



01582 743 221



help@bedssu.co.uk



www.bedssu.co.uk



@bedssu



@bedssu



/bedssu



Issue date - August 2021

Welcome to your Student Community

Your Students' Union membership guide

Welcome to Beds SU

All you need to know about your membership.

We are so glad you are joining us! We are Beds SU a not-for-profit charity operating independently from the university. We are your SU, run by students for students, offering a host of services and opportunities to help you navigate every aspect of university life.

Community

- Over 40 societies for you to explore, join or create your own
- Volunteering opportunities both in and around your student community
- Job opportunities that fit around your studies and commitments

Student Voice

- Shape your university experiences by giving feedback, online, in feedback forums or via the students who represent you
- Elected Student Reps are on hand to represent you on course, school and campus matters
- Alongside three Student Networks focused on championing the voice of students from historically disadvantaged groups

Events

- Regular events and activities (live and on-demand)
- Two social venues offering you a space to socialise

Advice

- Confidential and Impartial Advice and Support

We don't make any money from the services we offer, but on occasion there are some activities we have to charge a small fee for such as events. This money is invested straight back into services we provide for you here at the University of Bedfordshire.

www.bedssu.co.uk

Membership details:

On accepting your offer from the University of Bedfordshire, you automatically become a member of Beds SU! Your membership is free, and this guide offers a snapshot of all you need to know about us, from what we offer, how to contact us and most importantly how you can get involved. To save you from having to remember multiple passwords or accounts your Beds SU login details will be the same as the one you use to access your university accounts. You will be issued with your login details on the date you start university.

If you'd like to explore all we have to offer before you start including our societies or events head over to www.bedssu.co.uk and sign up for a 'New Student' account. We will move your details over to your main student account when you start.



Hello from your Co-Presidents

We are looking forward to starting this journey with you.

We are Laura Tamara and Quadri Yusuf, your elected Co-Presidents of Beds SU. Our role is to champion the voices of our student community here at the University of Bedfordshire (UoB), with our core focus being education, academic and learning matters.

We will do this alongside your two elected Co-Vice Presidents of Campus Engagement and Equality, Dylan Cox and Catalina Nita who will focus their time and energy on enhancing our inclusive community across our campuses both within and outside our university. As your Executive team we are here to support you on any issue, concern or idea you may have, and we will be your voice on ensuring you get the very best experience here at UoB.

You join us at a really exciting moment, for the first time we, your Executive Officers, have been elected to dual roles to ensure greater gender representation across your Executive team. We are delighted to be taking on these new positions.

We know this past year has been challenging for everyone but as you start your university life you do so at a time when your SU has worked tirelessly to find new ways to support and grow our student community wherever you are based.

www.bedssu.co.uk


We have bases at both our Luton and Bedford campuses and a virtual presence across all campuses. Please check the website or social media channels for details on opening times.

Our advice is be brave, be curious, explore new opportunities be it joining a society, attending an event, putting yourself forward to represent your fellow students or getting involved with campaigns and new policies.

We look forward to meeting you very soon.

Quadri & Laura

 01582 743 221

 help@bedssu.co.uk

 www.bedssu.co.uk

 @bedssu

 @bedssu

 /bedssu



Exec Team 2021/22

Your elected Exec Officers are here to represent your academic interests and help you get the more out of your university experience. They will be in touch throughout the year, looking for your feedback and letting you know what they are working on in the interest of our student members.





Laura.Tamara@beds.ac.uk

Co-President

(Self-identifying Woman)

"Find your balance. Work hard on your studies and utilise the learning facilities. Also enjoy opportunities to socialise and have fun on campus. Engage, Connect, Have Fun."



Quadri.Yusuf@beds.ac.uk

Co-President

(Self-identifying Man/Non-binary)

"The key to success is consistency and never underestimate the power of networking."



Dylan.Cox@beds.ac.uk

Co-VP Campus Engagement & Equality

(Self-identifying Man/Non-binary)

"Join us today for the best university experience within a caring and fun-filled environment"



Catalina.Nita@beds.ac.uk

Co-VP Campus Engagement & Equality

(Self-identifying Woman)

"Learn how to deal with the unexpected, and never give up!"

Student Community

Explore a variety of extra-curricular activities available within your student community.

A key part of your university experience is finding new ways to meet like-minded people who share the same or similar passions or hobbies. There are a number of ways to do this from joining a society, participating in voluntary work or looking to join our student staff team.

Societies

We are proud to be home to a host of faith, academic, cultural and common interest/recreational societies run by students for students. Activities can range from speaker sessions with the Aviation society, charity bake off's and external speaker events with the Midwifery society, revision support from the Paramedic society to building social enterprises with the Enactus Bedfordshire society.

