#### BE A PART OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION



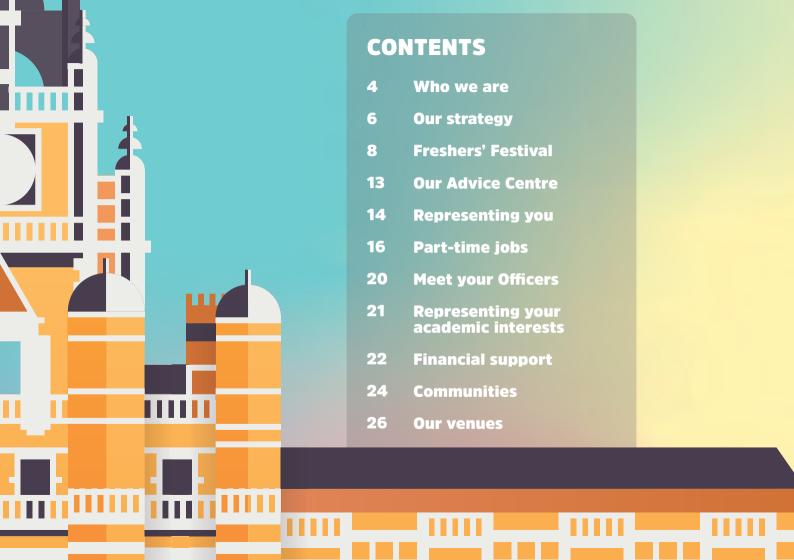


f ② ※ よ @SURHUL **WELCOME TO** 

## ROYAL HOLLOWAY STUDENTS' UNION.

SU.RHUL.AC.UK





# Welcome.

It's almost time to embark on the journey of a lifetime and start shaping your Royal Holloway story.

At the Students' Union (SU), our mission is to make student life better at Royal Holloway and we'll be here for you throughout your time studying in Egham or at our Central London campus.

Independent from the University, we exist to represent students' interests. We'll fight for your rights and ensure you are always getting your voice heard.

As your elected Officers, we work on a range of issues relating to student life, listening to your thoughts and opinions while running campaigns and working with key stakeholders to make positive changes to your university experience.

Once you enrol at Royal Holloway you automatically become a member of the SU\*, which means you can access our services immediately.

Throughout the rest of this guide, we'll walk you through everything we offer at the SU and how you can get involved.

See you soon!

Sharanya, Madelaine, Olivia, Bana

Your 2024/25 Officers

#### >> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/OFFICERS

\*You can opt out of membership at any time. Visit su.rhul.ac.uk/membership to learn more.



# Our Strateg

## **Building Community, Leading Change.**

Our overall mission is to make student life better at Royal Holloway but how do we achieve this?

We are excited to launch our new strategy ahead of the 2024/25 academic year which sets out our four key aims. Everything we do as an SU links to these aims and we'll share our progress in these areas throughout your university journey.



Enabling student-led communities to thrive and enrich student experience through effective staff support, empowerment and celebration of inclusion, community impact and leadership.



## Building Stronger Student Voice and Representation

Developing powerful student voices and representation structures to positively impact students' academic and non-academic experiences.



## Providing Inclusive Activity and Spaces

Deliver a relevant, high quality and diverse events programme, providing a range of opportunities for all students, from all backgrounds, on all programmes, to participate in.



## Providing Advice and Advocating for Students

Support all students' journeys through their time at university and provide advice and guidance on their rights, challenging the status quo when appropriate.





#### We're led by students.

Students shape everything about the SU and are always at the centre of our thinking. From our Trustee Board, which is made up of over 50% students including our Sabbatical Officer team, to casual staff working in our venues, students are involved in every aspect of our work. We employ 400+ students, while 4000+ are involved in our student communities.

#### We're not-for-profit.

Legally, the Union is a democratic charity (charity number 1141998) and must follow the laws and regulations which govern UK charity organisations. This means we are not run for profit and every pound we generate gets reinvested into the services we provide for students.

#### Our values.

Our values dictate the way we operate and the behaviours we champion.

- Student Focused
- High Quality
- Trustworthy
- Inclusive
- Brave



### FF24



#### WHAT'S GOING ON

Taking place across the first week of term, Freshers' Festival is your introduction to the Students' Union and everything we have to offer including loads of events, taster sessions, and opportunities to make new friends.

