



As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing student life, I've been actively involved in several initiatives aimed at improving various aspects of campus experience.

Firstly, addressing the importance of nutrition and catering to diverse dietary needs, I conducted a comprehensive survey in collaboration with ARU catering team. With an overwhelming response of over 900 submissions, we've successfully introduced over a dozen new menu items from different corners of the globe. These additions not only reflect our diverse student population but also ensure that every student has access to healthy and nutritious options. Furthermore, to make these choices more accessible, all menus are now clearly labelled with major dietary requirements and are available online for your convenience.

Secondly, amidst the challenges posed by the rising cost of living, I've spearheaded the 'Friends of ARUSU' campaign. This initiative aims to forge partnerships with local businesses to offer exclusive discounts to our students. We've made some progress, with several retailers already on board, and we're committed to expanding these partnerships to alleviate financial burdens on our student community while simultaneously supporting local businesses.

Additionally, recognizing the importance of cultural sensitivity and sustainability, with over 50% of the global population utilizing bidet showers for personal hygiene, it's imperative that our campuses are inclusive for all. I'm delighted to announce the approval of the bidet showers initiative. The university has greenlit the installation of bidet showers across multiple locations, aligning with our vision of accessibility and environmental stewardship. We eagerly await the implementation plan from the estates team and anticipate seeing these facilities available on our campuses soon.

Lastly, beyond these specific initiatives, I've remained dedicated to supporting various SU events and advocating for student interests in meetings and committees, both within the SU and with the University.

Your feedback continues to be instrumental in shaping our priorities and actions at ARU and the ARU Students' Union. Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in making our university community vibrant and inclusive.



Student Entrepreneur Week: Over the past two trimesters, I successfully organized the Student Entrepreneur Week twice. The event featured a vibrant student marketplace with more than ten stalls, a Pitching Competition, and an Entrepreneur Motivational Movie Night across both the Cambridge and Chelmsford campuses. These endeavours were accomplished through collaboration with the AREA team, yielding high levels of student engagement and positive feedback.

General Election Registration: Our campaign to facilitate the auto-enrolment of students in voter registration is ongoing, with active involvement in navigating GDPR regulations with the university. Despite challenges, significant progress has been made, and implementation is expected before September. Additionally, I am contributing to the NUS Organiser team for a national Voters Registration Campaign, ensuring continuity and broader impact beyond our campus.

Drop-in Sessions: Three drop-in sessions were conducted across Chelmsford, Cambridge, and Peterborough campuses, attracting more than ten students each. Promotion through social media and newsletters facilitated this turnout. Initial feedback indicates appreciation for the informal and interactive nature of the discussions. To enhance engagement further, plans to incorporate guest speaker sessions are underway, in coordination with faculty and course representatives.

International Night: Four successful events were held at 92, Chelmsford, celebrating cultural diversity and engagement among students. With over 10 performers showcasing various cultural backgrounds, the International Night fostered a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.



Muslim Prayer Room and Multifaith Room

I have successfully opened the new Muslim prayer, and multifaith room, after working on the former project since July 2022, alongside the Islamic Society and ARU. As part of this project I was SU project lead and a key liaison for different stakeholders involved in this project. I made this my officer campaign and ensured the launch, work on, and timely establishment of this space. This involved meetings with the Estates team for the planning, design, implementation of key requirements such as ablution units and the aesthetics of the space. I ensured that the project was seen to conclusion completion in good time. Following project completion in November 2023, I regularly liaise with the ARU chaplaincy, student services and SU societies department to ensure adequate maintenance and improvement of the space.

ARU Chaplaincy and Council

On a similar note, I attend chaplaincy council meetings and feed into how the chaplaincy services at ARU could be improved. I have proposed a terms of reference and have fed back ideas to ensure visibility and proactivity of this crucial service, and ensure that students are at the forefront of any initiatives and decisions.

Palestine-Israel Crisis and Response

My officer team and I have been stricken with grief by the atrocities occurring in Gaza, and since the start of the crisis, have sought to represent student voice in this matter, to ensure that student safety and well-being is at the forefront of what we do. As part of this, I have submitted an SU policy regarding the acknowledgment of, and reference to, the Israeli military occupation, human rights abuses, and violation of international law on Palestine. I also attend emergency response group meetings organised by ARU to relay any concerns and have produced guidelines for ARU for how to deal with such crises and for students affected by global events such as war and conflict. Following overwhelming student feedback, Muneeb and I have also submitted a policy regarding ethical financing and investment within the SU, which would require adherence to social, ethical and environmental principles in SU trade.

