



St Mary's University Student Newsletter



January 2022

Hello Simmie,

Happy New Year! We hope you managed to enjoy some well-earned time off over the Christmas break.

This is the first student newsletter of 2022, a copy will be sent to your student email address every other week, on a Wednesday afternoon. It provides information on what is happening across the University.

Previous editions of the new student newsletter are available [here](#).

2022 EDI activity update



There are lots of fantastic EDI activities coming up! I've provided a brief snapshot here, you can read the full article via the link below.

Could you be our next **student ambassador**? [Becoming a Student Ambassador](#) at university can give you a wealth of opportunities and experience. Applications close on Sunday 6th February 2022 at 11:59pm.

We are also recruiting [5 student co-creators](#) to work on an exciting project improving the mental health and well-being of students studying either without family support, or with support, but from families without much knowledge or expertise about university.

The next '[Conversations about Race](#)' student forum, run by the BAME Student Network in collaboration with the Race Equality Charter Group takes place on Thursday 3rd February 2-3.30pm

Plus, February is **LGBTQ+ History Month** and we will have lots of exciting events running on campus.

To find out how to get involved with the **Rainbow Laces campaign** click the link below.

[Read the full update here.](#)

Personal tutor support

All new undergraduate students are assigned to a Personal Tutor and Tutor Group. These groups are led by a member of academic staff who acts as your designated personal tutor throughout your entire period of study.



You will meet with your personal tutor twice as a group and twice individually each semester.

The role of the Personal Tutor at St Mary's is to:

- Support your knowledge and understanding of feedback on assessed work
- Signpost you to relevant support and advisory services

Personal Tutoring plays an important part in enabling you to fully engage and have a successful learning experience at university.

[Find out more here.](#)

Supporting your learning



St Mary's offers a range of academic support to students, including Learning Development Lecturers, to help you during your studies.

Learning Development Lecturers (LDLs) work with your programme lecturers to set up initiatives to support you.

The LDLs offer specific guidance with regards to academic writing, by offering support with a variety of topics, such as planning and structuring an assignment and understanding assessment criteria.

Your LDLs are:

Tori Marland – tori.marland@stmarys.ac.uk

- Areas of speciality: Arts & Humanities, Education, and English for academic purposes

Ver van Leeuwen – ver.vanleeuwen@stmarys.ac.uk

- Areas of speciality: Criminology and Sociology, Business Management, and Education

Melina Healy – melina.healy@stmarys.ac.uk

- Areas of speciality: Sport, Allied Health and Performance Science

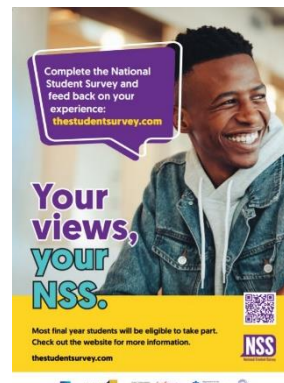
[Further information is available here.](#)

Calling all final year students

Each year, final year students are invited to complete the [National Student Survey](#) (NSS). The NSS is an independent survey that allows students to have their say on their whole student experience, which in turn, helps the university to make developments and positive changes to academic programmes and other areas of university life.

Your voice matters – the feedback you give is vital in shaping the student experience. See more about how we use student feedback to make improvements.

By completing the survey, you'll also help other students make an informed decision about their choice of course and university.



[To learn more about the survey, please click here.](#)

You can help us Shape St Mary's

Your feedback helps Shape St Mary's



The St Mary's student voice helps us form our action plans and where appropriate make changes and improvements.

You know St Mary's best and it's your feedback that will help us make changes for future Simmies in the same way previous students' feedback helped make some of the changes you've seen during your time at St Mary's.

From extra study spaces and increased academic support to additional financial support to take part in enrichment activities, find out what's changed at St Mary's thanks to student feedback.

[Find out how your views help improve life for Simmies here.](#)

SU elections nominations now open

We've officially opened nominations for our Students' Union Elections, which means that you have the opportunity to register your interest in standing for election for one of our sabbatical officer roles. It's an unmissable opportunity and one that's well worth your time.

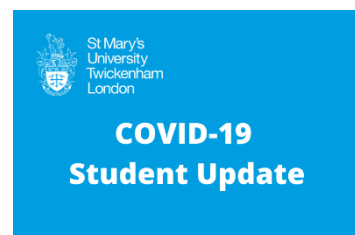
Head to the St Mary's student's union website to access the nomination forms to nominate yourself or a friend you think would make a great Sabb.

The roles available are Student Life Officer and Education Officer.



[Find out more about SU election nominations here.](#)

Quick round up of other news



Beat the blues this January

If you're suddenly finding your 'get up and go' has got up and gone, it could be the time of year that's affecting you.

There's lots of good advice out there on how to make the most of this time of year and we've created a list of our top tips. We've also included information and links to the support available to you at St Mary's.

[Find out more here.](#)

I need help with...

A password reset, my student record, campus directions or I have a question about fees.

The Hub provides access to important student support (e.g. Student Services, Fees, Registry, Careers, Library, IT and Moodle enquiries) all from one central point. The hub is located in the main campus Library

[Find out more here.](#)

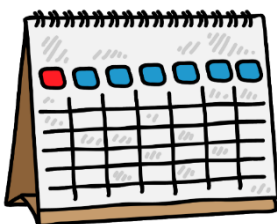
Self-isolation period reduced

Since Monday 17th January the self-isolation period for people who test positive for Covid-19 has been cut to **five days**. Those who test negative on days five and six will be able to stop quarantining on day six.

Further COVID guidance will be provided after the Plan B measure are reviewed.

[Find out more here.](#)

Key dates for your diary



January 2022

- 27th - [Emily Chappell In Conversation - The Exchange](#)
- 22nd - Bucks fixture: Home (Performance Hall) @18:30 Futsal (Women)
- 23rd - Bucks fixture: Away (Brunel Uni) @17:00 Futsal (Men)

February 2022

- LGBTQ+ History month
- 7 - 11 - SU Welcome Week

Information about these campaigns will be shared on the
Student Union and St Mary's University social media channels

St Mary's University 2021

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