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view our full events programme and start planning your week!

SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS



#### **GIVE IT A GO**

Looking to develop a new skill, get creative, or unwind after a day of lectures? You'll find something in our Give It A Go events calendar.

These smaller-scale events are alcohol-free and focused on you meeting new people in a fun, relaxed and welcoming environment.

We're talking craft sessions, day trips, puppy yoga and more. Check out the GIAG page to see what's on offer across Term One!

SU.RHUL.AC.UK/GIAG

#### **BUNDLE DEALS**

Following feedback last year, we decided not to offer a wristband package this year. This removes the pressure and financial burden when you only want to attend one or two events.

We appreciate you may still wish to attend multiple events, so we have created two bundle deals (page 10) to offer greater flexibility and value for money.

Individual event tickets and bundles will go on sale in two phases:

- First-year students: Thursday 22 August (13:00)
- General sale: Thursday 5 September (13:00)

Remember, our website - SU.RHUL.AC.UK - is the only verified place to buy tickets to events.

If you're unsure you're purchasing from the right place, contact us @SURHUL on social media or email MARKETING@SURHUL.ACUK.



# RESHERS'





#### **FRESHERS' LAUNCH PARTY**

**O MEDICINE** 22:00 - 02:30, FRI 20 SEP

#### **WELCOME PARTY**

O SU VENUE 22:00 - 03:00. SAT 21 SEP



#### **BIG BEARS RODEO RAVE**

**O MEDICINE** 16:00 - 02:00. SUN 22 SEP



#### **THE BIG MOVE-IN PARTY**

**Q SU VENUE** 22:00 - 03:00, SUN 22 SEP



#### **LASER QUEST**

**Q SU VENUE** 11:00 - 16:00, MON 23 SEP



#### **INDIE PARTY**

ft. Sham Fender & 21:00 - 03:00, MON 23 SEP



#### **WHITE TEES ON TOAST**

Toast ♥ MEDICINE 22:00 - 02:30, MON 23 SEP



#### **MARKET DAY**

**OSTUDENTS' UNION** 10:00 - 16:00. TUE 24 SEP



#### FRESHERS' FAIR

O SPORTS CENTRE 10:00 - 17:00, TUE 24 SEP



#### **DOUBLE DOWN LATE & GREAT**

**OTHE PACKHORSE** 17:00 - 01:00. TUE 24 SEP



#### **FINDING EMO**

22:00 - 02:30. TUE 24 SEP



#### **VK TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY**

**QSU VENUE** 22:00 - 03:00. TUE 24 SEP



#### **VIRAL LAUNCH PARTY**

ft. Badger **QSUVENUE** 22:00 - 03:00, WED 25 SEP



We're also running a range of events for our Inclusion and Academic community whilst at Royal Holloway. If this sounds like a bit of you, the SU.RHUL.AC.UK/FRESHERS/EVENTS

#### **PETS AS THERAPY**

GIAG OSU VENUE 11:00 - 13:00. THU 26 SEP



#### **THURSDAY 3S LATE & GREAT**

17:00 - 01:00. THU 26 SEP



#### **DESI NIGHT**

**OMEDICINE** 22:00 - 02:30. THU 26 SEP



#### **GLITTERBOMB:** WONDERLAND **FRESHERS TOUR**

**Q SU VENUE** 22:00 - 03:00. THU 26 SEP



GIAG OSU VENUE 13:00 - 16:00. FRI 27 SEP



ft. Karen Harding OSU VENUE 22:00 - 03:00. FRI 27 SEP



Communities, bringing students together to help them find their nen head over to our events page and see what's going on!

#### FRESHERS' BALL

ft. Jax Jones & Special Guest **OSTUDENTS' UNION** 20:00 - 02:00. SAT 28 SEP

+ AFTERPARTY

**OMEDICINE (UNTIL 04:00)** 



DAY EVENT



NIGHT EVENT

#### **OUR BUNDLE DEALS.**

#### SAVE £21 £45 **WELCOME BUNDLE**

Welcome Party (Sat 21 Sep)

The Big Move-In Party (Sun 22 Sep)

Indie Party (Mon 23 Sep) ft. Sham Fender & The Brightside Killers

VK Traffic Light Party (Tue 24 Sep)

Freshers' Ball + Afterparty (Sat 28 Sep) ft. Jax Jones & Special Guest

SAVE £19 **HEADLINERS BUNDLE** 

114

Viral Launch Party (Wed 25 Sep)

Glitterbomb: (Thu 26 Sep) **Wonderland Freshers Tour** 

Juicy (Fri 27 Sep) ft. Karen Harding

Freshers' Ball + Afterparty (Sat 28 Sep) ft. Jax Jones & Special Guest

In addition to savings on the above events, you'll also gain free entry to Juicy (Fri 11 Oct) and Viral (Wed 13 Nov) - normally £6 each.

