



**greenwich  
students'  
union**



**BECOME  
YOUR BEST**

**GSU PLAN 2026**

# A NEW CHAPTER: BECOME YOUR BEST

I am both delighted and honoured to be the Greenwich Students' Union (GSU) President in the year that GSU launches its new strategic plan. I know first-hand how important student input has been to this plan, and that the staff team at GSU value its importance; not only in its contribution to shaping this strategy, but also in how they approach their work day-to-day.

GSU is run by and for its members, and the work planned for the next few years aims to honour that commitment to the utmost degree, embedding student input at the heart of Union activity ever-more resolutely. We rely on students' feedback, whatever its form, and are committed to encouraging our members to keep – or even, start – getting involved and having their say! We can and will only grow and evolve with their input as the guiding principle, and to this we are devoted.

I hope you enjoy what our new plan has in store!

Aatika Ayoub  
GSU President 2021/22



Aatika Ayoub



GSU Officer Team 2021/22 (left to right: Nele Leitolf, Zoë Campbell, Jabed, Aatika Ayoub)

At Greenwich Students' Union (GSU) we're proud to have made transformative change over the last few years by acting on your feedback and working with you - our members - to make our democracy more accessible, develop the quality and scope of our member services, improve our physical spaces and transform our communication methods.

Recently recognised as a Quality Students' Union, GSU now has an established physical footprint at our three campuses in Avery Hill, Greenwich and Medway, supported by our online spaces to platform us into the next five years.

This strategy sets our action plan that will take us into our next phase of development, ensuring you as members are able to shape future opportunities and services. Our role as your Students' Union is to continually evolve our offer for the members of today and future generations.

We have one goal by 2026; supported by GSU and our services, you will become your best at Greenwich and beyond.

Over the next five years we will unapologetically strive for equity in all that we do, and we promise to have your back to support and empower you on your journey through Greenwich.

We will focus our team and our time to represent your interests, working with you as members to ensure you have access to:

- The best quality and inclusive education.
- Develop skills to be life ready.
- Be the best you can be while they study.
- Find where you belong at Greenwich.
- Take actions to protect our planet together.

We will work as strategic partners with the University of Greenwich to represent your student interests and will be proactive with our partners at Medway.

We're proud to present our GSU Plan 2026 and look forward to working with you to shape GSU on our continued journey together.

John Schless      Uzma Arif-Fryer  
Chief Executive    Deputy Chief Executive



John Schless



Uzma Arif-Fryer

# BECOME YOUR BEST

GSU PLAN 2026



- Our Why
- Our Beliefs
- Outcomes
- Values
- What it's all about

**greenwich**  
**students'**  
**union**

📍 avery hill 📍 greenwich 📍 medway

## OUR VALUES



### EMPOWERING

We will empower our members with the information and skills they need to thrive. We will create together with students, so that they can develop their own communities and make the change they want to see.



### COURAGEOUS

We will take risks, be brave in our advocacy and push boundaries to challenge for positive change for our members today and in the future.



### INCLUSIVE

We will actively seek to remove barriers where they exist so that members can engage in any service at GSU and the University. We will ensure all voices are liberated, represented and celebrated.



### TRUSTED

We will be accountable for decisions that we make, which will be backed by our members needs. We will be a reliable delivery partner with legitimacy, always acting on the will of our members. We are the trusted voice of Greenwich students.



### APPROACHABLE

Members can engage with GSU wherever they are in the world. We will provide friendly spaces for everyone to come together and create communities. Our staff are always listening to members and each other, to remove barriers and provide great quality services.



Zhai Cortez - Inclusivity Consultant  
Second year student studying BA Politics and International Relations

# STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



November 2020

**PLANNING STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**



April-July 2021

**GSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES, UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BOARD, STAKEHOLDERS & VICE CHANCELLOR FEED IN**



December 2020

**GSU STAFF & OFFICERS ATTEND A VALUES WORKSHOP**



August 2021

**IDEAS ARE COLLATED AND THEMES BEGIN TO FORMULATE**



January 2021

**WORK STARTS WITH STRATEGY CONSULTANT FROM BAYES BUSINESS SCHOOL**



September 2021

**GSU STAFF DAY, ALL TEAMS CONTRIBUTE TO FIVE STRATEGIC THEMES**



February 2021

**REVIEWED RESEARCH ACROSS GSU, LOCAL & NATIONAL TRENDS**



October 2021

**STRATEGY IS WRITTEN UP, ALONG WITH A ONE YEAR OPERATING PLAN**



March 2021

**FORMED THE BIG IDEAS GROUPS WITH STAFF, STUDENT TRUSTEES & OFFICERS**



November 2021

**GSU PLAN 2026 SHARED WITH STAFF, OFFICERS & TRUSTEE BOARD FOR FINAL CONFIRMATION**



April 2021

**GSU OFFICER TEAM RAN CONSULTATION GROUPS WITH STUDENTS**

# BEST QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The University has outlined through 'This is our Time: Strategy 2030' their vision and focus to deliver Student Success at Greenwich. Our role at GSU is to be a strategic partner, representing your student voice and your academic interests to ensure you receive the best quality and inclusive education.

