

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Postgraduate Education

Name: Nadine Curtis

Period: July- October 2025

JULY

Activity	
Familiarisation with Teams around the University	Met with various teams from the SU and University to familiarise ourselves with their work and services and how we can get involved with them this coming year and integrate our priorities.
Planned Postgraduate Welcome Fair	I began planning and organising the first Postgraduate specific Welcome fair. Postgraduate needs are different UG students and so their welcome should be adapted for this. This month I organised with QSU and QUB services to attend the fair and began planning what the event will look like. This fair will hopefully be the start of something permanent for Postgraduate students.
Pride	Attended pride with the SO team representing the Union
Queens annual fund meeting	Attended a meeting to discuss the future of QAF, including flexibility around the use around food/transport and application times.
SU partnership	Met with St.Mary's SO's as a team to discuss plans for the year, build relationships and discuss a Stran/St.Mary's/QSU partnership.
Reusable period product scheme	Working with the sustainability team to work on a reusable period product initiative for the year, along with conducting research to create an educational campaign for promotion and destigmatisation.

AUGUST

Activity	
Attended NUS national training	By attending this national training, we met representatives from other SUs from across the UK and discussed national issues facing students. This proved to be a helpful experience - we discussed common practice around the welcoming of Postgraduate students with other Postgraduate officers to highlight and consider some best practice examples across other institutions.

Interview panel for internal Staff jobs	Represented the student voice on an interview panel for an SU post.
Finalised my plans of work	Finalised a realistic plan of work, which is achievable and lays out appropriate timelines. It also discusses how I will begin to set these in place.
Attended a National Russell Group conference	Shared SU practices and priorities for the year and set Russell Group SU priorities to be work on for students, Including Student Finance and funding, international student advocacy and social justice, climate change and ethical investment.
Began research into university wide skill structures.	Met with Tom Magee of the graduate school to discuss what they offer to students and the potential for a university wide approach. I also met with Fabiana from the Faculty of MHLS who works on PG supports, discussing these offerings from her perspective and the potential replication of her role in other Faculties/Schools.
Met with Accessible Learning to discuss the potentials of accessible study spaces and ND student supports on campus	Many actions out of this including a Student Autism focus group, meetings to be set up with estates, a tour of the library spaces to be planned and other online research into other universities who are offering similar services.

SEPTEMBER

Activity	
UG School and Faculty Rep training	Assisted the UG Education Officer in training our Faculty and School Reps, equipping them with the tools to have a successful year as student reps, while also caring for their own wellbeing.
Discussions and research into PG funding review	A recent consultation on PG funding as well as the wider HE review required input from the QSU, continuing to work on this with the National Union President and consider long term goals for our PG population.
Delivered inductions across the university about SU services	Delivered these presentations in an attempt to cover as many Postgraduate Inductions as feasible to give a tailored induction. Delivering these presentations also helps to introduce visibility of the Union to all students and let them know who their Student Officers are.
Freshers' Fair	Attended Freshers' Fair to encourage Rep recruitment and interact with students.
Assisted in setting up a student success framework	As part of my plan of work for this year, I wish to review the Upskilling opportunities available to our PG students and ensure that it is consistent across schools. Part of this work is also to consider the timeline of the skills we offer and increasing awareness of this.

Delivered training to Queen's College China course reps	As part of student representation, we also offer training to Course reps in QCC, to set them up with appropriate structures that map those we have.
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OCTOBER

Activity	
Green dot training	Took part in Green Dot Train the Trainer to train Students and staff to become active bystanders across the university. As a team we plan to roll this out among our student leadership teams and then the wider population.
Postgraduate Welcome Fair	Successfully organised and ran a Postgraduate Welcome Fair in the second week of October to engage Masters students who may have missed out on Freshers' and introduce PGR students to the SU and University services. Running the event at this time of year allows Students to digest the information from the start of the term and then reexplore the many options available to them. Following the event, I gathered feedback from Services and Students who were present to gain insight into how we could improve this pilot for future years.
Delivering UG and PG Course Rep training	Delivered training in partnership with UG Education Officer and SU voice to the course reps across all Schools, with a few mop up sessions left to complete.
PG Academic Board	Attended the PG Academic Board along with staff and student reps, leading discussions on Welcome and Induction as well as Postgraduate transition periods from UG courses both at Queen's and other Universities.
Accessible Study Spaces and MH&WB	Began integrating the Accessible Study Spaces with MH&WB plans for Neurodiverse students throughout the year. Additionally, I hosted a focus group with Autism support groups to discover the tools these students would like on campus to assist learning. Another aspect of this work has been carrying out user experience exercises in the SU and McClay Library to determine the wider student population's views on how accessible and adjustable study spaces should look.