The past year has led to a lot of our societies having to meet in the virtual space, enabling people from across campuses to come together. While we are looking forward to more face-to-face socials in the year ahead, we are hopeful opportunities to join some sessions virtually will continue, allowing more students to get involved in the hobbies or interests that matter to them.

www.bedssu.co.uk





www.bedssu.co.uk

Work With Us

As your SU we are also keen to ensure we offer a mix of paid and voluntary roles that enable you to get involved with becoming a champion for your student community or becoming a face of our venues through working as part of our front of house or bar teams.

If you are interested in getting involved in charity work then you will find a host of opportunities to do this too either through a society, or focused campaigns we, your SU, commit to supporting.

For more details on all our societies, job and volunteering opportunities head to our website.



Student Voice

Discover the variety of ways in which you can use your student voice.


At the heart of what we do is ensuring we give our students the opportunity to have their voices heard.

We want to hear your views on how your student experience is going at University, to your thoughts on topical nationwide student matters you feel we can support you on.

We have made a number of key changes in the past year to streamline the way in which you can feedback from sharing your comments online, attending forums or in person to the students that represent you.

While we are independent from the university, we work in partnership with them to improve your experience.

www.bedssu.co.uk



There are so many ways for you to have your student voice heard with us. You can put questions to your elected Exec Officers, either via email, in person or via Union Parliament, where you can also share your ideas and concerns or even propose new policies, start a campaign. You can also vote in our student elections and join a Student Network and play your part in creating lasting change for under-represented groups.

Student Networks

We have three specialist networks focused on raising awareness and championing change for students who are widely acknowledged to experience or have experienced oppression, exclusion or disadvantage:

- Students with Disabilities Network
- Black and Minority Ethnic Students' Network
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Plus (LGBT+) Students' Networks

These networks are run by individuals in your student community who have a passion for championing the voice of their fellow members. The networks are open to any student who self-identifies as having the characteristics. You can find out more details on how to join or attend events on the Beds SU website.



www.bedssu.co.uk

Campus Reps

Our team of dedicated Campus Reps are on hand to support you and help make changes for you and your campus. They are elected students who work closely with the Exec Officers to ensure students on all campuses get the most out of their student experience. You can contact your Campus Rep online or by attending a Campus Forum, as well as hearing from them via updates on the SU website.

Academic Reps

Our elected Academic Reps champion and support all students and we are proud to support them in representing you and your academic needs. Your Academic Reps are your fellow students, elected in these voluntary positions to support your Exec Officers in championing for change. They work in partnership with the SU and the University to enhance the experience of their fellow learners. You can contact them online or join a forum and this year you will hopefully get to meet them in person too.

Events

Offering events and activities for everyone.

Student life has been a little different over the past year. However, it has given us a great opportunity to invest more time and energy into offering a greater mix of events and activities to be enjoyed virtually and on-demand, allowing you to join in at a time that works for you.

We pride ourselves on catering for the needs of all our students from those looking for evening activities to those needing daytime socials. We are excited about the year ahead and getting back to being able to offer a mix of physical events to compliment out virtual activities from **live music** and **club nights**, **film** and **quiz evenings**, **keynote speakers** and **skills sessions** to **society** and **specialist group meet-ups**. There will opportunities to participate in events and activities day or night, wherever you are based so keep an eye on the website for more details.

Beds SU has bases at both the Luton and Bedford campuses, offering students access to two multi-purpose spaces. By day they offer a relaxing space to take time in between lectures and there are several evening events both weekly and monthly to enjoy. Both venues offer a wide range of beverages and food. We also partner with a number of local venues.

www.bedsu.co.uk



THE METRO BAR & KITCHEN

Situated on the first floor ('M' Mezzanine if taking lift) of our Luton campus, Metro is the place to head to meet with friends, day or night for a catch up or to listen to live music, participate in quizzes, specialist speaker sessions or enjoy one of our regular themed events. It's home to Starbucks coffee, a fully licensed bar and you can enjoy hot or cold food throughout the day.

Please keep an eye on the website for more details on Metro's opening times.



the hub

The Hub is our social space at our Bedford campus. It's the place to hang out with friends by day and enjoy regular evening quiz, film, and Club nights, including our popular themed events.

Please keep an eye on the website for more details on opening times.



www.bedssu.co.uk

Advice

We're here for you wherever you are.

Here at Beds SU we have a team of caring, dedicated individuals who are on hand to provide students with free, impartial and confidential advice and support on a variety of aspects of student life.