## OUR WORK:

Your student voice will be amplified through GSU led quality representation networks, democratic spaces and additional feedback opportunities, to gather your insight to advocate and campaign for high quality and change.

GSU will work with you and the University to ensure your teaching and learning is co-created and provides an inclusive and future-thinking curriculum that is person centred (e.g. use of digital etc).

We will deliver an independent, confidential and free education advice service that provides you with personalised advice on academic regulations and proactive support on welfare issues, so you feel empowered through your academic experience.

As a strategic partner to the University, we will be delivering services and commissioned projects to support you in the challenges and experiences you face. We will provide

constructive feedback and evidence-based challenge to ensure that your voice is heard and acted upon across Greenwich. In some cases we and the University may not agree and this is OK.

Campaigning for equality and lobbying for change based on your needs at a local, regional and national level will be evident throughout the work we do together.

Your elected Officers, representatives and student volunteers will be reflective of our diverse membership. They will be supported by a fair and transparent democratic framework and provided with high quality training to deliver their roles to the best of their abilities to represent you at Greenwich.

GSU is committed to ensuring liberation, equality, diversity and inclusion (LEDI) is incorporated into the design and access of your education at Greenwich.



Neha Ilyas - Inclusivity Consultant  
Third year student studying BA Business with Marketing

## LIFE READY

Studying at Greenwich is an exciting endeavour – it will be a formative experience for you and, for many, the biggest investment you will make. We believe that learning extends beyond the classroom, and we are here to empower you to gain skills and experiences during your time at Greenwich that prepares you for your future career and role in society when you leave University.

### OUR WORK:

GSU will provide you with jobs and volunteer opportunities - both physical and digital - in GSU services, outlets and enterprises that puts money in your pockets while you study.

The jobs and volunteer opportunities provided in GSU services and outlets will give you life ready skills required by future employers, with a focus on customer service, teamwork, managing money, and project management.

You will be able to confidently demonstrate the skills and practical experiences you've learnt taking part at GSU, and you will have built professional networks that will benefit you in the future.

You will have the opportunity to be active citizens at Greenwich, to shape and lead your SU and additional services through a range of active leadership opportunities which will prepare you for life after university.

We will work with partners in the local community and nationally to provide you with opportunities to learn new skills, meet like-minded individuals and make new networks.



Shalmali Jadhav - Liberation Organiser  
First year Masters student studying MBA International Business



Rebecca Bloomer - Liberation Network Organiser  
Second year student studying BSc Psychology

# BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

You have told us that maintaining good mental and physical health is fundamental during your time at Greenwich. There are many possible services and routes for support. We're committed to helping you navigate the best intervention for your needs, ensuring you're supported to achieve. We're also committed to work with you to influence, and in some cases provide, services and interventions that support you during your time at Greenwich.

## OUR WORK:

Our Advice Service will support you on your course and help you access onward support to keep you on track during your studies, by providing tailored independent, impartial, and confidential advice so that you can make informed decisions.

GSU will deliver proactive mental health and wellbeing campaigns, partnering with others to challenge stigmas and promote a positive dialogue about subjects that matter to you.

You will be involved in the design and set up of GSU and the University's physical and digital support services, wellbeing interventions and student focused policies to best address your needs as our diverse membership.

Space will be provided for our diverse communities so you can come together digitally and physically, make connections and friends to reduce loneliness, and improve your mental and physical wellbeing through sports and activities.

There will always be choice in our outlets for you, including cost effective healthy food options. Together we will promote the benefits of healthy eating and sustainable food practices.

Services and interventions that support you at Greenwich will be actively promoted together. We'll campaign for change to improve the support you receive from the University, in the community and from Government.



Salauddin Ibne Saife - Retention Project Ambassador  
First year student studying BEng Design, Innovation and Entrepreneurship



## FIND WHERE YOU BELONG

It can be daunting making friends and navigating new environments. At GSU we are here for you from your first day to your graduation to help with this. We will provide a varied programme of activity and services - physical and digital - that meets your needs, helps you find where you belong, and have fun during your time with us.

### OUR WORK:

Year-round opportunities will be provided for you to come together with like-minded people who share your passion or interest to meet, socialise and have fun at our three campuses. This will be through our activities, networks, societies, volunteering, democracy and sports programmes.

A dedicated team will be working with you to provide safe spaces for you to meet, debate, try new things, socialise and learn at each campus with your communities and academic networks.

GSU venues will provide day and night opportunities to socialise, meet and have fun. Our not-for-profit venues prioritise our membership.

GSU will ensure the opportunities, services and spaces are accessible to you and that we provide tailored, targeted offers for our communities including commuters, student parents, students with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ students and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students.

We will work with you to remove barriers to accessing activities, and our diverse membership will be listened to to help us shape future delivery.

Mihaela Ciobanu - Criminology Society President, Activities Committee Member  
Third year student studying BA Criminology and Criminal Justice



Sophie Woodger - Women's Liberation Network Chair  
Second year student studying BSc Psychology



Anand Bhupal Nagabhushan - Retention Project Ambassador  
First year Masters student studying MSc Engineering Management with Industrial Practice

# PROTECT OUR PLANET TOGETHER

You have told us that GSU must take action to protect our planet and act on the climate crisis. We are committed to learning, changing our practices and campaigning with you and future generations of students to protect our planet together.

