



# Our Strategy



**Middlesex University Students' Union exists to improve the lives of Middlesex University Students.**

This strategy has been developed for MDXSU collaboratively by our students, our student leaders, our staff team, our university and our local community. We are proud to be a democratically led organisation and it is therefore vital that our future is shaped by students rather than a proscriptive and restrictive strategy. As an organisation which values inclusivity and innovation we need our strategy to be broad enough to support diversity of approach and new ideas.

This strategy, is therefore a statement of our values and our purpose rather than defining outcomes and objectives.



*We exist to promote equity for individual students, citizenship within our university and justice in the world around us.*



# Our Purpose

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## Equity

Middlesex University Students' Union exists to advance equity of opportunity and fairness of outcome for our students. This necessitates our members to gain the skills, social capital and support needed to empower them to fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions. Tackling the causes of inequity for our students and breaking down barriers to achievement.



## Citizenship

Middlesex University Students' Union exists to promote citizenship for students within our university. Citizenship requires pride, affinity and belonging combined with the genuine ability to influence and shape the student experience. We believe in a university made up of active citizens rather than passive consumers.

## Justice

Middlesex University Students' Union exists to redress the injustices which exist in society. Our university is not detached from the world around us, and as a global university our students are affected by global injustices. We believe that Middlesex University isn't just in Barnet, it is for Barnet. Our diversity and our students lived experiences of injustice are why we emphasise empowering our students to tackle unfairness.



*In order to achieve our purpose as an organisation we need to advance four key ambitions in our work.*

# Our Ambition



## Leadership

Leadership can take many forms and we will challenge assumptions about what a leader is. We want every student at our university to recognise themselves as a leader and every graduate to have experience of leadership. Our ambition is that every Middlesex University student will shape their university whilst studying and will leave with the skills to shape the world in the future.



## Networks

Informal and formal networks are a major motivator for people deciding to study at a University. This is because knowledge is far more powerful when combined with a strong network. We want every student at Middlesex University to belong to diverse networks which lead to friendships, build social capital, support social mobility and create future opportunities. Our ambition is that every Middlesex University student will belong to strong and diverse networks which positively shape their time at university and their future.

## Wellbeing

Too often stress, anxiety and bad mental health are assumed to be an unavoidable part of being a student. We want every student at our university to learn in an environment which supports them to succeed, and supports holistic physical and mental wellbeing. We will focus on tackling both the causes and results of poor wellbeing, and promoting positive wellbeing. Our ambition is that every Middlesex University student will study in an environment which is positive for their wellbeing.

## Social Action

Middlesex University is built on a foundation of excellence in practice orientated education where knowledge is combined with action. We want every student at our university to take the knowledge they are gaining through study and combine it with their values and lived experiences to shape the world around them. Our ambition is that every Middlesex University Student will take part in social action as a core part of the student experience rather than as a 'extra' curricular activity.

# Your Union Your Voice



*In order to achieve our purpose and our ambitions we need an innovative and inclusive approach.*

# Our Approach

## Culture

We believe in a culture which reflects our commitment to Equity, Citizenship and Justice where we positively support a good work life balance. As a people based organisation we believe in giving our people the support, flexibility and direction required to be successful. Working within the education sector means that we value the importance of lifelong education, development and also the benefits of volunteering. We are passionate about our students extraordinary talents and abilities and therefore will always try to create paid opportunities to turn their knowledge and skills into action.

## Voice

We want to integrate our commitment to equity, citizenship and justice into how we engage with our membership, our university and the world around us. We will focus on developing innovative ways to engage with our membership, our university and our local community whilst also building our reputation as a values based organisation.

## Governance

We prioritise a governance system which keeps our organisation focussed on its core purposes whilst ensuring students are empowered to shape our priorities. We will always ensure that we focus on the full diversity of our membership with an accessible approach to engagement. We recognise the importance of having an approach which draws on expertise from beyond our sector and in the benefits of external perspectives. Finally we recognise the importance of transparency, integrity, consistency and expertise in ensuring we are a compliant and sustainable organisation.

## Partnerships

We appreciate that the scale of our ambition means that we will not be able to achieve our purpose alone. We need evolving, diverse and sustainable partners within our university, our sector and our local community to advance equity, citizenship and justice. These partnerships will be based on mutual understanding and shared values.



**Champions.  
Changemakers.  
Architects.  
Radicals.**



 ***A catalyst***  
for change.