Placements Team

I regularly speak to the placement team to communicate student concern and work in partnership for the betterment of all students. My discussions with them have aimed to make the placement teams more responsive to students, close the feedback loop, and take initiatives that benefit

students. The placement team have also fed back suggestions to me from their side such as reducing the cost of graduation, which I have either worked on or delegated to others in my team (Arya and Muneeb are working on graduation costs).

Personal Development Tutor (PDT) Involvement

I attend regular PDT meetings at both local and higher levels to feedback on where the scheme could be improved. I am also working with Elaine Brown on a PDT hub, which would make all PDT-related information, more centralised and include relevant signposting for students. I am leading on this and it is currently underway.

Placement Hub

I have been working with the placement directors on a student placement hub, a centralised point of information for all clinical placement students. In terms of progress so far, this is currently available to nursing, allied health, and medical students, and required further improvement and rolling it out to all students. I am leading on this as a student representative.

Travel to and from Placement

Since the beginning of my two-year term, one of my key campaigns has been to make travel to and from placement, free. I have worked with multiple groups to implement initiatives which would help us reach this long-term aim, such as releasing a placement travel guide (this was in my first term) which is updated regularly; working on and advertising a short-term commuting student travel bursary; collating information, research, and statistics about the financial implications of placement travel on students, to gain a better understanding of what is best for them at what can be fine provided. I have proposed and am due to implement a student placement travel bursary in HeMS, with a view to extending this and providing long-term financial support placement students. I am in the process of agreeing to a commitment to free placement transport for all ARU clinical placement students, as well as an action plan to achieve this which would continue long after I finish my officer term. Finally, I am working with other SU officers across the UK, and in partnership with NUS, on a national campaign to completely eliminate placement travel costs for students, and this is a long project in progress!

Partnership with HeMS Faculty

I talk regularly to different staff and departments within HeMS, to suggest and implement initiatives such as cost-of-living initiatives. For example, I have helped to facilitate the partnership of the HeMS student experience team and the SU in working with FareShare, a registered charity supporting local communities and tackling food waste and hunger. Similarly, I have raised issues regarding the medical school resit policy, the ePad sign-off policy for nursing students, and have provided key data and student feedback so that respective faculty departments can improve on these policies.

EDI

I sit on the SU EDI WG and help to improve student experience at ARU. I have worked on the Ramadan and Eid projects this year, after spearheading them alongside other SU staff last year. I have also introduced the EDI calendar to the HeMS faculty with a view for them to implement this, SMM/24/08 thereby ensuring that student assessments and exams do not fall on the same day as key religious observances in the long-term.

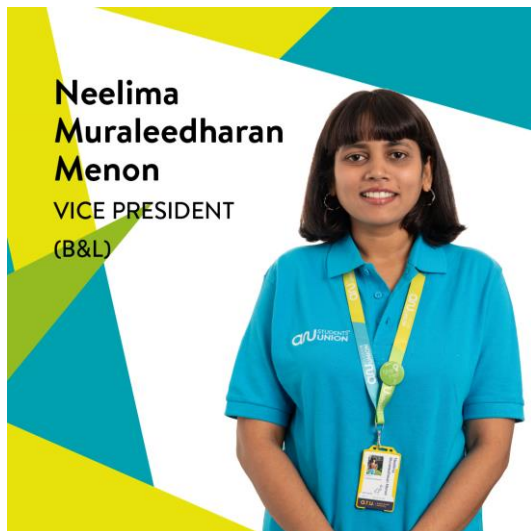


Successfully organized interdepartmental competitions across three campuses with over 16 events and 100+ student attendees, providing a platform for showcasing diverse talents such as painting and chess.

Collaborating with the university team to enhance the visibility and user friendliness of the UNSILENCED platform, hosting some focus groups on different themes to improve trust and communication between students and the institution on reporting an issue.

Partnering with AHES faculty and the employability team to enhance job search services and increase employer participation in future job fairs, aiming to better serve students' career needs.

Collaborating with Muneeb to address graduation costs, engaging in discussions with the university and securing their agreement to explore potential partnerships with photography suppliers to negotiate a bespoke "budget" package for ARU, ultimately reducing expenses for graduating students. Additionally, the university has also agreed to distribute a post-ceremony survey to all students to identify the most significant elements of the event, enabling further opportunities to optimize costs.