We'll also throw in several vouchers, redeemable at our venues until 31 October: 20% off food @ The Packhorse, 15% off clothing @ the Union Shop and 1 x free drink redeemable @ Medicine.

### **Navigating**



#### FRESHERS' FESTIVAL24

It can be tricky finding the right balance between work and play but it's doable.

While we will be putting on a varied events programme to help you enjoy the social side of university life, it's up to you to decide how involved you get. Our events are a great way to meet new people and enjoy new experiences in a safe environment, but if you'd rather stay in and watch the latest Netflix series, that's also absolutely fine. There are no set rules, and you can shape your own experience!

Freshers' Festival isn't all about drinking and partying either – we run loads of alcohol-free events, including our Give It A Go programme, to offer new and exciting experiences. We'd also encourage you to go out and explore campus and the local area.

The beautiful Virginia Water Lake is just down the road, and you can also check out the Magna Carta memorial in Runnymede.



@RHSUWhatsOn
The official channel
for night-time events
at Royal Holloway
Students' Union.

From riverside walks to glorious meadows, memorials and secluded spots, there's something for everyone!

Adapting to student life can be challenging but you won't be going through this alone. You can find help using our online resources or if you want to speak to someone, our Advice Centre is on hand to offer you free and impartial advice.

You can also learn more about the start of university life by downloading the official Royal Holloway app from the App Store or Google Play.

## Our Advice Centre is here whenever you need a helping hand.

Based on the first floor of the Students' Union, our Advice Centre is a free and independent service for all students at Royal Holloway. While our advisors specialise in academic and housing advice, we can offer guidance on just about anything that may affect you during your university journey.

Whether you're studying on campus or from home, you can access support online through email and virtual appointments. You can also visit our Advice Centre hub on the website, giving you instant digital access to support and useful resources, or attend one of our weekly drop-in sessions.

#### It's okay to feel overwhelmed.

Starting university is a big deal and you may have moments where you feel overwhelmed. This is completely natural, and you won't be the only one feeling this way. While we encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and try new things, it's important to do so at your own pace.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ADVICE



# Representin

We're here to represent you, which means the most important voices in the Students' Union should be yours.

We provide numerous ways for you to get involved and have your say on how things work at the Students' Union, ensuring students are at the heart of every decision we make. From your first day to your last, we're here to support you.

#### **Create change.**

If you're passionate about activism, amplifying student voices, or want to get involved with any of our campaign work (page 19), we'd love to hear from you! Email voice@su.rhul.ac.uk.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VOICE

## Student Executives. We want students to collaborate more effectively on key issues and we achieve this through our three Student Executives: Education; Wellbeing, Community and Diversity; and Societies, Sports and Opportunities. Your Officers engage with a wide range of students when planning their work and students feed directly into the development of policy and campaigns in their area.



#### **Student Leaders.**

In addition to the Sabbatical Officers who you will meet later in this guide, we support several student leaders who make a key difference in roles across the University.

**School Reps:** work closely with department reps within their school and meet regularly with the VP Education to report on feedback and ensure students' views are represented at the School Education Committee meetings. You can read more about our academic representation structure on page 20.

**Community Officers:** lead our Inclusion and Academic Communities and ensure underrepresented groups have a platform to have their voices heard on campus and beyond. Head to page 23 to discover how you can become part of a community at Royal Holloway.

## Policy Inquiries and Insight Reports.

In the past few years, we've published several reports looking into key areas that affect the student experience at Royal Holloway. In the summer of 2023, former SU President Maia Jarvis led on the SU Security Review with 2023/24 President Hannah Hockin taking forward this work and implementing many of the recommendations across the last academic year.

