

MOMIN SAQIB

FOR NUS PRESIDENT

LEADERSHIP

TRANSFORMATION

SUCCESS

MY EXPERIENCE

- ❑ International Student's Officer King's College London 2015-16
- ❑ Vice President for Activities and development KCLSU 2016-2017
- ❑ President of KCLSU 2017-2018

MY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ **345 rooms for International Students in the King's Affordable Accommodation Scheme**- What goes un-noticed is the immense financial hardships international students face. The strong compassion for this matter enabled me to make the impossible possible - 345 rooms were at a subsidized price for international students from a low income background.
- ❖ **Global Lounge** - King's College London remained opened for the first time during Christmas break to provide students with free food/games to uplift them in the Christmas spirit. Sometimes, small things can have a great impact.
- ❖ **Ensured Toilets were equipped with water showers** in Kings (including in any future estate developments) to accommodate their religious practices
- ❖ **Organized a Refreshers Orientation** for international students who missed fresher's because of visa delays
- ❖ **Supported Islamophobia Awareness Month** activities led by our VP Education
- ❖ **First Wheelchair Sports Event for Disabled Students** at KCL.
- ❖ **Asked the University for a Review** of the whole external speaker's process we have to make sure our principles are in line with the **Freedom of Speech**
- ❖ **Overcoming** the difficulty of long term room bookings was achieved through **reducing the notice time from 10 to 3 Days**. This had a positive impact on our activity groups dealing with events.

- ❖ **Visa fees for International Student**- I believe international students are an indispensable part of the student community and we are trying our best to ensure they are supported as active members of the SU alongside national students. My passion to inspire them resulted in new opened possibilities of the SU bearing international students visa expenses once elected as a sabbatical officer.
- ❖ **Protests**
 - Led protests against unjust policies by Trump (Travel ban or the Establishment of an embassy in Palestine)
 - Free Education
 - The UK government to take action against the brutal killings of Rohingya Muslims.
- ❖ **Accessible Toilet Campaign**- Many individuals are affected by 'invisible' chronic conditions and are in need of accessible toilet facilities. I am aiming to implement improved signs for accessible toilets, with the message that 'not every disability is visible', to raise awareness of chronic conditions and provide fully accessible facilities for all.
- ❖ **Increased International Student Engagement** in the KCLSU Elections from **12% to 44%** in my one year as the Vice President.

Being the first Non-European International Student to be elected as the President of King's College London SU in 144 years, I have worked relentlessly to make a positive impact for our student body. The NUS have been helpful in providing me with an understanding on how to make a Difference and I am truly grateful for the wonderful training that they have provided myself and my fellow officers. However there has been something a miss, which is that NUS is not working at its full potential, this is exacerbated by the fact that the need to inform national policies regarding education is of paramount importance, transition from HEFCE to OFS, assessing the value for money that education brings with the funding review looming, how student fees are used and the need for transparency, how academic quality needs to stay strong at an uncertain time for HE, how the Pay's for VC's needs to equate to the quality of the learning for students, how the prevent duty has marginalised a community, how the uncertain financial standing of Universities will impact on Students Unions and Associations nationally. These are some of the areas that NUS needs to tackle and unfortunately due to the internal political turmoil it has not been in a position to progress on these matters. NUS needs strong **Leadership**, it needs to be **Transformed** and we need to be **Successful** in our endeavours at a critical time for our students.

As the NUS president I want ensure that the voice of the students WILL Transform the education sector for the betterment of our membership and that the quality of well-being and welfare is the foundation of a students educational experience.

I know that I am capable in bringing about these changes as my hard work as well as my ability to obtain organic grass route support from our student body has enabled me to bring about many changes. Plus I am fortunate enough to have worked on many international campaigns such as the Tayaba.org project; which is impacting lives in the UK but has also impacted the lives of 9,000 water deprived people in South Asia through my water development projects.

Putting the **EXTRA** into NUS Extra

- ✓ The number of students who believe that the sole purpose of the NUS is to provide students' with discounts via the NUS extra card, demonstrates a clear need to change this perception.
- ✓ The NUS has become widely depended on the income that it gets from NUS extra and with stiff competition from Unidays it really needs to demonstrate how it could distinguish themselves in order to stay afloat.
- ✓ The NUS needs to become more accessible and a multi-function app would need to be created to work as a portal for informing students of their rights as well as all the discounts.

