

# The Officers Heroes Awards 2023

Our 2022/23 GSU Officers - Jabed, Anuj, Abdul and Krishmi have each nominated UoG Staff who have had a positive impact on their experience as Officer. They chose to title this exhibition The Officers Heroes Awards.

The Officers Heroes Awards celebrates the collaboration between the University and Union staff and showcase amazing stories of what we can achieve together.

This exhibition showcases University staff who have gone above and beyond to support, empower and ensure our Officers have a positive journey in their roles. The University staff members have been instrumental in championing equality, diversity and inclusion to students' university journey.

On each board, you'll hear from the nominees first, and then our Officer team about the working relationship between them and the Union, and any initiatives they champion.



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students'  
union



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## Dr Louise Owusu-Kwarteng

Associate Dean Student Success & Professor of Applied Sociology, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Nominated by Anuj Baral, GSU Officer*

I have been totally blessed in my dealings with GSU. You are dynamic, responsive, knowledgeable and a real support to all of our students here at the University of Greenwich. I really hope this is recognised - because I run my mouth about this to everyone! I have always felt confident in referring some of our students who are experiencing difficult and complex issues on to you, knowing that they'll be in safe hands. I love meeting with Anuj, Gemma and Anna for coffee on a monthly basis to discuss the lifetimes and plans for FLAS. Thank you so much for all you do for us.

Every experience and project I have worked with you on has been fantastic. You have invited me to participate in some brilliant initiatives, including International Women's day, Black Excellence exhibitions, leading workshops on gender inequalities, our Student Conference (2021, We Move.) The latest one is our Student Stories Podcast series and Sophie has been an absolute dream on this - she has made things move fast, and in so doing, we've got some very important people backing us. Plus she's very good at reigning me back when my mind runs 1000mph! Thank you, Sophie! It is great because I get to share my expertise, but in a space where you feel the love and support. Being an old Midlands softie, this means a lot to me.

When I received the email and the nomination, I have to admit to crying like a 47 year old baby, then I called my niece and cried again! I was so touched - THANK YOU.

*"Louise and I work closely together within the FLAS faculty and she is always on hand to ensure the best outcome for the students. She greets everyone with happiness and kindness which goes a long way. She has a positive mindset to work with GSU to ensure positive student experiences. Professors like Louise will improve the university experience for both Home and International students."*



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## Tania Struetzel

Head of Student Engagement  
and Success

*Nominated by Anuj Baral, GSU Officer and  
Yasinur Javed, GSU President*

All of my team's projects and interventions are aimed at improving the experience of our diverse student body and of course we couldn't develop and deliver any of these without students themselves and working in partnership with GSU. I really value the insights, energy and ideas our GSU Officers and colleagues have when we develop new initiatives together or collaborate on existing projects. I work closely with GSU on our delivery of Welcome, the Retention Project and most importantly this year our Cost of Living support for students which have all contributed to ensuring students who may have found it difficult to engage with their studies this year can still succeed. I am very grateful for the support, ideas and challenges from GSU Officers and colleagues over the last year which have inspired me and my team to think about new and different approaches to how we can best support our students, and am excited for what we will be able to deliver together next year!

*"I'm nominating Tania because she is always willing to help and collaborate with GSU. She has provided me with guidance and support within my campaigns and has the students best interested at heart" - Anuj Baral, GSU Officer*

*"I met Tania at the 20/21 GSU Officers leaving do. I remember chatting about different university issues and how to improve them without realising she was a university staff! She listened and now almost at the end of my 2-year tenure she still listens. Thank you, Tania, for all your support and dedication for Students' Union." - Javed Javed, GSU President*



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## Dr Stefano Ghinoi & Kim Bui

Programme Leader for BA  
International Business

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Deputy Programme Leader for  
BA International Business

*Nominated by Krishmi Karki, GSU Officer*

Putting student engagement and co-creation at the forefront of their actions, Stefano and Kim have worked tirelessly to shape the BA International Business and BA International Business with Language programmes towards having a central focus on employability. They wanted to ensure their students could further grow their confidence into showcasing their many talents and getting them ready to grab opportunities after graduation.

