

## AUTUMN EDITION

### WELCOME

#### to all new and returning UCEN Manchester students!

Freshers' Week 2019 was five days of events, including three BBQs, a coffee morning, a pub quiz and the big Freshers' Fair with live music and over 20 stalls from businesses in and around Manchester. What did you get up to? Share your Freshers' story with your Student Voice Coordinator, Jen, and feature online in the student blog or the next student newsletter.

Email: [jroberts@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:jroberts@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)



## WELCOME BBQ

It was burgers galore at the Welcome BBQs across Openshaw, Fielden and The Arden campuses.



**The BBQ was a great opportunity to get to know new students and promote the SU Officer roles for the year ahead!**

Sam Lowe, Students' Union President



## FRESHERS' FAIR

The main event in the Freshers' Week calendar is the Freshers' Fair that this year descended in festival theme at live comedy venue, Frog & Bucket. With two floors of stall holders, a free flowing bar and freebies to be had, students were quick to snap up some great deals and chat to the companies present. The Gym Group, BiPhoria, V-Revs, Fab Café, HOME, Contact Theatre, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and many more came along to share giveaways and discount vouchers.

Students also received a free thermos lined lunch bag, supporting the Students' Union campaign against single use plastics!



A HUGE thank you to all those who supported events throughout Freshers' Week! You provided new students with advice and guidance with lots of energy and enthusiasm, giving them a great start to the year!

Don't forget to share your experiences and photos on social media by tagging the SU and including the hashtag #SUwelcome

STU TMC | @tmcsu | @tmcsu

If you missed Sam and his SU Officers at the BBQs, visit a drop in session or contact him on [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)

# PASSING THE BATON - A LOOK AT THE STUDENT'S UNION

Our current Students' Union President, Sam Lowe, will be handing the presidential baton to his successor, in Spring 2020, after completing two-years as SU President. Sam says...

"In spring, the Students' Union will be looking for a new Students' Union President and SU Officers who will work alongside their studies. Each of the roles are for one year, with the possibility to be extended to two years. They offer valuable experience and help students to increase their employability skills, with bespoke training and 1:1 mentoring from staff in a similar field. You will also receive a free Students' Union hoodie and the opportunity to attend NUS Conferences around the country to represent the student body."

Sam will be recruiting for the full time and paid role of SU President from a 2020 Graduate, as well as current student volunteers as SU Officers.

Positions available:

1. Equality and Communities Officer
2. Head of Department of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
3. Welfare Officer
4. Member of Safeguarding Committee
5. Activities Officer
6. Communities and campaigns Officer
7. Employability and Enterprise Officer
8. Finance Officer
9. Secretary
10. Campus Officer

Think you have what it takes? Graduating next summer? Contact the SU with the role you are interested in and we will send you further information and details on how and when to apply: [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)



## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Join a Students' Union society (or create your own!)
- Become a writer for the student blog or submit stories for your quarterly newsletter
- Volunteer at SU events
- Campaign for change across ca\$mpus
- Buy your National Union of Students TOTUM card at [NUS.org.uk](https://NUS.org.uk) for access to discounts

Visit <https://conference.nusconnect.org.uk/> for more information and keep your eyes on the SU social media to see what they get up to!

[f](#) STU TMC | [t](#) @tmcsu | [i](#) @tmcsu

# SPOTLIGHTING STUDENT VOICE - HAVE YOUR SAY AS A STUDENT REP



Last year, Student Reps brought their feedback to the forefront, collaborating with staff to bring change to their course, campus and overall experience. The role of a Student Rep is vital for curriculum development, continuously working in partnership with the UCEN Manchester. At the Welcome BBQs and Freshers' Fair, established Student Reps met with new students to talk about how their role takes shape and to recruit for the year ahead.

"It's fantastic to see so many people wanting to join us and taking interest in the decisions that affect our student lives" said Student Rep, Kerry.



## STUDENT REP TRAINING DAY

We had a great time at our Student Rep Training day in October. It was great to meet our new reps and have NUS President, Zamzam Ibrahim, join us.

## STUDENT VOICE

*What is student voice? Student voice are opinions expressed by students regarding their education and experience; including learning opportunities, assessment and feedback, academic resources and support, student community and overall satisfaction.*

We'd like to introduce you to some of the key people here at UCEN Manchester, starting with your Student Voice Co-ordinator, Jen Roberts: Jen champions the voice of students through Student Reps and the Students' Union. She trains and liaises with Student Reps in regular forums, both online and in person. Jen also provides support to the development of the Students' Union with its campaigns, mentoring schemes and events such as Freshers' Week. Jen is also the editor of the UCEN Manchester Student Newsletter, it's the place for you to share stories within your student community. Get in touch if you'd like to be featured in the next newsletter!