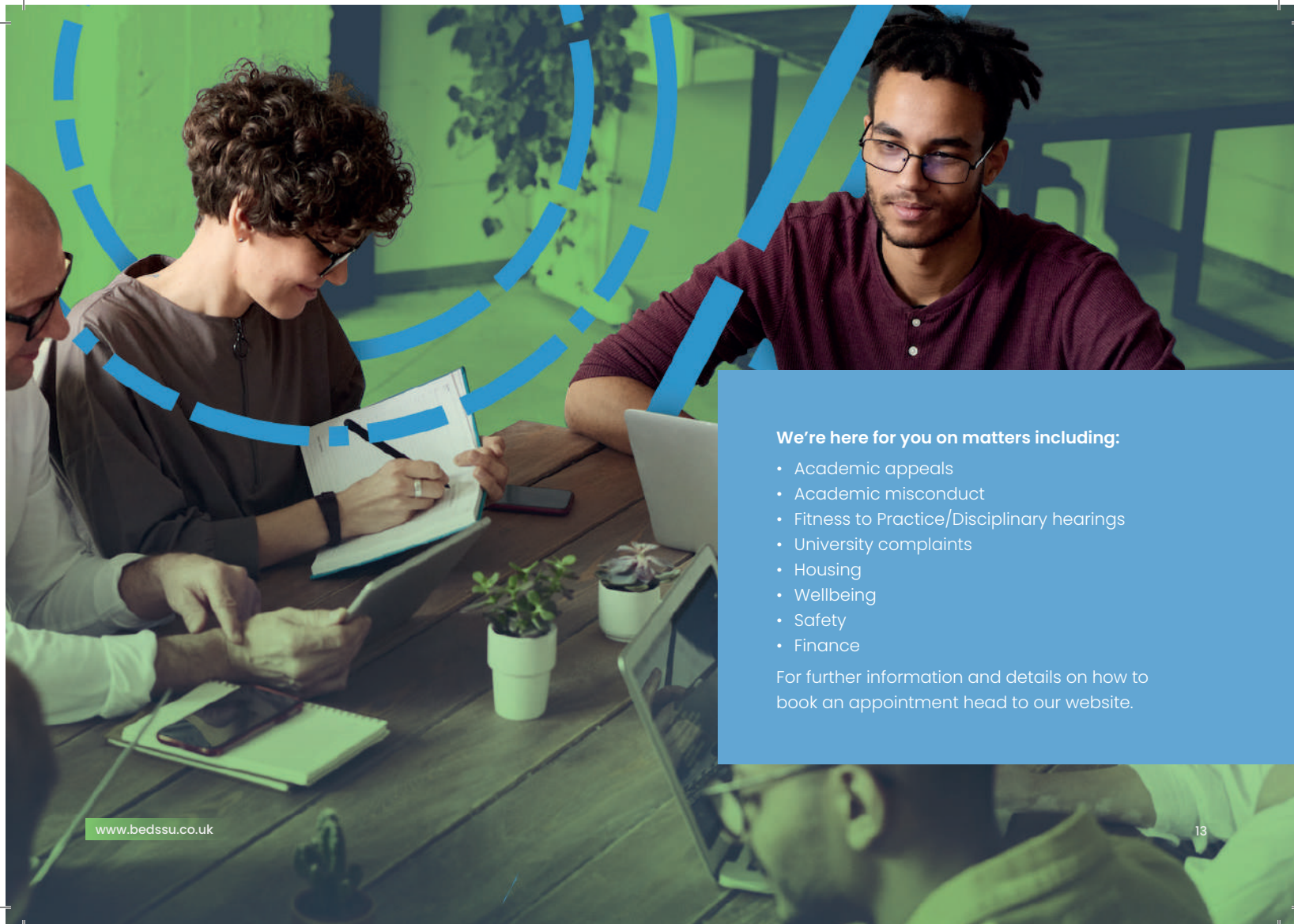
Our ambition is to educate and empower students. We want you to fully understand your rights around all aspects of your student experience and have the confidence to challenge issues.

You can reach us by phone, email, arrange a video call as well as access our growing library of advice related videos on the Beds SU YouTube channel.

We also work closely with a number of external organisations to ensure you have access to all the relevant advice and support you require. If you're not sure who to turn to, speak to Beds SU.

www.bedssu.co.uk





We're here for you on matters including:

- Academic appeals
- Academic misconduct
- Fitness to Practice/Disciplinary hearings
- University complaints
- Housing
- Wellbeing
- Safety
- Finance

For further information and details on how to book an appointment head to our website.

WELCOME

Head over to **welcome.bedssu.co.uk** for all the information you need to know about starting student life here at the Univeristy of Bedfordshire, including events, activities and where to go for help and advice.

welcome.bedssu.co.uk

www.bedssu.co.uk



HOUSING GUIDE

Whether you're moving in or simply moving around, take a look at our Housing Guide before you start your accommodation search to ensure you are clear on your rights.

Visit www.bedssu.co.uk to view the guide