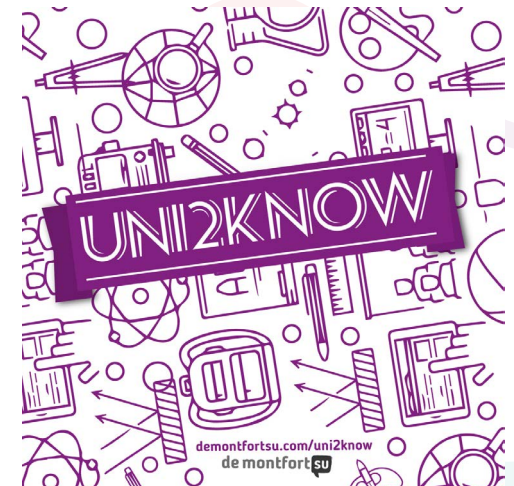
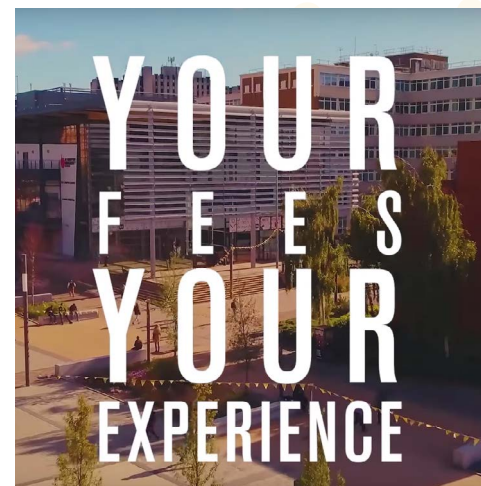
JESSICA OKWUONU
VP Welfare and Community

Partnered up with Leicestershire Police and Drinkaware to keep our members safe on nights out and raise awareness of excessive drinking

To help you keep track, we introduced our Wins of the Week video series to give you quick updates on what our Officer Team got up to.

Other notable campaigns included Your Fees, Your Experience from Mike, shedding light on exactly how your tuition fees are spent at DMU, The DSU Study Space in the Campus Centre courtesy of Ahtesham and Mollie's #Uni2Know project to communicate exactly what academic offences are and how you can avoid committing them.

DSU also held Scrutiny Panels for the first time in 2017/18, meaning students asked detailed questions about funding, campaigns and progress on manifesto pledges of all five full-time executive officers.



VOICE

At a course level, we also worked with a total of 297 Course Reps across all four faculties, and a wide range of courses that touched every corner of DMU. We equipped those student leaders with everything they needed to represent your academic interests through Course Rep Training and other sessions throughout the year.



ACTIVITIES

During this year, we supported more than 170 student groups, from sports clubs like American Football and Volleyball, to societies like Acapella and the Vegetarian and Vegan Society... and that's not to mention the ever-present Demon Media, plus hundreds of volunteering opportunities that we enabled both across the city and beyond.



Collective
ACTION



We trained close to 300 student leaders at our annual Activities Training Conference – moved to April after feedback from students – with support from key partners at the university. The theme of ‘creating a more inclusive student experience’ was delivered to committee members from almost 100 of our sports clubs and societies and makes this our biggest Activities Training Conference to date.

We also launched our Student Leaders’ HQ; a dedicated space on the DSU website for committee members to access key information, forms and other training resources at any point during the year. This has also enabled us to update some of our key processes and help our student leaders focus on delivering a brilliant student experience.

Elsewhere our Activities Panel – led by VP Student Activities Derrick and made up of current MDU students – met on a monthly basis to discuss student group development and approve new groups and funding bids. In total, 24 new student groups were created during the year, and funding was awarded to projects like the Sikh Society’s Langar – where they fed 300 members of the university and wider community – and the PhD Society’s network which aims to develop and improve the experience for PhD students at DMU.

We also saw our biggest Student Group Elections ever in March and April, when 678 students were elected into committee positions via our online Elections hub through thousands of votes.

SUPPORT

Being there to help, support and advise students at DMU is a massive part of what we do. Our free, confidential and independent Advice service dealt with 5,361 queries, covering;

- course-related queries (extenuating circumstances, appeals, complaints, disciplinarys and Fitness to Practice investigations);
- immigration (Tier 4 and other visa applications);
- private-sector housing (contracts, disrepair and deposit disputes);
- and finance (Student Finance, budgeting and debt management).