Next, is Sam Lowe, Students' Union President:

Sam is our Students' Union President and recent graduate of UCEN Manchester's Arden School of Theatre. Sam aims to make your student experience the very best it can be, and help you to get involved in student life through the Students' Union. Sam began his journey as a Student Rep, offering feedback and new ideas to improve the student experience, as well as representing UCEN Manchester at local and national events as a Student Ambassador. Sam is a regular contributor to the student newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled for the SU corner!



## STUDENTS' UNION CORNER BY SAM LOWE

Your students' Union President, Sam, has been out and about on campus recruiting to the SU Officers, we caught up with him to see how he's settling in!



Hello and a warm welcome to all new and returning students from your SU. I hope you enjoyed your Freshers' Week as much as we did! It was great to meet so many of you to chat about becoming Student Reps, Students' Union Officers, joining or creating a society, as well as supporting the campaigns.




Huge thanks to everyone involved in making the first week of the year so much fun! Thank you also to Frog & Bucket for being great hosts for our main fair.

If you couldn't make it to an event and would like to get involved in with the Students' Union, please email us at [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk) at any time!

Also, don't forget to get your Totum Card. Totum replaces the NUS extra student discount card, which offers over 200 UK discounts to use at home and abroad. There's also an app to download too.

DID YOU KNOW...not only do you save money when purchasing a card, but you are also adding to the Students' Union income for student benefits. If you haven't already, get one now by visiting [totum.com](http://totum.com)

**Follow our social media channels for updates, news, events, and campaigns happening on your campus:**

 [STU TMC](#) |  [@tmcsu](#) |  [@tmcsu](#)

## FOOTBALL TRAINING

### Join the men's football team in the BUCS League!

**WHEN:** Tuesdays 4pm-6pm

**WHERE:** Nicholls Football Centre

Lace up your boots and represent UCEN Manchester as part of the football team, competing against other centres of higher education from across the country in the British University and Colleges Sport (BUCS) league.

Trials for the team took place in September, at the Nicholls Community Football Centre of Excellence, however, it's never too late to get in touch.

The team is led by the Students' Union, which makes it your chance to fly the flag for your fellow students as the squad look to improve on several encouraging performances last season.

**Find out more by emailing [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)**



# LEADING THE WAY

Lorna Whittaker, first year Special Effects Makeup Artistry student at Fielden campus, joined UCEN Manchester feeling nervous about the academic writing side of higher education. One month in Lorna is Student Rep of her class and feeling much more supported, following the Freshers' Week Future U guidance and BBQ, whereby over 300 students were joined by support services available to all students. Pick up your Future U Handbook on campus today with guidance on:

- Careers, Employability, Guidance & Welfare
- Library Services
- Student Voice
- Academic Support
- Health & Wellbeing
- Progression



On starting my course, I felt confident in my ability on the practical side of makeup, as I already work in the makeup industry. However, the academic writing side was quite daunting for me, as I struggle with dyslexia. Dyslexia has always been a barrier to my learning and a huge challenge for me that became an issue during my first week of learning, when I realised how much written work there is and how it's expected to be presented for a degree. So I spoke to my Head of Department and tutors and attended the Future U induction presentation. I need not have worried! The support available increased my confidence immensely - so much so, that I am now one of the Student Representatives for my year! The pastoral care offered has given me the boost and motivation to face the next three years at UCEN Manchester, knowing that I have the support that I need to get me through my studies.

Lorna Whittaker, First year Special Effects Make Up Artistry Student



The Arden

WATERSIDE  
THEATRE

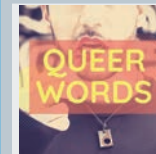
UCEN  
MANCHESTER  
FIND YOUR FUTURE

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

WINTER TERM

NOVEMBER 14TH & 15TH  
2:30PM & 7:30PM

BA (HONS) DANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
YEAR 3



Waterside Theatre  
Tickets: £8 / £5

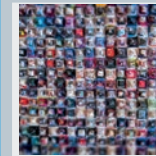
### Queer Words

*Directed and Choreographed by Johnny Autin*

Performed by the exceptional third year dance and performance students at the Arden School of Theatre, 'Queer Words' is a bold, provocative and multidisciplinary performance. Combining storytelling, spoken word, dance and physical theatre, Queer Words investigates toxic ideals and the crisis of masculinity at an open mic night. Brutally honest, darkly funny and at times controversial – Autin is tackling a culture of violence and insecurities with sketches about personal stories around the male perspective, feminism, gender inequalities, and homophobia. You'll be sure to enjoy an epic, vibrant 45 minute outspoken slice of pride, activism, and courage.