## OUR WORK:

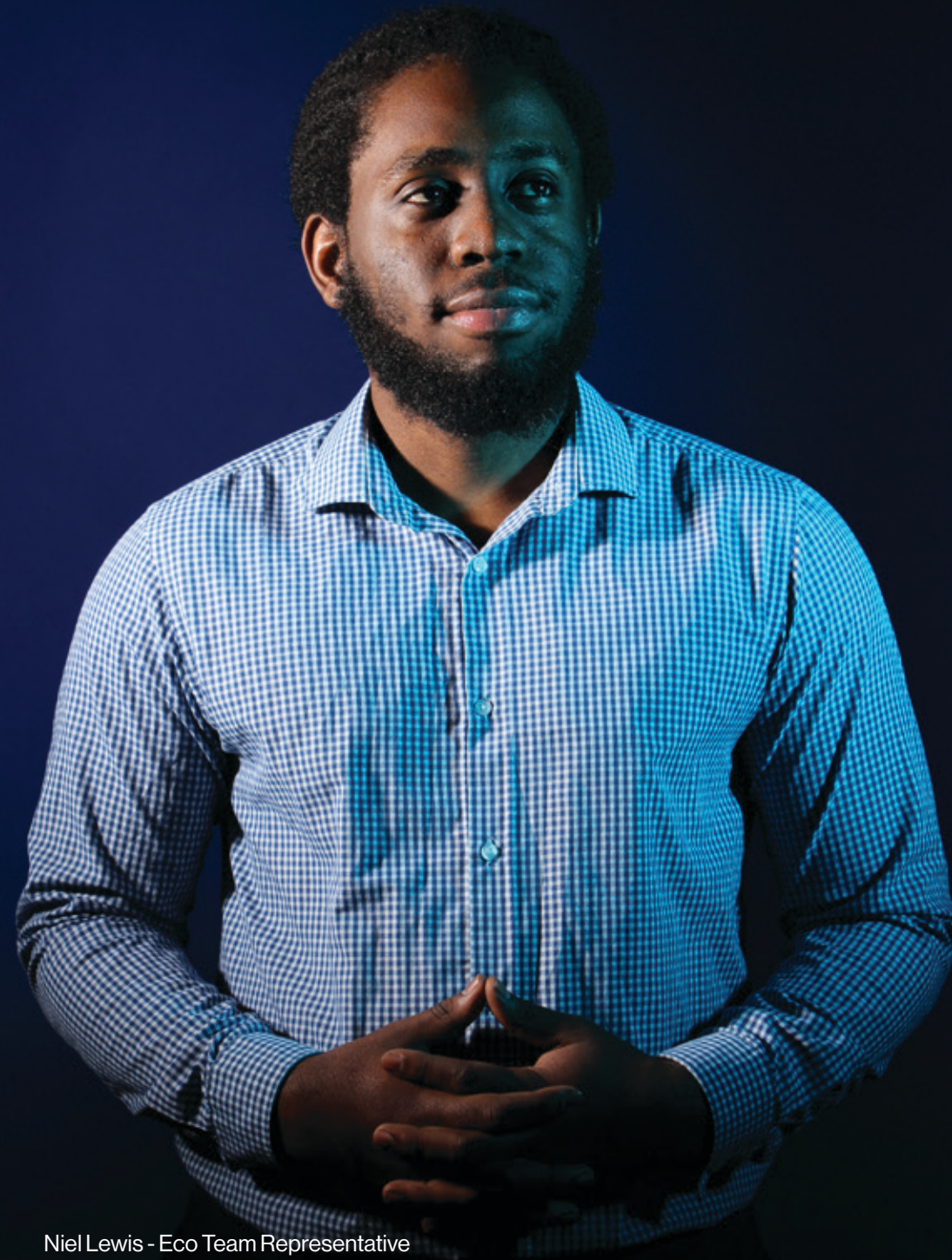
Our supply chain and procurement practices will be reviewed to ensure:

- Our suppliers are meeting the ethical standards required.
- We reduce our carbon output, plastic waste and unnecessary waste.
- We implement sustainable working practices.

Opportunities will be created and provided for you to take part in local, regional and national awareness campaigns to change habits and mindsets.

GSU will work with Eco Team Greenwich as a partner to provide support and share resources.

Our Student Officers will take the lead on achieving the NUS Green impact award for GSU and you.



Niel Lewis - Eco Team Representative  
Third year student studying LLB Law



## **THANK YOU**

We're grateful to the following people for their involvement in the GSU Plan 2026:

All our student volunteers for their portraits  
Elena Demireva, GSU Designer  
Bakhtawar Ayub, GSU Student Designer  
Caroline Copeman from Bayes Business School  
GSU Board of Trustees and Chair Liz Jones  
University Vice Chancellor and Governing Board  
GSU staff and Officer teams  
All of our members for their feedback and drive to keep changing GSU for the better

# **BECOME YOUR BEST**