

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT 24/25 – MAY 2025  
STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT REPORT

KOLAWOLE SAMUEL OLURE (SAM)

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HIGHLIGHTS

NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE LINCOLN (Bishop Grosseteste University),



On April 3rd, I represented UWE students at the first-ever NUS England Conference since the organization's recent restructuring. Held at Bishop Grosseteste University, the event brought together student leaders from across the country (England) to tackle some of the most pressing issues in further and higher education.

The agenda was rich with powerful, thought-provoking sessions, including:

- How to effectively increase funding and maintenance support for students
- Prioritizing impactful campaigns for international students through the International Students' Voice Project Protecting the Graduate Route Visa and its importance to our global student community
- Preparing for engagement with the APPG for Students
- Campaigning for high-quality further education
- The role of students' unions in standing against far-right narratives

What really stood out was the data-driven, action-oriented approach of the entire event. It wasn't just about discussing challenges; it was about creating strategies for real change.

As always, it was also a fantastic opportunity for me to connect with fellow student leaders, colleagues, and friends. These spaces remind me of the power of collective action and the importance of strong networks. A massive thank you to the National Union of Students (UK) for reimagining how we make change happen nationally. This was easily one of the most impactful student events I've attended recently.

## WONKHE TRIP (Portugal)

### Reflections from Portugal – Student Leadership Across Borders



As SU President, joining the Wonkhe Student Leadership Study Tour to Portugal was a truly inspiring experience.

Across Lisbon, Coimbra, and Porto, I witnessed how student leadership thrives through unity, culture, and passion. We met the National Federation of Polytechnic Higher Education Student Associations, where we shared ideas on AI in education, academic pressure, cost of living, and policy. It was clear that student concerns are global, and so is our determination to lead change.

Hearing about their success in securing PhD awards for polytechnic students reminded me of what we've achieved together through NUS.. When students unite, great things happen.

What struck me most was that student leadership in Portugal is voluntary, yet deeply impactful. Students lead major events, represent their peers, and shape national conversations, all without financial incentives.

A beautiful part of the experience was witnessing the *praxe* tradition, practiced across all the schools we visited. Rooted in culture and student pride, *praxe* fosters belonging and solidarity among students.

Despite the challenges we all face, this trip reminded me that students everywhere rise with resilience, community, and heart. When students lead, the future moves forward.

## MANIFESTO UPDATE:

### REPRESENTATION AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT:

#### Reasonable Adjustment to Deadline (RA2D) – Final Update

The RA2D Task and Finish Group has now concluded its work. While the 7-day extension policy was not reverted to 14 days, the group made meaningful progress by actively responding to concerns raised by both students and staff.

Through surveys, data analysis, and direct feedback, the group explored the impact of the change on student experience, well-being, and academic outcomes. Trends in welfare, bereavement support, and schools with the highest RA2D requests were carefully considered.

Importantly, a new IT system is in development that will allow students to apply once per assessment period, with all eligible coursework visible in one place, significantly reducing admin and improving accessibility.

Although outcome data showed no major negative shifts, student well-being remains a priority. The group's efforts brought together diverse voices to shape a more informed and supportive approach moving forward.

The policy will now be renamed "Reasonable Adjustment to Coursework Deadline," with the final report submitted to the May Academic Board.

#### International Student Forum - Launched!

On April 29th, we proudly launched the International Student Forum, a new platform dedicated to amplifying the voices of international students at UWE.

The launch was a beautiful success, filled with energy, honest feedback, and a shared vision for change. Students showed up, spoke up, and shaped the conversation, and we will be taking action based on what was shared.

This is more than a committee, it's a movement. A space where international students can lead, influence decisions, and co-create a better experience for all.

A heartfelt thank you to Muhammad (International Student Officer), Lubyna (Vp welfare and community), Em (Reps Manager), and Kelly Cotter for their unwavering support in making this possible.

Your voice matters. This is just the beginning. Let's keep shaping change together.

### OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT GOVERNOR UPDATE

- We are currently interviewing candidates for two external trustee positions to strengthen our governance and marketing expertise. I will update the Student Council once the selected trustees have been confirmed.

- I'll be attending the Student Experience Awards on the 6th of May, where I'll also have the honour of presenting an award during the event.
- A joint session between UWESU and the Governors will be held on the 6th of May, where we'll be sharing our achievements and reflections from the year with the Governors.