Working with GSU and colleagues across the institution, Stefano and Kim led the launch of innovative initiatives to maximise the student experience and learning. This is how the Masterclass Series were created: the outcome of a collaborative effort brought to life thanks the support of the Greenwich Student' Union, The Generator and the International Business Society. Working with such brilliant teams demonstrated how co-creating with different communities of the University can lead to great things.

The Masterclass Series has been an impactful initiative with students expressing "it made me excited about possible graduate opportunities and opened my eyes to the range of jobs that are out there" and Industry speakers highlighting "it was a fantastic event and a great reminder of how bright and talented our future generations are." Stefano and Kim look forward to working together again to grow the success of the Masterclass Series, to have a greater university reach, and to inspire the University of Greenwich' student body to continue to aim high – the sky is the limit!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Krishmi Karki, Emma Caney, Joe Blomfield and the support of all at The School of Business Operations and Strategy.

*"Stefano and Kim have been instrumental my academic experience and as well as being an Officer. They have provided opportunities for students to get involved with and myself to host an event with industry experts. Their contribution to their programme, faculty and students is invaluable, and I am proud to be working alongside them."*



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## Ruhana Uddin

Student Engagement Assistant

*Nominated by Krishmi Karki, GSU Officer*

Since joining the university, a little over a year ago, I have gained a lot of valuable insight into key student challenges, needs, and aspirations, whilst working with GSU. I have been inspired by the relentless and on-going student-centric initiatives, activities, and operations, that the SU have been running, particularly amidst the backdrop of the Pandemic and Cost of Living crisis. It has been a rewarding experience to collaborate with GSU and to be able to witness first-hand, the positive impact the collaboration has been making; working with Krishmi in particular, has been pleasant. I have always admired her work ethic, her commitment to fulfilling the responsibility entrusted upon her, for remaining resilient during any difficulties, and for having the attitude to keep persisting no matter what. Our conversations have always been meaningful; I have been impressed with the swift progress she had been making with her campaign promises, as well as her strong personality which I am sure, is inspirational to young women in our university.

Working in Student Engagement means no two days are ever the same; whether it be supporting the delivery of our Engagement Projects or Operational activities, in a bid to be proactive about addressing, resolving, and preventing, student challenges, creativity and constant planning has always kept things exciting. There has been so much that I have learned from the students, thanks to the nature of this front-facing role; Greenwich students are progressive, determined, and resourceful, and it is because of their participation and initiative, that the university and union are able to enhance student experiences

*"Ruhana is always on hand to help and support all my campaigns and work whilst being an Officer. Ruhana has helped me to promote my Food Diversity Campaign and Period Poverty to our student staff population, which has been instrumental to completing these campaigns. On a personal level and through our work, Ruhana has become a good friend and is always on hand to help."*



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## Noreen Hussain

CAS Officer

*Nominated by Abdul Ahad, GSU Officer*

This will be my sixth year at Greenwich. I joined as a student and I'm now working full-time at the university. I very much enjoyed being a student at Greenwich, thanks to the support provided by the university and the GSU. This particularly being the reason why I decided to begin a career in higher education. In my previous role as a Student Engagement Assistant, I had the opportunity to support and encourage students to achieve their best, and in general to ensure university was a more pleasant and enjoyable experience. Since working at the university, I have been able to grow my network through meeting and working with many inspirational staff members. One of them being Abdul. It has been great working with Abdul. His dedication to support both students and his colleagues is truly commendable. I particularly worked quite closely with Abdul during the September 2022 Welcome period. Abdul had a key presence during Welcome, speaking to students, supporting them and being a friendly face on campus. Thus, being well recognised by the student body that he represents. I have learnt quite a lot from Abdul and he has played a key role to my time at Greenwich. I greatly appreciate being nominated by Abdul as his Officer Hero.

