

Achievements and Highlights, 2018/19

University of Cambridge Graduate Union

- Ran GU freshers' events and introduced 1500 postgraduate students to the union building, the Students' Unions' Advice Service and our other services and events.
- Represented postgraduate students on fifty University committees and groups, through our President and Vice-President.
- Developed a strong partnership between the Unions and the University, resulting in a joint TEF response, a joint flysheet on the proposed new disciplinary procedure, and a collaborative, constructive approach to policy development.
- Released the Graduate Union Personal Welfare Handbook as a comprehensive resource for welfare signposting in the Collegiate University.
- Championed postgraduate widening participation as part of the Student Support Initiative.
- Introduced a postgraduate application fee waiver for prospective students from low-income backgrounds and refugees, with the Cambridge Admissions Office and Graduate Admissions.
- Surveyed 1800 postgraduate students and launched the GU's Mental Health Report.
- Introduced a GU Campaigns Budget, to encourage postgraduate students to connect campaigning efforts with the Graduate Union.
- Formed four new GU working groups, on mental health, Brexit, divestment, and housing and living expenses.
- Ran successful discussion forums, on housing and living expenses, mental health and supervisor relationships, and mental health and funding and finances.
- Ran the GU Michaelmas and Lent elections and elected an Executive Committee, a Vice President, and a GU President.
- Formed a CUSU/GU Working Group to examine the issue of postgraduate representation, launched a proposal for a new single union, and engaged in student consultation.
- Initiated a Housing and Living Expenses Campaign, as part of which we released a housing and living expenses toolkit to all MCRs. We also have been working with the Office of Intercollegiate Services to get information available to students from their colleges on housing and living expenses.
- Began work on an anti-casualisation campaign, aimed at improving contracts and pay for casual workers at the University, with Cambridge UCU.
- Increased our engagement with MCRs and Departments across the University.