NOVEMBER 21ST & 22ND  
2:30PM & 7:30PM

BA (HONS) THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE  
YEAR 2



Waterside Theatre  
Tickets: £8 / £5

### TaPestries 2019

*Directed by Wayne Steven Jackson and Aiden Lee Brooks*

A double bill of performance work from our second year students, fresh from a North West tour.

For TaPestries, ten items were provided as stimuli with which to create new contemporary performance. In secret, two separate groups had the task of weaving the unconnected items together and the resulting shows are sure to be excitingly diverse.

DECEMBER 5TH & 6TH  
2:30PM & 7:30PM

BA (HONS) MUSICAL THEATRE  
YEAR 3



Waterside Theatre  
Tickets: £10 / £8

### Urinetown

*Directed and Choreographed by Tim Flavin, Musical Direction by Robert Purvis*

In a Gotham-like city, a depletion of the earth's water has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The privilege to use the facilities is regulated by a single company that profits by charging admission. Amid the people, a hero has risen who will lead them to freedom.

Broadway and West End critics praised the reinvention of what a musical should be. With a script that is full of hilarious twists, and a score that ranges from beautiful ballads to rousing anthems, this is a wickedly funny and engrossing tale of ecological disaster and corporate greed that will have you cheering in the aisles..

All show times are correct at the time of print.

Please check the online box office for the most up to date information

Tickets can be purchased from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/tmc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tmc)

# MEET THE STUDENTS' UNION EXECUTIVE FOR 2019-2020

INTRODUCING YOUR

## STUDENTS' UNION OFFICERS



**SAM LOWE**  
Student's Union President



**SHANIA STANTON**  
Equality and Diversity Officer



**BRIGET UZODINMA**  
Welfare Officer



**JOEL FLETCHER**  
Sports and Activities Officer



**ELLIE SAMMER**  
Communications and Campaigns Officer

**TOBY WILSON**  
Openshaw Campus Officer

**JESS DRAPER**  
Shena Simon Campus Officer

**CONTACT US**  
[SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)  
 Stu TMC  
 @tmcSU  
 @tmcSU



**DON'T FORGET**  
TO BRING IN YOUR  
**REUSABLE**  
**BOTTLE AND**  
**COFFEE CUP!**

Email [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk) to join our Single Use Plastics Campaign



# “REDUCE, REFUSE, REUSE!” DISPOSING THE IDEA OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Last year, the SU launched a campaign to go single use plastic-free on campuses, eliminating as many single use plastics as they can.

What is single use plastic? Generally, single use plastic are things like disposable cutlery, coffee cups, straws etc. They are either designed to be used for one time by the consumer before they are thrown away or recycled, or likely to be used in this way.

Last academic year, Sam chaired two round table meetings with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and representatives from the NUS and Greater Manchester Colleges and Universities. This resulted in them publically endorsing this pledge...



**Pledge:** To work together towards a shared vision of eradicating avoidable single-use plastics from catering, labs and stationery across Greater Manchester Universities, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and Further Education Colleges by 2022. This is part of a wider commitment to lead the way on sustainability and achieve carbon neutral campuses across Greater Manchester by 2038.



## Having your student voice heard:

The campaign began when the SU met with the Catering team and worked in partnership to eradicate plastic cutlery, replacing it with wooden, as well as introducing compostable food packaging across all sites. The catering team are now 80% single use plastic free in their department - this is a great milestone in the campaign!

Ellie (Communications and Campaigns Officer) has a lot of ideas to promote environmental and sustainability issues this academic year.

## Did you know?

- 1 million plastic bottles are sold every minute!
- Half a million straws are used every day!
- 7 million tons of plastic ends up in the sea every year!
- For every 300 million tons of plastic produced, less than 10% is recycled!
- Over 100 million marine animals alone die slowly due to plastic debris every single year!
- 91% of plastic isn't recycled!
- Plastic bottles, bags, straws, stirrers, lids and cutlery take 450-1000 years to decompose!
- Micro-plastics in the ocean travel up the food chain. The health risks are potentially severe.

Voice your thoughts and get involved by emailing [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)





# SUCCESS FOR ALUMNUS JACK

Jack Eke, a BA Creative Media and Visual Communication alumni, has found his studies led him down a rewarding career path.

Having lived with a life-long speech impediment, Jack was inspired by the work he saw at the '4Designers' conference, a gathering of hundreds of UK and international students, where four speakers explain their different approaches to graphic design, and their route into industry.

He began his own self-directed project with the help of his personal tutor to create a clothing line with a big message that reflected his own identity.

His clothing brand 'Overt' was intended to directly address inconsiderate behaviour towards those with a stutter.

Jack said: "It annoys me the way people respond to my stutter. I wanted to bring an awareness to the cause and show how people with a stutter feel."

Jack is now approaching The McGuire Programme with the intention of promoting his project. The charity works with people to manage their speech impediments and helped Jack to control his stutter.

This innovative project saw Jack gain a first class honours and gave him the

confidence to pursue an incredible placement at MingFeng Packaging in Switzerland.

During his placement, he shadowed Senior Vice President Scott Birtwistle and learned about packaging design, client handling and the interview processes. Jack has now developed a packaging project through the personalisation of his studies on the Practice-Based Research Unit.

**Well done Jack on congratulations on finding your future!**



## WORK, WORK, WORK!

### Student Ambassador Scheme

Become a Student Ambassador and take part in flexible paid work to support the Future U Progression team, at a wide range of events.

You will get:

- £8.40 an hour
- Sessional work, around your studies and other part-time work
- Full training for the role
- Excellent work experience and skills for your CV.

### WIFI - REMEMBER TO FORGET

- Only ever log on to 'TMC' and not 'TMC Guest'
- Go to your settings and forget the TMC network if it's showing
- Select it again and logon with your email address and network password
- If prompted, "Trust" the certificate
- Wait at least a minute for internet access (in the background, the WiFi system is talking to the firewalls to let you onto the internet). Then all internal network resources should work immediately unless the password is wrong. If you get any part wrong mid-way through, you need to start from the top.

# ASK SARAH

**Brand new for this year! Share your student life queries and questions with 'Sarah', the anonymous student who will answer honestly and openly as a genuine fellow UCEN Manchester student. Email: [SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk](mailto:SU@ucenmcr.tmc.ac.uk)**

**Dear Sarah...I work, alongside being a student. How do you manage your workload, especially around assessment time?**

I try to get as much work done as possible on campus, so that I have less to worry about when I get home. My class had similar concerns, so we decided to come together and form a small study group. We pick a day a week and we help each other through it. There is power in numbers and it's a great excuse to spend time productively with your friends. Plus, there's always time for a well-deserved drink after you're done! I understand and it can feel impossible to do all this work and have a job at the same time, so maximising the amount of course work you get done, when you have the time, is key. Where possible, I recommend getting a job with flexible working hours. This takes the pressure off you having to work during assessment weeks. Also, talking is important. Chat to your tutors and your employers if it's getting too much. Communication is essential so you don't burn yourself out.

**Dear Sarah...I'm graduating this year, but I don't know what to do next. Help!**

Congratulations on making it to the end! The bubble of student life is disappearing and stepping into the 'real world' can be daunting. However, preparation is key. As someone who has never prepared for a meal time, never mind the rest of my life(!), this can seem impossible. However, if you make an achievable list with achievable and well spread-out deadlines that you're able to commit to, you will be at a huge advantage by the time it comes to Graduation. Take time and care to prepare your CV and cover letters for potential jobs - this will be what gets your foot in the door, so make it a good one! It can be really frustrating when employers tell "you don't have enough experience" - because if no one will give you a job, how on earth are you supposed to get experience, right?! Combat that, by doing work experience in your final year and upskill. Employers love that stuff! There is also the Careers, Employability, Guidance and Welfare team (information in the Future U guide in the SU space on campus), so get in touch with them for direction. Most importantly, give yourself a pat on the back for getting this far!

**Dear Sarah...I'm in my first year and I'm struggling to make friends. I moved away from home and I feel very lonely. What can I do?**

Fear not. We're a friendly bunch here and usually, everybody wants mates - so I'm sure you will have some in no time. The best part about higher education and choosing your course, is that you're surrounded by people with similar interests straight away. However, there are a few things you can do. Some may seem daunting, but ultimately, you aren't going to be the only person who feels this way and the more you reach out, the more you'll unite with similar people.

3 top tips:

- Be brave and sit with new people at lunch
- Ask some of your group to go for a drink after class
- Join the Students' Union

The SU has different clubs and societies you can join, or you can start your own! Just don't be afraid to put yourself out there. You got this.

**UCEN**<sup>®</sup>  
MANCHESTER  
FIND YOUR FUTURE



**WEAR YOUR  
ID BADGE  
BE SAFE!**

All students must wear their ID badge while on campuses for safety and security.

Wear your ID and lanyard to show you're a student of UCEN Manchester.