*"I have nominated Noreen as throughout the welcome weeks in September and January, I couldn't help but notice how much Noreen loved her job and how she would spend her break time and after hours empowering and supporting students. Noreen works closely with students, ambassadors and Officers and does not get enough appreciation for the support she provides to myself and others. Even after moving to a new role which doesn't require being on the ground and front facing, Noreen still takes time out of her day to support ambassadors and listen to the concerns and queries of our students here at the university."*



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## Zoe Thorne

Practise Based Learning & Placement Manager

*Nominated by Abdul Ahad, GSU Officer*

Firstly, a big thank you to Abdul for nominating me, it was fantastic to meet Abdul, Sophie and Ralph from the GSU in October last year to discuss Health and Education placements across the faculty and their enthusiasm was infectious. I think they were all surprised at the complexity of allocating the placements across the academic year. I have worked for the University for over 11 years now and still passionately enjoy the work that I do, supported by my wonderful team and colleagues within the faculty. It is very empowering to know that we as a team are responsible for placing Student Nurses, Midwives, Paramedics, Social Workers, Primary, Secondary, FETs (Further Education Training sector) and Early Years students into settings to ensure that they receive the correct experiences in placements in order for them to pass their degree and go out into the world qualified in their chosen profession. The University's 'This is our time' Strategy 2030 supports my views of an organisation that I want to work for and I genuinely love every minute.

*"I had only met Zoe once and it was enough to nominate Zoe. Zoe's compassion and love of her job is simply unmatched, I have never come across anyone who was as energetic as Zoe when it came to speaking about why they love their job. Zoe is quintessentially the backbone of various courses such as nursing and primary education where students are required to carry out placement hours in order to fulfil the requirements of their degree, therefore I believe it is only fair we thank Zoe for her hard work and more specifically her hard work which she does with care and compassion."*



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## Sharon Perera

Academic Support Team  
Manager

*Nominated by Yasinur Javed, GSU President*

I feel privileged to be able to work closely with Greenwich Students' Union, co-creating services that students need and value. It's been an absolute pleasure to have worked with Javed, developing Global English and more recently, on the Student Conference. Apart from the obvious benefits these projects bring to students, it's just a great experience working with Javed and the entire team.

*"Sharon is one of the most supportive and collaborative colleagues I have worked with from the university. I really admire the way she works on student needs and feedback. I had the opportunity to work with her to execute one of my manifestoes promises to establish a Global English Language workshop to support our international students. Her team helped me to deliver this as a pilot scheme in 2021 and now they have made it as business as usual for every year. I have worked with Sharon on GreFest, Student Conference and many other projects which focused on improving the student experience. Thank you Sharon, for all your support." - Javed Javed, GSU President*

*"At the start of my work as a GSU officer, I met Sharon, whom I told about my campaign of providing compulsory academic skills course to new students, and she expressed excitement for my project. Sharon, in my opinion, is a fantastic person to work with"- Anuj Baral, GSU Officer*



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## Katie Jenkins

Senior International Student  
Advisor

*Nominated by Yasinur Javed, GSU President*

I have worked at the university for many years as a student immigration adviser, and now I lead the International Student Advice Service. My team and I are really committed to giving immigration advice to our international students when they need it in a way which is ethical, holistic and respectful of what it is that they want to achieve. I spend a lot of time listening to international students and care about their concerns.

A lot of the work we do is hidden because it's confidential! But we are always working on a huge amount of very student focussed work.

The Students' Union, its Sabbatical Officers and the President are crucial in representing the voice of all our students across the university. And the SU Advice Service is a close ally. I respect the work of the Students' Union as an independent body and like to work closely with them where it is to the benefit of the students.

*"Katie has advised me since I started studying at the University of Greenwich. Her empathy to listen and understand international student concerns is 2nd to none. She helped me with my visa issues even after I graduated from the university. I thank Katie for all the support she has given me over the last few years and the dedication she puts into her work."*