



CHESTER
STUDENTS'
UNION

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

"There is plenty to shout about and celebrate in this year's CSU Impact Report. This year, our focus has been centred on growth, collaboration, and most importantly, increased engagement with our wonderful student members. I'm delighted to showcase all the work that our dedicated staff and officer teams have been doing for, and with, our student community.

A particular highlight has been involving students directly in shaping our new strategy for 2025–2030, launching this August. Their voices have been central to defining our priorities for the next five years, ensuring our work reflects the needs and aspirations of our community, and I know the whole team are looking forward to the future with renewed optimism, energy, and purpose.

For me personally, it's the way our officers and staff have worked collectively to build strong, positive relationships with our student members and productive partnerships with university staff that gives me the greatest satisfaction.

I will end by saying the successes we celebrate in this report are just the beginning for our Union - we are ambitious and, guided by our shared values of being a proactive, collaborative and inclusive student led organisation, have lots more exciting opportunities ahead."

Jamie Morris, CEO



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

“As President of Chester Students’ Union, it’s my absolute privilege to reflect on the achievements and progress we’ve made over the past year. This report captures a short snippet of some of the impact we’ve had, along with the energy, commitment, and passion of our student community.

This year we have worked hard to shape the direction of the Union to ensure that every student voice is heard and valued. Our purpose has, and always will be, to be the critical friend to the university to ensure every student gets the most out of their university experience whilst building on our own initiatives to strengthen the student community.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to being proactive, collaborative and inclusive in all our work so we can create meaningful change. We know there’s more work to be done, but CSU will always be a place of action, and our unwavering commitment to being unapologetically for the students will never stop.

Thank you for being part of our journey.”

Lily Watson, President



DEMOCRACY

This academic year we elected 6 Student Council representatives in our October By-Elections, increasing the filled seats to 11. These part-time Officers attended 4 meetings throughout the year, bringing your feedback directly to CSU and mandating actions for the full-time Officer team to take. They also voted to rename themselves Union Assembly for the 25/26 academic year.

Elections

Our Student Leader Elections in Spring elected both the Full-time and Part-time Officers for the 25/26 academic year. We had a whopping twenty-six candidates over these roles, and 15.1% of the student body voted in the election, up 4% from the previous year.

Elections this year included workshops and information sessions, a giant Millie the cat mascot, a hilarious (and effective) comms plan, pop-up stalls across all campuses and, of course, some unique and clever campaigning from candidates!

**Total number
of voters
increased by
50%**

**15% voter
turnout in
Spring
Elections**

**15,340 votes
cast in
Spring
Elections**

**45%
increase in
by-election
votes**



**5 new
Student
Voice
Partners
recruited**

**333 Student
Voice Reps
recruited and
180 trained**

2024/25 saw the introduction of a new Student Voice Partners scheme.

These five paid student leader roles were recruited at School level within the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, with the aim of collecting student voice and feedback from Student Voice Representatives. They then ensure actions are taken and feedback loops are closed. These SVPs also gained valuable leadership skills and regular one to one support with our Student Voice Coordinator. The trial proved successful and aims to roll out further next academic year.

1839 Awards

We hosted our final staff and student 1839 Awards in its current format. This was a great success which saw students and university staff coming together to celebrate the incredible achievements of our University community.

Next year, we will be combining the student leader element of the 1839 Awards with our existing Society Awards to create a brand-new student focussed award and celebration ceremony.



Societies

We have seen continuously strong growth in both the number of student-led societies, and their memberships, with 74 societies compared to 56 in 2023/24.

The most significant growth has been seen in the growth of our academic-based societies, such as Medicine Soc, Surgical Soc, and Economics Soc. These academic societies have played a key role in building connections and strengthening students' sense of belonging within their subject communities.



**74 affiliated
societies**

**1598 society
members**

**Exhausted the
society
development
grant to support
our societies**

**244 students
in leadership
roles**



Society Awards

In May, we hosted our last annual Society Awards in its current format at the Queens Hotel in Chester. The event recognised and celebrated the outstanding successes of the extracurricular activities our societies achieved throughout the year.