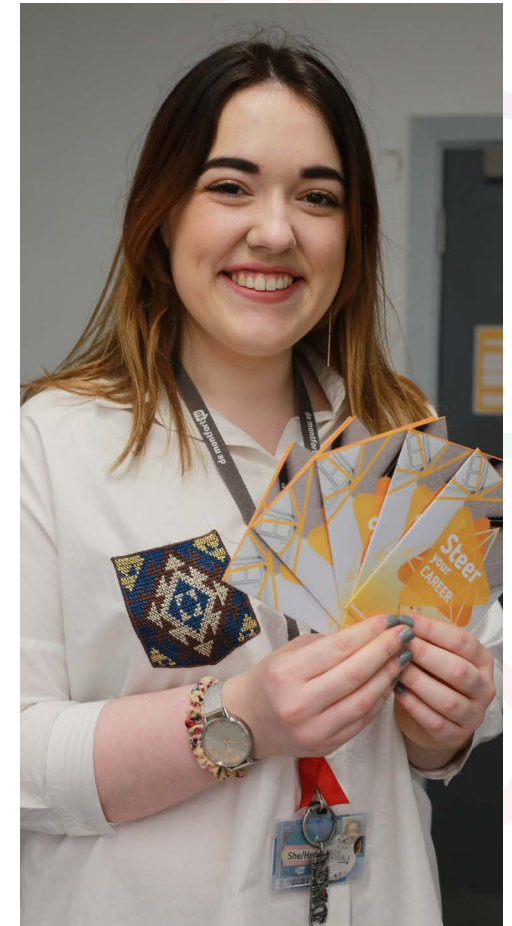
Support | Impact Report 2017/18

Our advisers also assisted students to gain a collective £91,667.44 from a range of sources including Student Finance, charitable funds and other refunds. Plus, students falling behind with tuition fee payments were assisted to negotiate payment plans before being removed from university.

Elsewhere, hundreds of students utilised our Student Sexual Health Clinic, provided in partnership with NHS CHOICES. This provides sexual health screenings and pregnancy testing as well as free contraception for students.

Jess also spearheaded the I Heart Consent campaign with a number of different activities through the year, including selling T-shirts – with all proceeds going towards associated charities – and delivering bystander training to students in partnership with the university's Mandala Project.

Hundreds of students shaped their future careers in April with Mollie's Steer Your Career Conference. The event pulled in experts from the private sector, 'third' sector, and in-house experts at DMU to deliver sessions on topics as diverse as mindfulness, psychometric testing, and planning for life after university.



LIFE

We're committed to providing you with everything you need to enjoy your uni life. Whether that's through our bars and restaurant, our Supplies shop, or our day and night events, we try to offer something for everyone.



In May, hundreds of students descended on Leicester City's King Power Stadium to celebrate the end of the year at our Summer Ball.

The evening – sponsored by Sulets and hosted by our Officer Team – looked back on the highlights of an action-packed 12 months spent representing your academic interests at DMU, and also recognised the achievements of those members who have contributed to the student experience during 2017/18.

The full list of awards presented on the night included;

- Most Improved Student Group – Cocktail Society;
- Campaign of the Year – #SeeTheInvisible (Demi Rixon);
- Volunteer of the Year – Elizabeth Stokes;
- Raise and Give (RAG) Award – Liberal Democrat Society;
- Cultural and Faith Group of the Year – International Society;
- Best New Student Group – Neurodiversity Society;
- Course Rep of the Year – Kate Askew;
- Student Rep Coordinator (SRC) of the Year – Michelle Roberts;
- Society of the Year – Salsa Society;
- Sports Club of the Year – Running;
- Unsung Hero – Aashni Sawjani; and DSU Personality of the Year – Lauren Thomas.



Elsewhere, we cut the ribbon on a new micro-pub in one of the most historic areas of Leicester towards the end of the year.

The Castle Inn, located on Castle View next to Leicester Castle Business School, sits within the walls of the former Leicester Castle and serves DSU's own beer – Castle

Inn Pale Ale – as produced by Framework Brewery.

After investment from the university, the space will now be used as a micro-pub open to staff, students and private guests – breathing new life into the building last used as an antique shop in the 1990s.



Our Officer Team also worked in partnership with #DMUglobal to offer additional evening activities on mass trips to New York, Hong Kong and Berlin – enhancing the student experience up to 6,000 miles from home.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

demontfortsu.com

 /demontfortstudents  @demontfortsu  demontfortsu

 demontfortsu  LoveDSU

Charity Number: 1138587