Within the last 12 months, we have also published reports on the University's Wellbeing Department and more recently the PGT Student Experience. These reports include a list of recommendations for us and the University to improve our work in those areas.

In the upcoming academic year, we will be looking closely at the experience of two more key cohorts **International** and **Commuting** students. We will keep you updated as our work progresses.

Earn,

#### Part-time jobs.

Each year, we employ hundreds of students in paid part-time positions across the Union to help us achieve our strategic aims while making you more employable. A win-win situation!

Becoming a student staff member is a great way to meet new people and learn new skills in a professional and fun work environment. It's also a great way to earn some extra money to help with the cost of living.

Whether you think you would do a great job serving customers in our venues, or fancy getting involved with work behind the scenes, we've got something for everyone.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/JOBS





Every year, teams across the SU work tirelessly to make sure you have the best possible experience while you're studying at Royal Holloway. We've delivered an incredible amount over the last academic year...

# wrapped 23/24 ×

900

Events held across our venues

Societies & Sports Clubs 161

4065 Student Group members

Academic Reps **298** 

12,822

Votes cast in our Leadership Elections

749

Student cases dealt with by our Advisors

Awards handed out to students

**171** 

## Finding a new student pad.

Hopefully, you're already covered for this year but it's still good to know your options when considering future accommodation.

It's easy to get carried away in the excitement but you shouldn't feel pressured into signing a housing contract for next year. Take your time and wait for our Housing Fair towards the end of Term One where you can meet local landlords and estate agents. Our Advice Centre also offers free contract checks to help you avoid unintentionally agreeing to something you shouldn't

When you're ready to start your search, head to @RHSUHousemating on Facebook to find other students looking for accommodation.

You can also check out **RHUL Studentpad**, your free portal to hundreds of properties in the local area. Whether you're looking for a place in Egham, Englefield Green or further afield, it's your best bet for finding high-quality private accommodation that's the perfect fit for you.

>> RHULSTUDENTPAD.CO.UK



#### Market Day.

Feeling peckish?

It's Market Day every Tuesday at the SU stock up on fruit and veg at our indoor market and grab a delicious hot lunch from one of our international food stalls on the SU Plaza.

#### Get the supplies in.

Who wants to walk 20 minutes to the shops and then carry their bags back up a hill? Nobody.

Luckily, the Union Shop is located on the ground floor of the EWD Building, selling fresh produce, drinks, clothing and more. It's the place to go for your lunchtime meal deal or uni essentials, and don't forget you can earn points every time you shop through **RHSU Rewards**.

Download the **RHSU Order** app now so you can start saving!





# 50% OFF PIZZA





Discount applies to full price pizzas only. Available online and via the app only. Delivery charge may apply. Create Your Own is up to 4 toppings and excludes Plant-Based pizzas and Gluten Free pizzas. Premium crusts, bases and additional toppings are charged as extra. Delivery areas, minimum delivery spends, and a delivery charge may apply. Please check with your local store for details. Student ID may be required. Coupons cannot be combined or used with any other offer. Valid at participating stores only. Please mention coupon when ordering. Offers may be updated, amended, or withdrawn at any time. For full T&Cs see Boring Legal Stuff at dominos.co.uk.



## Sharanya Sivarajah

>> PRESIDENT

f ⊚ X @RHSUPRESIDENT

Hi everyone! I'm Sharanya, your SU President.

After a year of representing students as VP Education, I ran for one more year in the Leadership Elections and was successfully elected to be your SU President. I am so excited for the year ahead!

This year, I will be focusing on four key areas: **Student Safety**, **Celebrating Students**, **Facilities**, and **Student Experience**.

In my free time, I enjoy cooking and going to the gym. You'll probably catch me walking around campus back and forth from meetings but if you see me, please say hi!

Check out my manifesto aims at SU.RHUL.AC.UK/PRESIDENT

#### How we're led.

Every year, the student body elects a team of full-time Sabbatical Officers who lead the SU. Traditionally, students taking a 'sabbatical' year during their studies, but they also often run to take up the position once they have graduated.

Any student can become an Officer and stand up on issues that really matter to the student body. This is one for the future but if you're passionate about making a positive impact, keep an eye out for information about nominations for the 2025/26 Officer positions.