Society+

We introduced **Society+**, our points award system to award our incredible societies for their contributions to, and engagement with, CSU and our community. At the end of the year, the society with the most Society+ points is awarded the prestigious title of Society of the Year!

CRAGS won Society of the Year for 2025/2025, and each and every single one of our 74 societies received points in the Society+ scheme. We're excited for the awards system to continue into the next year.

374
nominations in
Society
Awards

1700+ points
awarded in
Society+


Events

With an expanded Welcome Week timetable, we saw attendance at our events rise to 6,375 students, up from 2,287 in 2023/24. Students evidently enjoyed our refreshed programme of events, encouraging us to deliver a year-round calendar of events across campuses and centres, resulting in 8,641 total attendees over the year compared with 4,574 in 2023/24.


This growth shows the strong demand for community-building activities, and the role of CSU events in strengthening the student community, contributing to student belonging and engagement.



**8641
attendees at
CSU led
events**



**69% of attendees
said they made a
new friend at our
events**



**1325 attendees
at student led
events**



We also introduced a student-friendly appointment booking system which has led to a significant rise in both the number of students accessing support, and the positive feedback received.

Overall, our Advice Service managed 847 new cases and student enquiries by the end of July 2025, compared to 515 in the same period in 2023/24 – demonstrating both the growing demand for, and the effectiveness of, our Advice Service.

**663 advice
appointments**

**452 advice
cases**

**98% of users
would
recommend
the service to
a friend**

**705 students
supported
through UoC
Student facing
procedures**



PREVIOUS OFFICERS



Thank you to our 2024 Officer Team:

President: Lily Watson
VP Education: Adedayo
Adebisi
VP Student Life: Summer
Ainscough

"As always, our officer team remained committed to students last year running several initiatives to increase student engagement. Former VP Student Life, Summer, was instrumental in increasing our range of events, from quizzes in partnership with local businesses, to themed events to encourage our student community to come together.

Bringing our student community together didn't stop there, as previous VP Education, Adedayo, joined the NUS national campaign "No More Guarantors" that made it all the way to parliament, encouraging MP's to have meaningful discussions around student housing.

President Lily ran a Sexual Health and Guidance week that brought lasting impact to CSU and the wider student community, with Testing Kits for STI's and Condoms now being free and readily available for our students all year round.

A big thank you to Summer and Adedayo for all their work over the last year."

Lily Watson, President

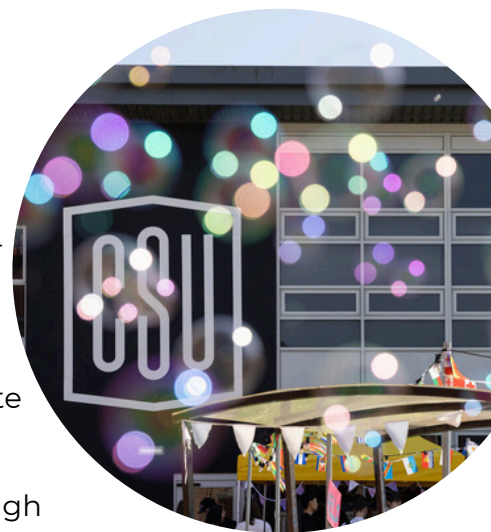
LOOKING FORWARD

In collaboration with our students, we are excited to have developed and launched our new 5-year strategy:

Vision: We want to empower every single student that studies at the University of Chester to thrive throughout their university journey and beyond.

Mission: To achieve this, we believe every student should experience the value of, and benefit from engagement with, Chester Students' Union, through...

- **Voice and Empowerment** - Sharing feedback and ideas, working in partnership with CSU to engage in decision making that leads to real change.
- **Community and Connection** - Establishing meaningful connections, building networks and making the most of opportunities through our societies and events.
- **Support and Advocacy** - Providing timely independent advice on academic, disciplinary and housing concerns to help students navigate challenges confidently
- **Personal Development** - Gaining and enhancing valuable skills through participation in campaigns, committees and CSU led activities and training opportunities





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