



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Student Newsletter



**Hello Simmie,**

The Student Newsletter will be sent to your student email every month. If you have any questions, please email [ourfuture@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:ourfuture@stmarys.ac.uk).

## SMU ranked first in London for Academic Support





Earlier this month saw the release of the National Student Survey results and we're proud to announce that SMU has continued its outstanding performance in 2024.

The NSS, which surveys graduating students on their university experience, found that;

- SMU had improved across all seven of the key themes
- Ranking in the top five nationally\* for Learning Opportunities, Academic Support, and Organisation and Management and top ten for Teaching on My Course, and Student Voice, and,
- Ranked first in London for Academic Support and Organisation and management, and top five in four other categories.
- students rated the University 96% for how good are teaching staff at explaining things,
- 92% for both how easy was it to contact teaching staff when you needed to? and how well have teaching staff supported your learning?
- 91% for how well does your course introduce subjects and skills in a way that builds on what you have already learned? and,
- 90% I was given opportunities to meet my required practice learning outcomes.

**[Find out what Prof. Anthony McClaran, VC said about the results](#)**

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## SMU at the Olympics!

**Good Luck  
Team St Mary's**



The Paris Olympics have officially started, and we are excited to be able to share that there are [thirteen athletes from SMU](#) taking part in the games, in sports ranging from Athletics to Rugby to Para-Cycling at the Paralympics.

St Mary's University has a history of success at recent Olympic and Paralympic Games. Athletes, alumni, and students from SMU have won a gold medal at every Games since Beijing 2008.

Join us in wishing all our athletes the best of luck for the games. We'll be keeping our socials up to date with the latest news about our athletes.

### [Take a look at our IG for the latest news](#)



In other Olympics news! Shout out to Rhiana Galvin, Senior Lecturer in Performance Analysis, who is working as an analyst with Team GB's hockey teams at the Olympic Games in Paris.

### [Find out what Rhiana said about the event](#)

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## School of Education retains Outstanding Ofsted Rating



We're thrilled to announce that our School of Education has once again achieved an Ofsted Outstanding rating in all categories for Primary and Secondary Initial Teacher Training, solidifying our position as a leading teacher training provider in the country.

This marks the third consecutive time we've held this prestigious status since 2011.

The recent report praised our supportive staff and research-driven curriculum, highlighting the exceptional preparation our trainee teachers receive.

[Read the full update and access the report](#)

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## One month in - What have your SABs been up to?



It has been a busy few weeks for Shelley and David, as they have been settling into their new roles as your SMSU Sabbatical Officers (SABs).

They have been meeting staff across the University to introduce themselves and their objectives, as well as attending lots of meetings, as they get under way with

working on the points which outlined as part of their manifestos.

David has been particularly looking at Welcome Fest, working on producing a wide range of engaging and exciting events for everyone to take part in.

Shelley has been focussed on expanding the number of Course Representatives, looking at creating subject specific employability opportunities, and a review of the Extenuating Circumstances policy.

We look forward to seeing the rest of their work over the coming year, and we will be doing some interviews of the next few newsletters to help you get to know them a bit better!

### **[Find out more about your Students' Union](#)**

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## **What's been going on around Campus?**



Whilst you have been away over summer, there has been lots of work taking place on Campus, and we wanted to give you a preview!

**[Student Heart Phase 2](#)** has been making considerable progress. Function rooms have been added to the structure now, meaning that it is nearly ready to be able to hold a wide range of events on your return to campus.

Drama Studio 3 is being converted into a Gaming and E-Sports suite, which will enable Computer Science students to be able to embark on new projects and pieces of work, as well the inclusion of an impressive new 4.8 x 2 metre screen.

The top floor of the library is also being turned into a new study social space - 'The Living Room'. This was a student led project, as part of their work placement module, and it was presented to staff back in February 2024. There will be new and enhanced study spaces which will be of benefit to all students.

**[Find out more about Estates projects](#)**

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## **An Update from the Careers Team**



The Employability team are excited to be able to bring you the dates for some of their activity for the new academic year!

Take a look at what's going on, more information will be shared with you soon, and until then hold the dates!

- Cake and Careers - 17th September, 12-1.30pm - meet the Careers team, find out about what they do, and enjoy some cake!
- Part-time Careers Fair - 8th October, 11am-2.00pm, on Campus (Location TBC).
- Your Future Career Fair - 12th November, 11am-2pm, on Campus (location TBC).

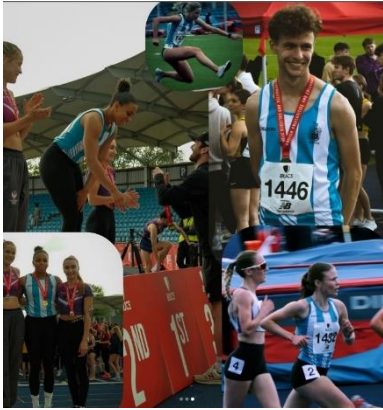
In the meantime, the team are available throughout the summer, and you can book a Careers appointment with them, these can be in-person, via telephone, or online!

**[Book a Careers appointment](#)**

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## Sport St Mary's Annual Round-Up



The 2024/25 academic year saw nearly 600 Sport St Mary's students participate in competitive sports, playing over 370 fixtures.

Highlights included five BUCS league wins, with men's futsal 1s promoted to the premiership and women's futsal topping their league.

Women's futsal president Charlotte Close ranked in the top three goal scorers nationally, the only female in the top five.

Nine students represented English Universities in regional or national squads across five sports, and seven BUCS medals were won, including four golds.

Beyond competition, £1,250 was spent on coaching qualifications for six students, and 38 students held paid roles. The SIMMSactive program engaged 188 students in physical activity, and sports clubs raised £17,199.13 for charity.

Sport St Mary's also hosted the first-ever university Wheelchair Rugby League session and secured a Varsity trophy at Brunel.

This summer, the facilities will host team Australia for their Olympic preparations, offering students valuable experience. We eagerly anticipate another successful year ahead.

[Follow Sport St Mary's on Instagram](#)

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## Guess the St Mary's alumni



Take a look at these clues to see if you can guess this famous member of St Mary's alumni!

1. Born in Bedford
2. Played football for Luton Town FC
3. Studied Acting at SMU
4. Found fame as a guest vocalist with Chase & Status
5. Has released two UK Number One albums

Email your answers to [ourfuture@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:ourfuture@stmarys.ac.uk), and anyone who gets the right answer will get a shoutout in the next newsletter.

Thank you to those of you who took part in last month's anagrams, here are the answers:

1. Athens rutted - **Student Heart**
2. Anton musti ness sturdy - **St Mary's Students' Union**
3. Emile Westminster - **SIMMIE Newsletter**
4. Jock Siwe - **Joe Wicks**
5. Frey Rochette - **The Refectory**

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## Things to note:

- SMU Alumnus, [Professor Jason Arday was awarded an Honorary Doctorate](#) at this year's Summer Graduations.
  - Our Catering team [won a Bronze 'Food for Life' Award](#).
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## Dates for your diary





## August 2024

- 15-16 - Main Clearing period

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