#### Campaigning.

Students like yourself direct the issues we campaign on and we're not afraid to tackle complex pieces of policy to improve students' rights. Alongside this, our Officers, Communities, and student groups lead the way on liberation campaigns such as Disability, LGBTQ+, Women's, and Black History Month. Check out our campaign archive and email us at voice@su.rhul.ac.uk if you are keen to get involved.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/CAMPAIGNS

## Representing your academic interests.

We're here to improve students' education by representing your academic interests.

One of the main ways we do this is through supporting and empowering 300+ elected student academic reps.

Course reps work on ensuring your degree programme is everything you expected it to be, senior course reps look at department-wide changes, school reps work across several departments to instigate change, while the Vice President Education works across the wider University.

As a new student, you can volunteer in September to become the course rep for your chosen degree programme. We'll equip you with the tools to directly influence what happens on your course and give a voice to your peers.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ACADEMICREPS

## Madelaine Gray

>> VP EDUCATION



Hi everyone! I'm Madelaine, your Vice President Education.

I loved my time at Royal Holloway as a student of Law and Politics, and I can't wait to give back by working to improve your educational experience.

Your education is a huge part of why you're here and I will work with the University and the SU to **improve communication**, the **commuter experience**, and **career outlooks**, amongst other things.

If you want to work with me on any of these, or just want to talk about an issue or a policy, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

You can read more about my manifesto aims at SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VPEDUCATION





### **Olivia Davies**

>> VP WELLBEING & DIVERSITY

#### f ⊚ % @RHSUWELLBEING

Hi! I'm Olivia, your VP Wellbeing & Diversity.

I am so passionate about wellbeing, diversity and inclusion and I cannot wait to work with you to ensure everyone is represented and supported, and to increase the sense of community on campus.

This year, my aims are around three key areas: Wellbeing, Community Officers, and Campaigns and Inclusion.

I am so excited to work with the other Sabbatical Officers to better student experience here at Royal Holloway.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

You can read more about my manifesto aims at **SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VPWELLBEING** 

#### Cost of living.

We know that the cost of living is an ongoing concern for students, whether it's accommodation and utilities, travel, course materials, or your weekly food shop. We will do our best to support you with opportunities like paid part-time jobs, free events, and discount deals on food and drink, but we know that's not always enough. Your student loan will only stretch so far so it's good to know what support is available if you're facing financial difficulties.

### Where can I get support?

The University's Financial Wellbeing team can assist you with financial difficulties you may experience, including short-term loans of up to £500 and the Study Support Grant which can help if you're experiencing unexpected money worries. They can advise you on a range of topics including budgeting, student loans, student bank accounts, and working while you study. Our Advice Centre can also refer you to Runnymede Foodbank and signpost you to any other relevant support.

MONEYMATTERS@ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK

#### Find your passion.

Nothing shapes your university experience more than the people you meet. Our student groups are the perfect way for you to get the most out of your time at Royal Holloway and we've got something for everyone with 150+ groups available for you to join.

#### Access Fund.

We know the cost of joining a student group can be a barrier to participation, especially if your budget is tight. We also know that ioining a student group can be one of the most rewarding parts of university life and we're keen to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience that.

That's where our Access Fund comes in. You can request up to £200 each academic year if you need it.

#### What does it cover?

- Group membership fees
- Kit and essential travel
- Competition entry
- Event entry
- Non-essential costs

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/ACCESSFUND

## **Bana Asqalan**

>> VP SOCIETIES & SPORT





f ◎ X @RHSUSOCSPORT

#### Hi! I'm Bana, your VP Societies & Sport,

As an international student. I understand the importance of societies and sport to build a community at Royal Holloway and create a second home.

I am really excited to work with you all, to ensure our campus is the best it can be.

My aims for this year include improving the gym through extended operating hours and upgraded equipment. introducing strength and conditioning classes, and streamlining the event proposal process.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Want to learn more about my manifesto aims? Head to SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VPSOCSPORT



# Communitie

Building communities for all students is one of our strategic aims and we're here to make sure you feel part of something during your time at Royal Holloway.

Loads of small communities exist within the wider campus community, ranging from societies and sports clubs to academic and inclusion-focused groups

#### Societies.

Societies are a great way to get involved in university life. They allow you to meet new people, try new things, and improve your mental wellbeing. Society events can range from day trips and big celebration events in the SU to socials at the local pub, showcases and performances. No doubt joining a society will massively enhance your Royal Holloway experience.