A strong **NUS**

- ✓ The number of disaffiliations indicates how disenfranchised the NUS has become.
- ✓ We need to re-affiliate the Unions that have left NUS and understand what their reasons for leaving are
- ✓ We need to bring back a sense of belonging with the NUS, where all members view the NUS as a strong central voice for students.
- ✓ NUS needs to connected with every student and it needs to make a difference at a National level.

Value for **Money**

- ✓ Students are now in a hyperinflated market where degrees are extremely common and thus there is need for students to be distinctive to have the edge.
- ✓ There is a need to ensure that Students fee's equate to a greater level of experience and students need to have the tools to request that from the Universities.



Financial Independence

- ✓ With the news that Oxford University raised £750 million pounds from selling a series of 100 year bonds, indicates the financial instability with the HE sector. This has a direct impact on our students union.
- ✓ We need to ensure that amidst the changes from HEFCE to OfS that our students' union are protected.
- ✓ NUS needs to assist SU's in generating income and remove the dependency that Union's have upon their block grant.
- ✓ A greater financial independence means a greater level of scrutiny.




Staying on Top of the Tuition Fee Review

- ✓ Fees for higher education has added to the pressure on students. According to a study, three out of every four students with a borrowed maintenance loan are stressed about the money they owe.
- ✓ With the conservative government undertaking a higher education funding review it is important to ensure that the discussions are central to students.
- ✓ The review needs to make education accessible again.
- ✓ Education is the most powerful weapon and the foremost right of every individual regardless of their family's income and postcode. I believe in FREE EDUCATION.
- ✓ We will fight together to make this possible

Prevent

- ✓ A Muslim postgraduate student of counter-terrorism at Staffordshire University is spotted reading a textbook entitled Terrorism Studies in the library, is accused by his own university of being a terrorist; while a 14-year-old Muslim schoolboy, having taken part in a French class discussion on environmental activism – l'ecotourisme – is asked whether he was is "affiliated" with Islamic State.
- ✓ Prevent is here to target Muslim students and Students' Union's across the country need to be supported in tackling this discriminatory duty.



Understanding the Student Experience from the FE Point

- ✓ FE colleges form a large membership for NUS and they been ignored for sometime and NUS needs to ensure that all members are prioritised and supported.
- ✓ FE Colleges have been asked to deliver more from less by simultaneously cutting costs and achieving more effective outcomes for employers and learners.
- ✓ We need to help our FE members in meeting the changing needs and expectations of learners of all ages to deliver lifelong learning
- ✓ Furthermore, NUS needs to facilitate a growth of FE SU's partnership with local HE institutions to form a powerful regional lobbying group that can impact on regional levels.

No Racism

work against islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia

- ✓ We need to work on all forms of discrimination whether it be islamophobia, anti-semitic, racist, gender and homophobic
- ✓ It is shameful that NUS was deemed as a racist organisation by the Internal Race Audit and work to address this needs to be prioritised.
- ✓ More funding needs to be given to liberation groups and extensive projects needs to be carried out to show what the SU's can do with regards to the gender pay gap, transphobic and homophobic behaviour.
- ✓ Unconscious bias training needs to form an integral part for all who work within the Student Union Movement.



Mental Health

- ✓ It's time for Universities to put students' mental health first.
- ✓ With higher study costs and increasingly competitive job markets, there is greater pressure than ever on this year's new cohort of students.
- ✓ The Guardian's annual Student Experience survey shows that almost nine in 10 (87%) of first year students find it difficult to cope with social or academic aspects of university life.
- ✓ Students are unsure of what to expect, and a large proportion say that the transition from school to university is a source of considerable stress.
- ✓ The stress of studying is a key area in which students struggle, with almost six in 10 reporting that this made it difficult for them to cope.
- ✓ Other troubles that featured significantly included isolation (44%), balancing work and study (37%), financial difficulties (36%) and living independently (22%).



/mominsaqib



/mominsaqib



president@kclsu.org