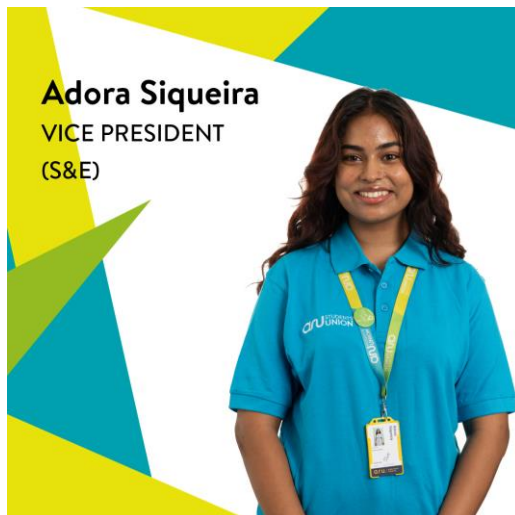
Reducing Class Sizes in the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL): One of our key challenges was the large class sizes in the FBL, which often exceeded 200 students, making it particularly difficult for students, including those with learning differences like dyslexia. After highlighting the behavioral issues and specific challenges faced by neuro-divergent students in these settings, we successfully advocated for change. I'm pleased to report that starting next academic year, class sizes will be reduced to 80-100 in tutor-led sessions and capped at 30 for student-led classes.

CV/Application Assistance Sessions: Despite the availability of CV building services, many students were unaware and not benefiting from these resources. To address this, we organized sessions directly in the SU space, which is frequented by students. By incorporating a peer-to-peer mentoring approach, these sessions became more effective and informal. Held on February 19 and 28, 2024, in Cambridge, the initiative attracted around 30 students and received excellent feedback.

Entrepreneurship Week: In collaboration with Nithin, VP of HEMS, we conducted an 'Entrepreneurship Week' from March 11-13, 2024. The event included a variety of activities such as a student marketplace, movie night, and pitching competitions, aimed at nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit among students.

Aside from these main campaigns, we've run smaller scale initiatives focused on issues like rental scams awareness, enhancing student-administration interaction through events like 'The VC in SU' held on April 24, 2024, in Chelmsford, and enriching our curriculum with guest speakers in the faculty.

Aside from this, there were some other initiatives like Rental Scam awareness, The VC in the SU event which was held on 24th of April in Chelmsford.



Restocking SU spaces:

Fruits provide nutrients for students and is a healthy option for students as a grab on the go snack. It helps with tackling the cost-of-living crises and helps with wellbeing too.

The SU spaces already had free fruit baskets. It was a campaign developed by previous year's officers. However, overtime these spaces lacked these essential fruits and the stock for these goodies were always empty. This could be because the quantity of fruits ordered were insufficient.

I worked with the catering services to come up with a number to make sure the SU spaces are stocked with fruits and porridges. Alongside the front desk staff manager Zoe, we made sure the goodies have already been stocked. We also made sure that the fruits are collected every delivery morning. During the exam seasons I worked with the events team to provide free refreshments to students, as well as availability of plentiful fruits in the SU spaces.

Inter-department competitions:

After the Covid-19 period, it was quite noticeable that the student engagement had a decline. This was an issue not only in our university, but also in majority universities in the United Kingdom. In Collaboration with VP AHES, we organised in total 18 competitions across our three campuses.

We achieved a good amount of student engagement in these competitions with our Cambridge campus having the highest engagement. The winners were awarded with prizes and these achievements made their day.

Especially in November we had the FIFA tournament in appreciation on Men's Mental-Health month. We also encouraged distance learners to participate and engage in these competitions with the online submission of the Poetry and Photography competition.

Fees instalment restructure:

The current fee instalment structure for international students is 60:40 (two instalments). The first instalment- 60% should be paid in September at the commencement of their term and the second instalment must be paid in January (40%) at the commencement of their second term.

In January, I have had international students approach me worried that they haven't got enough money left to pay the whole 40% in January. The reasons being that they spent way too much money in temporary accommodation in the start of their academic year, or that they did not have enough guidance and support on money expenditure, or on which are the cheapest places for grocery shopping. The cost-of-living crises has also affected their mindset of engaging with students as it costs money.

The Christmas break is meant to be a time where students can enjoy the festive experience in this foreign country, but they stress about gathering up money to pay their fees. The 20 hour per week work hours law isn't enough to gather enough money during the festive break either. The hardship fund provided by our university's finance service does not apply to international students.

Moreover, students cannot graduate without paying the whole tuition fee, so to graduate they would eventually make sure that they do pay the whole tuition fee. Students are in a lot of stress and their mental- wellbeing takes a huge toil.

The proposed fees instalment plan put forward to the finance director, Mike Frost is an instalment ratio of 60:20:20. The three-instalment plan has been adopted by many other universities in different percentages, and has worked quite well with their students.