Our **Freshers' Fair** on 24 September is a great place to meet societies and discover more about their activities. If you can't find a society that interests you, why not form one of your own? The SU can support you through the process of creating an entirely new group! Alternatively, you can revive one of our dormant societies through our Revive a Group process.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/SOCIETIES

#### **Media Outlets.**

Our media outlets are the perfect home for any budding journalists, broadcasters, or creatives.

Broadcasting around campus, Surrey and beyond, **Insanity Radio 103.2FM** is our resident radio station with a schedule of chart, chat, and specialist shows.

Write for **Orbital Magazine** and keep students updated with the latest news from campus and beyond. Your content will be published in printed editions and online articles.

Join **rhubarbTV** and you can get involved with everything from live filming to documentaries, gameshows and behind-the-scenes content.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/MEDIA



## Inclusion and Academic Communities.

Making sure that you feel valued and listened to is one of our top priorities and our Inclusion and Academic Communities play a leading role in making that happen.

Led by elected student Community
Officers, they work closely with the SU
Officers, the University and student groups
to ensure all voices within their Community
are being heard and represented.

They are completely free to join and allow you to connect with other students who may share the same experiences.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/COMMUNITIES

#### **Inclusion Communities**

- Black & Global Majority Students
- · Disabled Students
- International Students
- LGBT+ Students
- Mature Students
- Parent & Carer Students
- Students of Faith
- Women Students

#### **Academic Communities**

- Commuting Students
- Postgraduate Research Students
- Postgraduate Taught Students

#### **Sports Clubs.**

The Students' Union is home to 35+ sports clubs that offer a mix of recreational and competitive opportunities. Whether it's a casual game of Badminton or vying for the league title with American Football, you'll soon know what it means to be part of the Bears family.

If you see a club that takes your fancy at our Freshers' Fair (24 September), get in touch with the club to find out more about training or attending a taster session. Want to take it further? Represent your club in matches and competitions. If you're after something with less of a competitive edge, then campus leagues or social events could be perfect for you – these are run by the University's Active Lifestyle and Sport team.

Our sports clubs compete in several competitions run by British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) and London Universities Sports Leagues (LUSL). We also have an annual Varsity - the biggest clash of the year as we take on the University of Surrey across a range of disciplines. We'll be heading to Surrey Sports Park on 26 March 2025 looking to secure victory for the first time. Come on you Bears!

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/SPORTS

Whether it's food, drink, or a little boogie you're after, we've got something for you to do every night, seven days a week during term time.

>> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VENUES

#### SU Venue.



Home to our weekly Wednesday and Friday club nights, we've had some incredible artists performing over the years from Sigma and Nathan Dawe to Yung Filly and Becky Hill. It's not just big club nights you'll find here though as we also host loads of student group performances on our main stage.

#### The Packhorse.



















#### Just across the road from the main campus, you can enjoy a range of food and drink deals at the SU's very own pub. In addition to a pool table and table football, we screen live sport seven days a week and host tons of other events including karaoke, live music, and our weekly pub quiz.

#### Medicine.











Our second biggest venue hosts several events and society performances throughout the year, including Toast where you can expect classic tunes and amazing drinks deals every Monday. MedsWeds provides the perfect spot for any sports club or society looking for space to host a social event. We also have a spacious beer garden, perfect for drinks in the sun.











**Gender neutral toilet** 



**Accessible** 



**Child friendly** 







**Drink** 



**Bookable rooms** 



Live sport



**Board games** 



#### Keeping you safe.

While Freshers' Festival is obviously about having loads of fun, our number one priority is ensuring you can enjoy our events in a safe environment.

As part of our work around student safety, we've invested heavily in anti-spiking measures, and we also have a Good Night Out Crew in our venues. You'll see them wearing pink hi-vis jackets on a night out and their role is to ensure students have the support they need when attending evening events at the SU Venue and Medicine.

Whether your issue is mental health-related, a physical injury, or as simple as locating lost property, finding the right queue or bringing up a complaint, the Good Night Out Crew are there to support you!

Our staff are Mental Health First Aid trained to engage in open discussion, recognise triggers and signpost to the relevant support services both within the University and SU, as well as external services.

#### >> SU.RHUL.AC.UK/VENUES







**GOOGLE PLAY** 

## SHAPE YOUR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION

