

Annual Review

2024/2025



LSBU | GROUP

South Bank Academies, South Bank
Colleges, London South Bank University

Our Vision

**To transform lives,
communities, businesses
and society through applied
education and insight.**

United Nations SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, provide quality education and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The LSBU Group has embedded nine of the seventeen UN SDGs into our Corporate Strategy.



Introduction from the Group CEO and Vice-Chancellor

In the few months since I joined London South Bank University Group I have already come across many examples of brilliance from students and colleagues.

At London South Bank University, our graduates remain the highest paid of all London modern universities, reflecting the University's excellent track-record delivering high quality technical and vocational education that leads to rewarding employment opportunities.

Our Knowledge Exchange Framework ranking leapt 12 places into the top 50 out of 140 participating institutions. We were named University of the Year for Social Inclusion by the Daily Mail, demonstrating our commitment to breaking down barriers to opportunity, and we maintained

a top ten world ranking for reducing inequalities in the Times Higher Impact Rankings.

South Bank Colleges received a Good Ofsted grade, with adult learning programmes - which make up 75% of the courses on offer - recognised as 'Outstanding'. We became the first college in the country to commission a borehole solely dedicated to training, allowing the launch of the UK's first Level 3 Low Carbon Heating Technician Apprenticeship, with a pathway onto the Level 4 Building Services Engineering Technician Apprenticeship at LSBU.





At South Bank Academies, learners demonstrated empathy and entrepreneurship whilst organising numerous charity events to benefit vulnerable local community groups. Students and staff welcomed the pioneering nurse and health educator Dame Elizabeth Anionwu to open a state-of-the-art simulation ward on campus, reflecting our commitment to creating extra teaching capacity as outlined in the NHS workforce plan.

At LSBU Group we work with learners, staff, alumni, partners and employers in continuing to challenge social and economic inequalities through applied education, insight and partnership.

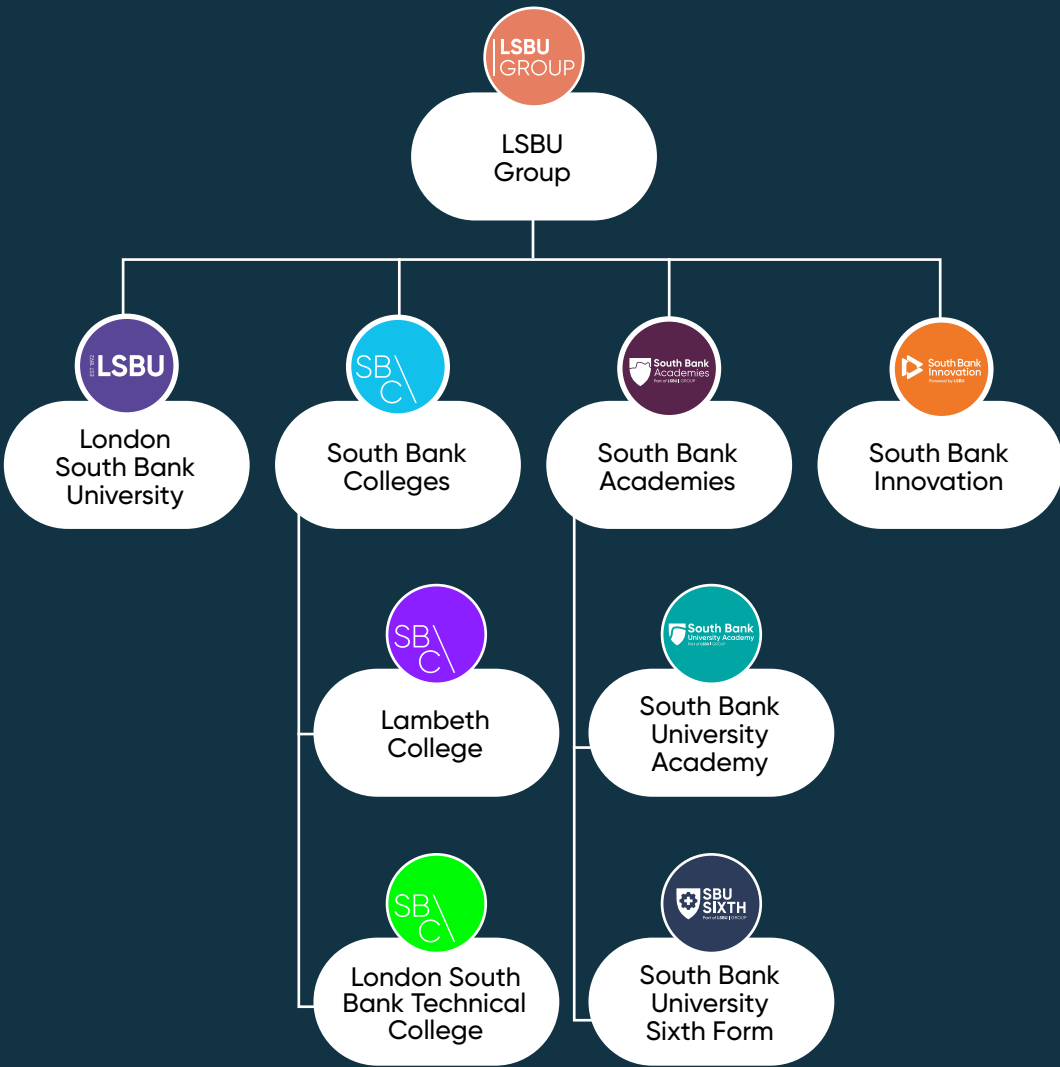
There is more we can do together, and I am committed to establishing new partnerships and wider connections to meet the needs of more learners and future employers – becoming an education powerhouse for London that drives forward our local communities and businesses.

On the following pages you will find information about our work and impact. I hope you find it of interest – and if you are interested in working with us please get in touch vc@lsbu.ac.uk.

Paul Kett
*London South Bank University
 Group CEO and Vice-Chancellor*

LSBU Group

The LSBU Group comprises South Bank Academies, South Bank Colleges, South Bank Innovation and London South Bank University. Working to one vision, it seeks to deliver the educational needs of communities and businesses locally and globally.



LSBU Group

facts and figures



31,000
Students

including 17,500 at LSBU,
1,300 academy students, 6,300 in further
education and 6,000 transnational
students.

Of these:



6,000
study **part-time**



3,300
are **apprentices**

21+ **16,650**
are **mature learners**
(over 21)



5,500
are **sponsored by their
employers**



3,500
are **post-graduates**

Research

£24 Million

In 2022/23, LSBU received around
£24 million in research and
enterprise income.

68%

of LSBU's research is rated
as World Leading or
Internationally Excellent.

Research Excellence Framework 2021



Since 2022, LSBU Green Skills Hub
has trained over **2,400 residents**
and **created over 800 jobs, work
experience and placements.**

Supporting the Health of London:

60+ LSBU works with **over
60 NHS trusts.**



We are one of the UK's
**largest providers of
paediatric nurse** training.

1/5

We educate **1/5 of all new
nurses** in London.



Guy's and St Thomas'
NHS Foundation Trust
sponsors South Bank
University Sixth Form.

Working with Employers



LSBU works in partnership
with around **2,000 employers**
including: Network Rail, Bouygues
UK, Lidl, Unilever, Mace, the UK
Atomic Energy Authority, Sellafield
and London Underground.



LSBU Group delivers **40+
apprenticeship standards**
from Levels 2-7.

Delivering Social Impact

6th

LSBU is ranked **6th in the world
for Reducing Inequalities**
(SDG 10) in the 2025 Times
Higher Impact Rankings.



LSBU is ranked **17th among
UK universities for graduate
starting salaries** at one year
after graduation according to
Longitudinal Education Outcomes
Data (2022-23).



LSBU is Daily Mail **University of the
Year for Social Inclusion 2025.**

5th

A 2021 study by the Institute for
Fiscal Studies ranked LSBU **5th in
England for its contribution to
Social mobility.**

Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



LSBU Win Times Higher Education Award for Commitment to Bridging Healthcare Gaps

"We are delighted to be recognised for our contribution to the local community. This is testament to LSBU's commitment to providing practical health support to people, staff, and students, while supporting the local community with real-world solutions."

Professor Tara Dean
LSBU Provost

LSBU won the 'Outstanding Contribution to Local Community' award at the Times Higher Education Awards 2024 for its innovative approach to tackling high blood pressure among at-risk groups in a ceremony in November.

Led by Professor Nicola Thomas, who is Professor of Kidney Care at LSBU's School of Nursing and Midwifery, the project focuses on reaching individuals from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities who are disproportionately affected by high blood pressure. Factors such as genetic predisposition, lack of awareness, and distrust in traditional healthcare services contribute to these groups being at greater risk.

The project, run by LSBU and Croydon BME Forum, trained south London barbers to provide free on-the-spot blood pressure checks along with a haircut in a bid to tackle undiagnosed health issues. The initiative aimed to reach Black and Asian men who have undiagnosed high blood pressure.

LSBU received three other nominations in the 2024 THE Awards including Outstanding Entrepreneurial University of the Year, Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership and Outstanding Support for Students, receiving a commendation in the latter category.



Centre for Health, Injury and Performance opened by Chief Nursing Officer for England

In June, Duncan Burton, Chief Nursing Officer for England, officially opened LSBU's new Centre for Health, Injury and Performance.

The Centre includes:

- Nine state-of-the-art immersive suites simulating hospital ward and critical care environments featuring remotely-controlled mannequins to replicate real life clinical scenarios.
- Skills labs for the development of technical skills such as venepuncture, cannulation and catheterisation.
- Audio visual facilities to allow live-streaming from the simulation suites, enabling students to review video of their simulation session and reflect and receive feedback from academics and peers.

LSBU secured funding for the high-tech facilities after successfully applying for £5.8 million of Office for Students capital funding to upgrade, reconfigure and expand their suite of 23 health labs. The application was made after the Nursing and Midwifery Council decided in 2023 to increase the number of hours that pre-registration students can spend in university skills labs and simulation suites.

Opened ahead of the publication of the NHS workforce plan, the facilities create extra teaching capacity allowing LSBU to expand student numbers and train more nurses and allied health professionals to fill key vacancies within the health service.

The opening of the Centre, which is located inside LSBU's K2 building on Keyworth Street, involved tours, speeches, refreshments and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by the Chief Nursing Officer.



It was an honour to open London South Bank University's new Centre for Health, Injury and Performance and great to see the new facilities available to student nurses, midwives and allied health professionals.

I was excited to learn how the next generation of our professions will benefit from the innovative technology on offer, and it was clear to see how it will enhance their learning experience. I was so impressed with the enthusiasm and drive demonstrated by the students and educators I met today."

Duncan Burton
Chief Nursing Officer for England



SBU Sixth Host Dame Elizabeth Anionwu

In March, SBU Sixth welcomed Dame Elizabeth Anionwu, pioneering nurse, health educator and sickle cell specialist. She officially opened the Dame Elizabeth Anionwu Simulation Ward, a simulated hospital suite that includes a range of medical equipment and realistic mannequin patients that enable learners to develop skills in a realistic care environment.

As part of her visit she also met with student and staff leaders, toured health facilities, and gave a question-and-answer talk to students studying health and science courses. While at SBU Sixth she spoke about her background, overcoming discrimination, her own motivations and historical nursing icons.

Dame Elizabeth was the UK's first sickle-cell and thalassemia nurse specialist. Both diseases are more common in people with an African or Caribbean family background, so her work was important in addressing health inequalities among an increasingly diverse population. She has been recognised with numerous honours for her work, including the award of a CBE in 2001, induction into the Nursing Hall of Fame in 2010, being made a Dame in 2017, and securing a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pride of Britain awards in 2019. In 2022 she was made a member of the Commonwealth Order of Merit. She is also an Honorary Doctor of Science with LSBU.



A visit from such an inspirational figure as Dame Elizabeth is a wonderful opportunity for our students, both to learn from her experience and realise their own potential as the care professionals of the future. We are grateful and honoured by her visit and plan to learn more about the developments she has made in our understanding of disease and the way we run our health services. Naming our Simulation Ward after her will provide lasting inspiration to all our health science students."

Ingrid Miller
SBU Sixth Lead Tutor for Health Science

Groundbreaking 'Re-smoking' Project Launched by LSBU

LSBU academics Dr Claire Atkinson and Dr Allan Tyler launched a transdisciplinary project to investigate the risk of infection and the transmission of antimicrobial resistance through scavenged cigarette butts.

Re-smoking discarded cigarette butts is a common practice in socially deprived areas; nearly half of smokers experiencing homelessness were found to be engaging in this behaviour by previous LSBU-led research published in 2019.

Despite the potential exposure to harmful bacteria, there is no published research quantifying the infection risk involved. This two year project, launched at the start of the 2024/25 academic year, seeks to fill that gap by using microbial metagenomics - the study of genetic material recovered directly from environmental samples - to analyse cigarette butts collected from various locations across London. The resulting microbiological fingerprint will be used to inform awareness campaigns and educational initiatives, ultimately contributing to harm reduction strategies designed to mitigate risk.



LSBU Awarded Tender to Evaluate Merton Borough of Sport Programme

In June, LSBU academics Dr Rita de Oliveira and Dr Lisa Zaidell were awarded £48,000 by Merton Council to evaluate their Borough of Sport Programme.

The project, which is set to begin in September 2025, will involve an LSBU team analysing and providing strategic advice on Merton's initiative which aims to make physical activity accessible to all residents, regardless of age, ability, or background.

LSBU academics will measure how successfully those from key demographic groups (including children aged 4-16, those aged 65 and above, and people from underserved communities) are supported by the 22 local projects under the Borough of Sport umbrella.

LSBU Initiative Trains Sports Coaches in Montenegro

LSBU academic Dr Rita de Oliveira was invited to deliver training on Positive Sports Coaching to 20 Montenegrin sports coaches in May.

Insights from Dr de Oliveira’s This Girl Can Lambeth research project helped shape the training content – particularly her work on why girls often drop out of sport early. This work had revealed that girls are not solely seeking fun and social interaction but value having a skilled coach who can help them progress. They respond positively to autonomy-supportive environments where they are given choices, which can be easily implemented using contemporary sports pedagogy. These principles of good practice are not exclusive to girls but are equally effective in coaching boys and in fostering long-term participation in sport across youth demographics.

Interviews with key stakeholders – coaches, parents, academics, exercise providers, and representatives from the Montenegrin Olympic Committee – were also used to inform the design of a tailored training programme for the coaches.

The project, which was delivered in partnership with the Montenegrin Olympic Committee, the Sport Innovation Hub and the University of Chieti-Pescara, provided on-site feedback during a multi-sport camp organised by the Centre for Affirmation Through Sport that brought together 150 children and featured nine different sports (football, basketball, rugby, handball, volleyball, gymnastics, judo, table tennis, teqball).



PHIRST South Bank Celebrate Five Years of Academic-Local Government Partnership and Learning for Public Health Policy

The Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Team (PHIRST) was started in 2020 to link interdisciplinary academic teams with local government to evaluate public health interventions.

Led by London South Bank University, PHIRST South Bank celebrated its fifth anniversary in January. It is the only single university PHIRST Centre and draws from interdisciplinary expertise from public health, planning, energy, and behavioural science. It has generated important insights into many pressing and complex issues affecting the nation’s health from the rise in vaping, gambling related harms and serious youth violence.

PHIRST South Bank has evaluated ten interventions across a range of different issues in this period. Key findings relevant for public health policy making include:

Complex issues • Complicated problems facing young people, such as serious violence and mental health, require complex programmes of activity that draw on multiple stakeholders and which enable the sharing of data and intelligence to ensure engagement of young people.	Public Health Workforce • The public health workforce needs training in advocacy skills to be able to influence policy. • Alcohol-related offences can be addressed in police custody to introduce a more preventative approach. • The public health workforce needs to be trained, equipped and resourced to work across directorates within local government such as with planning teams to address the wider determinants of health.	Community Building for Health • Education about harmful products and industry practices, rather than promoting the ‘individual responsibility’ model, is key to reducing gambling related harms. • Social media can be a useful community adjunct to public health messaging.
Delivery of Public Health Services • Smoking cessation services are as acceptable and effective online as face to face.		Lifestyle and Behavioural Interventions • Efforts to increase exercise participation need to be flexible, free and part of wider approaches to wellbeing. • Using behavioural science to understand the framing of information is key to encouraging changes to the public’s behaviour such as recycling or walking.

LSBU Lead on Dementia-Friendly Innovation

In March, LSBU academics were at the forefront of the groundbreaking BRIDGES for Dementia Network, a £1.97 million project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the National Institute for Health and Care Research.

As one of only four UK-wide initiatives awarded a share of the £6 million investment, BRIDGES co-designs adaptive technologies that empower individuals living with dementia to live independently and thrive in their communities.

LSBU are relying on their expertise in sustainable built environment to co-lead the Indoor and Outdoor Spaces strand of the network alongside University College London (UCL). Hua Zhong, Associate Professor of Sustainable Built Environment and a Chartered Engineer, is leading LSBU's contribution to this project. An advocate for inclusive design, her work focuses on optimising indoor environments such as navigation, lighting, thermal comfort, and air quality, to enhance the independence of individuals living with dementia.

People with lived experience of dementia are at the heart of this work. Hua is directly collaborating with diverse dementia communities – including underrepresented ethnic groups and socio-economically disadvantaged populations – to ensure technologies and spaces are accessible, culturally sensitive, and tailored to evolving needs.

LSBU's contribution to the project will focus on:

- **Smart, sustainable design:** Integrating dementia-friendly layouts, sensor technologies, and energy-efficient systems into homes and care facilities. This includes prototyping navigation apps that use AI to guide users through complex indoor spaces like supermarkets.
- **Multi-sensory environments:** Partnering with experts to reduce auditory confusion and optimise natural light and ventilation.
- **Policy impact:** Shaping national standards to prioritise dementia-friendly design in future infrastructure.



This project embodies LSBU's dedication to research that transforms lives. By merging sustainable engineering with lived experience, we're not just designing spaces – we're creating communities where people with dementia can live with dignity, autonomy and joy."

Hua Zhong

Associate Professor of Sustainable Built Environment at LSBU and Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)



SBU Sixth Students Organise Children's Hospital Donation

Students at South Bank University Sixth Form worked together to arrange a Christmas donation to Evelina Children's Hospital.

Through a combination of donations from students and staff and collections of unwanted gifts, SBU Sixth Health Science students arranged multiple hampers of gifts worth over £500 in total.

SBU Sixth Engineering students contributed to this drive through their skills with CAD and 3D printers to produce a variety of complex toys.

Evelina Children's Hospital is part of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital. They provide a number of work placements for SBU Sixth Health and Social Care students.



It was wonderful to see the students' generosity and creativity come out in our festive charity work this year. Evelina is a hospital that has helped many staff and students here, and it is lovely that we were able to give a little something back. The students are passionate about the NHS and health system and this shone through in their enthusiastic efforts."

Ingrid Miller

SBU Sixth Curriculum Lead for Health Science

Pioneering Book Highlighting Welfare in Modern Britain Published by LSBU Academic

In April, LSBU Professor of Social History, Caitriona Beaumont, officially launched a collection titled *Everyday Welfare: Complicating Experiential Expertise and Activism in Modern British History* alongside co-editor Doctor Eve Colpus, University of Southampton, and Doctor Ruth Davidson, Queen Mary University of London at an international symposium hosted by LSBU.

The book represents a new approach to understanding welfare in modern Britain. Foregrounding the agency individuals and groups claimed through experiential expertise, it traces the deep connections between personal experience, welfare, and activism across diverse settings in modern Britain. These groups include women, children, students, bereaved families, community groups, individuals living in poverty and adults whose status sits outside professional categories.

The collection was first published as fully open access in January, and within seven months it had recorded over 17,000 downloads. The significant interest shown in this text contributed to a commission for Professor Beaumont to write a chapter on 'Experiential Expertise' for the forthcoming Routledge *History of Experience*.



LSBU Active Strengthen Community Wellbeing and Student Success

LSBU Active has adopted the Social Value Calculator developed by 4GLOBAL in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University and Experian to estimate the social value their sporting activities bring to staff, students and the local community. This evidence-based tool applies national research and benchmarks to translate outcomes into a monetary equivalent, enabling LSBU Active to track, predict, and evidence the positive changes they create.

By helping to prevent illness and reduce pressure on the NHS, participation in LSBU Active programmes by 6,756 participants across the 2024/25 academic year is estimated to have saved £26,653 in type 2 diabetes treatment, £23,074 in dementia treatment, £8,642 treatment of hip fractures and £7,919 against the risk of coronary heart disease and strokes.

On top of the £69,677 generated in physical and mental health social value, LSBU Active programmes were also estimated to have produced:

- **Subjective Wellbeing worth £384,518** – reflecting the profound effect of regular activity on happiness and quality of life.
- **Individual Development worth £33,190** – equipping students and community members with confidence, discipline, and leadership skills.
- **Social & Community Development worth £176,355** – building inclusive, connected communities.

LSBU Lecturer Wins Prestigious Hawksmoor Essay Medal

In January, Dr Christopher Cowell, Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory at LSBU, was awarded the prestigious Hawksmoor Essay Medal from the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain (SAHGB).

The Medal was awarded for Dr Cowell's essay titled 'The Height of Health: Sections, Sanatoria, and Settler Colonialism in Northern India, 1815–1842'. His essay combined architectural visual analysis with textual primary sources to examine the early colonial history of hill stations in the Himalayas. It explored how the British East India Company established military medical sanatoria – facilities that provide medical care for sick and injured military personnel – while hiding a secondary programme of white settler colonialism. The judging panel cited Dr Cowell's work as 'innovative' and 'impressive', which 'intertwined geographical, medical, art and colonial settlement history'.

The Society's Essay Medal (known as 'the Hawksmoor') is an annual competition with an award made to the author of the best essay, submitted anonymously. It was presented at the Society's Annual Lecture and Awards Ceremony, which celebrate the best in architectural history research and publishing.



I'm honoured to have received the Hawksmoor Medal. Through this win, the Society has acknowledged and supported the somewhat unconventional approaches in theme and method I take in using architecture in my historical work on British colonialism, giving me the confidence to continue along this path".

Dr Christopher Cowell
Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory at LSBU



Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Fiona Morey Awarded OBE in King's New Year's Honours List

In January, Fiona Morey, LSBU Group Pro Vice-Chancellor Compulsory and Further Education, Executive Principal of South Bank Colleges and CEO of South Bank Academy Trust, was awarded an OBE in the King's New Year's Honours List. The honour commemorates Fiona's contributions to further education and her commitment to creating life-changing opportunities for young people and adults.

Fiona joined LSBU Group in 2019, bringing with her extensive experience in leading vocational programmes, 14-19 education, and adult education.

As a leader within the LSBU Group, Fiona oversees the Group's compulsory and further education portfolio. Her responsibilities include South Bank Colleges and leading the South Bank Academy Trust.

Fiona sits on a number of boards and committees linked to education and employment in south London including Lambeth Skills and Employment Board, Get Further and Lazer Awarding body, Lambeth Strategic Partnership, Southwark Skills Partnership and the City of London Skills for a Sustainable Skyline taskforce.



I'm incredibly proud to be part of the further education sector and to work with so many amazing colleagues who give so much to support the thousands of young people and adults that benefit from the life-changing opportunities colleges provide in their local communities.

This recognition is a reflection of the teamwork and dedication of our staff and partners, who share a common goal of creating a more just and inclusive society. Tackling social inequality and promoting social justice continues to be at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that education is a powerful tool for change in our communities."

Fiona Morey
Executive Principal of South Bank Colleges

LSBU Apprenticeships Rated 'Good' by Ofsted with some 'Outstanding' Features

LSBU's apprenticeship provision was rated 'Good' overall by Ofsted following an inspection in December 2024. The University improved on the result of its previous inspection in 2019 by receiving an 'Outstanding' grade for Personal Development.

Inspectors praised LSBU's efforts providing apprenticeships that meet local, regional and national skills needs. The report highlighted the University's strong collaboration with employers, innovative teaching strategies, and commitment to supporting apprentices' individual development.

Ofsted commended LSBU for fostering qualities such as confident communication and resilience in apprentices, enabling students to thrive in the workplace and take on additional responsibilities. The report also recognised the University's inclusive learning environment, including tailored support for apprentices with special educational needs and disabilities, and for delivering outstanding careers advice.

The award highlights LSBU's dedication to empowering apprentices with the knowledge, skills, and personal growth opportunities they need to succeed in their careers and beyond.

LSBU Group deliver a wide range of apprenticeship programmes, from nursing and allied health professions to construction and digital marketing, serving approximately 3,200 apprentices.



LSBU's 'Outstanding' rating for Personal Development is a testament to our commitment to developing apprentices as individuals, equipping them not just with technical expertise but with the confidence and resilience they need to excel in their roles. I'm incredibly proud of the work our team has done to create a learning environment where every apprentice can flourish. We remain focused on delivering impactful, employer-focused training that meets the evolving needs of industries and communities."

Sammy Shummo
Group Director of Apprenticeships
at LSBU



This partnership exemplifies LSBU's commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible education to students across the globe. By integrating Higher Nationals with our top-up degree programs, we're empowering learners to achieve their academic and career ambitions through a seamless and internationally recognised pathway."

Stuart Bannerman
Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor
at LSBU Global

LSBU Begin Offering Pearson Integrated Degrees

In February, LSBU became Pearson's latest awarding partner for Higher National Diplomas (HNDs).

The partnership enables Approved Pearson Centres to offer HNDs (Level 5 qualifications which are equivalent to the first two years of a UK undergraduate honours degree). Students can then complete a final top-up year within their institution to earn an undergraduate honours degree (Level 6 qualification) from LSBU.

This integrated pathway is available across a range of disciplines at LSBU, including business, engineering, and computing courses, equipping students with globally recognised qualifications aligned with industry needs.

LSBU Student Wins Apprentice of the Year Award

In March, LSBU celebrated Isha Ahmed winning the Part I (Level 6) Apprentice of the Year Award at the prestigious Master Certificate Awards Ceremony. Isha is entering the fourth and final year of her Architect Assistant programme.



Presented by the Lord Mayor of London and architect Chris Dyson at a ceremony at Mansion House, this award recognised Isha's dedication, skill, and career progression as an apprentice in the construction and built environment sector.

The Master Certificate Scheme, organised by the Construction Liveries Group in partnership with City & Guilds and the Livery Companies, celebrates excellence across various trades and professions. It also emphasises the importance of mentorship in shaping future generations of industry leaders.

Isha's achievement is a testament to her hard work and the impact of apprenticeship programmes in nurturing future talent.



Top Apprenticeship Award Secured by LSBU

LSBU was named the Best University for Apprenticeships at the 2025 Apprenticeship Guide Awards in May.

This represented the second time in as many years that the University received this prestigious honour. The award, which was developed to celebrate excellence in the apprenticeship sector, recognised the University's commitment to providing exceptional apprenticeship opportunities and fostering strong partnerships with employers.

LSBU is committed to providing high-quality apprenticeship opportunities that meet the needs of employers, apprentices, and the local community. This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of LSBU's apprenticeship team, apprentices and partners.

LSBTC Host National Plumbing Competition

LSBTC welcomed the Society of Public Health Engineers (SoPHE) Annual Plumbing Competition to campus in June.

During the event, plumbing students and trainee engineers from across the UK took on a range of practical tasks, including fault-finding, hand skills, and plumbing problem-solving. All were designed to bridge the gap between domestic and commercial installation work.

The competition was part of SoPHE's Plumbing Centre of Excellence initiative, which aims to enrich the education of future public health engineers by providing opportunities for enhanced technical learning, career development, and continuing professional development through hands-on activities and innovative training.

The winners of the competition will be announced at the 21st Anniversary SoPHE London Dinner in November 2025.



We are incredibly proud to be hosting this exciting industry event, and even prouder of the students who will be representing our college. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase their talents and develop their skills in a real-world setting. We wish them all the very best of luck."

Wayne Wright

Principal of London South Bank Technical College (2023-2025)



SBU Sixth Progress Recognised by Ofsted

Ofsted carried out a 'new provider inspection' of South Bank University Sixth Form (SBU Sixth) in January. The report, published in March, judged that the school was making 'reasonable progress' since its official opening in September 2023.

Inspectors noted that SBU Sixth's curriculum met the demands of students and regional employers for high quality technical education in engineering, health and business sectors, that the school had successfully designed study programmes that provide clear pathways for students to progress into employment or to further study at university or through higher apprenticeships, and that school governors and leaders work very well with their partner organisations and employers to develop and teach an innovative technical, skills-based curriculum.

SBU Sixth's first full Ofsted inspection is expected to take place before October 2026.



The many positive comments of the inspection team are testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff. As a highly-focused technical sixth form for ambitious students, we are delighted that our purpose has been officially recognised and validated".

Kishan Pithia
SBU Sixth Principal



LSBU Win Award for Excellent Visa Support

In May, LSBU won a national award for visa processing performance, recognising the University's commitment to supporting international students through a smooth and stress-free journey to the UK.

At the 2025 Enrolly Awards, named after the software platform that automates the onboarding and arrival process for students, international agents, and universities, LSBU received the Award for Turnaround Times, which recognised the University's fast and efficient approach to issuing Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies and supporting students with their visa documentation.

LSBU was also shortlisted in the Award for Collaboration category, highlighting the close partnership between university recruitment, admissions, compliance teams and Enrolly's platform.



This award symbolises our ongoing promise to give international students a fast, transparent and supportive pre-arrival experience. We're proud to be recognised – and even more proud to help our students start their UK study journey with confidence."

Paul Woods
LSBU Group Director, Marketing, Recruitment and Communications

National Student Survey Improvement for LSBU

From the way students learn and are assessed to how they value the resources and support in place for them, for the fourth year running the National Student Survey results – published in July – demonstrated that LSBU students are increasingly happy with their experience.

The National Student Survey, which students complete during their final year, asks questions around teaching, the opportunities they are given, support they receive and their assessments and feedback.

Teaching

LSBU students value the Learning Opportunities that courses offer them. They feel that they created opportunities for them to develop and apply their skills and they understand how they're relevant for their future. 85.8% rated this aspect of their learning positively, which is in the top 25% in the country.

Students at LSBU continue to rate courses highly, with nine receiving positivity ratings of 100% in at least one of the assessed categories. Two-thirds of all LSBU courses rated over 80%, with Health and Social Care courses collectively receiving an impressive 99% for assessment and feedback.

Committed teaching staff are key to this success and are well-regarded by LSBU students, with 92.3% agreeing that they are “good at explaining things” which in turn enhances their learning.

Assessment and feedback

LSBU received their highest ever score for assessment and feedback with 83.7% of responses positive, which was in the top 25% of all UK universities. This reflects the University's more widescale use of authentic, competence-based assessments, and a conscious effort to replace exams and testing learning with real-world scenarios and practical projects.

Students also felt LSBU assessments “allowed the demonstration of learning”, with the University achieving an 87.4% positivity score which placed in the top 25% nationally. 83.3% agreed that course feedback helped them to improve their work, a score which placed in the top 15% of institutions.



Quality Professional Awards Success for LSBU Group

LSBU Group were finalists in four separate categories in June's Quality Professionals: Further Education and Employability Awards. Colleagues recognised for their unwavering commitment to quality and compliance were:

- Aishe Rexhepi – Finalist, Compliance Professional of the Year
- Professor Deborah Johnston MBE – Finalist, Quality Improvement Leader of the Year (FE & Skills)
- Amazing Apprenticeships Outreach, Anabelle Trotter and Manjinder Chhokran – Finalist, Social Mobility Quality Improvement Initiative
- Mike Moore – Finalist, Compliance Professional of the Year

These commendations highlighted the outstanding contribution LSBU Group quality improvement professionals and leaders have made to best practice in the further education sector.



It's fantastic to see our students continue to rate their experience highly year-on-year, and having this feedback allows us to continue to improve for both our current and future students. We are delighted that the improvements we continue to put in place are valued, as the results clearly show."

Professor Tara Dean
LSBU Provost

LSBU Co-Launch Initiative to Grow and Diversify Audiences in the Creative Economy

In July, LSBU launched a project in partnership with King's College London and Guildhall School of Music & Drama following an Arts and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Focal Award which supports world class doctoral training.

The consortium will deliver a new initiative called 'ADAPT-AI' to grow and diversify audiences in the creative economy.

The ADAPT-AI: Analysing and Diversifying Audience Participation with Creative Technologies & AI, Doctoral Focal Award combines research expertise in the creative industries, digital humanities, media production, and performance practice. The programme has been awarded funding to train twenty students across four cohorts over seven years.

The programme will collaborate with a diverse group of partners including Barbican Centre, 180 Studios, The National Gallery, Southbank Centre, Serpentine Galleries, Vive Arts, Outernet, B3 Media, Target 3D, Innovative UK Immersive Tech Network, who together are drawing millions of audience members annually and leading in immersive content creation in the UK.

By developing expertise, innovating engagement methods, and fostering industry-academia collaboration, ADAPT-AI will empower the next generation of leaders to shape the future of arts, entertainment, and media landscapes.

The programme is expected to start in September 2026 and will be led by Professor Elena Marchevska and Professor Geoff Cox at LSBU.



This is an outstanding achievement for LSBU and its partners. Being part of a prestigious Doctoral Training Centre will open up exciting opportunities for our PhD students, as we continue to develop the next generation of research leaders."

Professor Patrick Callaghan
Professor of Mental Health Science & Academic Lead, LSBU Doctoral College



LSBTC Host Senior Local Parliamentarians

In December, LSBTC welcomed Helen Hayes MP, Member of Parliament for Dulwich and West Norwood and Chair of the Education Select Committee, and Florence Eshalomi MP, Member of Parliament for Vauxhall and Camberwell Green and Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee, to view the College's innovative approach to technical education and the transformative opportunities it offers students.

Both MPs received a tour of the College, where they saw the cutting-edge facilities on offer to learners studying in digital media, robotics, dental technology, plumbing, and green skills.



It was a privilege to welcome Helen Hayes and Florence Eshalomi to our campus. Their interest in the vital role that technical education plays in shaping the workforce of tomorrow is greatly appreciated. Visits like these are a reminder of the importance of investing in skills development and supporting the next generation of industry leaders."

Wayne Wright
Principal of London South Bank Technical College (2023-2025)

Helen Hayes and Florence Eshalomi engaged directly with students, learning about their projects and ambitions, as well as the real-world applications of the skills they are developing. From innovative robotics demonstrations to discussions on sustainable practices in plumbing and green skills, the visit highlighted the breadth of talent and expertise nurtured at the College.

The visit also emphasised LSBTC's commitment to addressing local and national skills gaps – particularly the work being done on green technologies and sustainable practices. As industries continue to evolve, LSBTC remains at the forefront of industry practice, ensuring students are prepared to meet future challenges.

SBC Receives Good Ofsted Rating with Outstanding Adult Learning

In March, SBC maintained its 'Good' Ofsted grade. The College also received 'Outstanding' recognition for its adult learning programmes, which make up 75% of the courses on offer.

This result reflected the hard work and dedication of students, teachers and leaders in providing high quality education that transforms lives.

The Ofsted report praised SBC's commitment to inclusion, student progression, and its strong employer links. Inspectors highlighted:

- A welcoming, inclusive environment where learners thrive.
- Great adult learning provision, helping learners gain essential skills for employment and life.
- High-quality teaching and strong student support, ensuring students are well-prepared for their next steps.



Student Teachers Thrive at LSBU Group

The inaugural cohort of LSBU student teachers graduated from the PGCE in Further Education and Skills Sector during the 2024/25 academic year.

Students benefitted from LSBU Group's education provider partnership with several learners able to complete placements at SBC and SBU Sixth. A number of learners subsequently secured full time teaching posts at these institutions from September 2025.

LSBU Group's 'grow your own' progression route for educating teachers is unique in the UK and only possible because of the opportunities for close collaboration around learner demand, staff development and recruitment needs made possible by the education provider partnership.



LSBU Croydon Shortlisted for Prestigious Award

In July, LSBU Croydon was shortlisted for the 'Teacher and Educational Institution Excellence' award by the Charles Gordon Trust.

The Trust celebrate community excellence, culture, and diversity, with a mission to uplift those from disadvantaged backgrounds by supporting youth empowerment, education, and entrepreneurship.

LSBU Croydon's shortlisting is a powerful recognition of their commitment to excellence in education and community impact.



Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SBC Celebrate International Women's Day

In March, SBC marked International Women's Day by hosting a Women's Day Fair at LSBTC campus.

The event brought together students, industry professionals, and mentors for a morning of networking and thought-provoking discussions.

It featured a 'Powerful Panel of Women in Industry', with speakers sharing their experiences and things they wished they had been made aware of at 16 years old, a 'Breaking Stereotypes' debate where traditional gender roles and preconceived notions were challenged, and a 'Speed Mentoring' session where students met with professionals and received valuable advice and encouragement.

Addressing the Gender Pay Gap



LSBU percentage of female staff

Although LSBU's mean gender pay gap has steadily reduced from 13.25% since 2009, the gap marginally increased from 7.2% in 2023 to 7.48% in 2024. This is mainly because of a higher proportion of women in the lower pay quartile. However, this remains significantly lower than the higher education sector average (12.0%). During the same period the mean bonus difference for LSBU staff became significantly higher for women (at -32.1%, compared to -26.6% in 2023).



SBC percentage of female staff

55% of LSBU staff are female. The University is aware that more can be done and will continue to use data, insights, and innovation to ensure that interventions are evidence based, working in partnership with staff and students to advance gender equality.

SBC have 310 staff with a gender makeup of 65% female and 35% male. The overall mean gender pay gap has been consistently low and decreasing steadily over the past three years from 3.8% in 2022 to -0.5% (in favour of women) in 2024. This is significantly below the national further education benchmark (14.2%).

Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



SBC Launch First Low Carbon Heating Technician Apprenticeship

In November South Bank Colleges launched the UK's first Level 3 Low Carbon Heating Technician Apprenticeship.

This process was supported by LSBU's Green Skills Hub, which promotes net zero training and employment opportunities for people in south London, and marks LSBU Group's leading role as a centre of excellence for green and emerging technologies.

Pathways exist for the nine apprentices who enrolled in the 2024/25 academic year to progress onto the Level 4 Building Services Engineering Technician Apprenticeship at LSBU.

LSBU Academic Appears in Parliament to Discuss Net Zero

In February, Professor Aaron Gillich, Professor of Building Decarbonisation at LSBU and Director of the BSRIA (Building Services Research and Information Association) LSBU Net Zero Building Centre, spoke at 'The Road to Clean Power by 2030' event in Parliament hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Net Zero.

During his remarks Professor Gillich explained that the tangible benefits beyond the obvious climate goals of net zero, such as creating warmer homes and eliminating mould and damp, should be better communicated to shape public opinion.

Appearing at the event alongside Professor Gillich were senior figures from EDF, WSP, USystems, civil servants from the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security, the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Net Zero and Energy Security, and Parliamentarians from a range of political parties.

LSBU Research Shines Light on Battery Charging

Research published by LSBU academics in June discovered that batteries made from tungsten oxide – a material found inside light bulbs – could store more energy when natural light is shone on them than mobile phone batteries made from rare earth elements.

The research team, led by LSBU's Dr Tariq Sajjad, identified that the light does not need to be strong to expedite the process – energy storage improvements could be seen after simply exposing the battery to light on a windowsill during charging.

The findings, which were published in academic journal *Advanced Function Materials*, showed that unlike the batteries we use today, a tungsten oxide battery does not degrade in the same way, so users wouldn't notice their device performance worsening over time.

This discovery is a step towards creating safe and low-cost solutions to prolonging battery life for billions of consumers around the world.

It is also good for the environment. Manganese, a rare element, is widely used in the manufacture of batteries and accounts for over half of the material used to store energy in batteries. It can be toxic and is only mined in a few countries.

However, tungsten oxide is far more widely available and its location is not concentrated to a particular region.



There's huge potential to use these batteries to develop low-cost, sustainable energy systems across the globe, where there is a natural abundance of daylight. Whether it's cities working to cut carbon emissions or remote villages without reliable electricity, photobatteries offer a smart, flexible way to store and use energy when it's needed most.

By looking carefully at battery design and improving the way we process materials, this can make a huge difference. The low cost, accessibility and minimal environmental impact of this solution could improve lives and increase productivity."

Dr Tariq Sajjad

Associate Professor in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, LSBU



LSBTC Becomes First London College with Ground Source Heat Pump System

In October LSBTC became the first college in London to install a Ground Source Heat Pump system for training students after becoming the first college in the country to commission a borehole solely dedicated to training.

As well as powering the campus, this installation provides students – predominantly those studying the Low Carbon Heating Technician Apprenticeship standard – with hands-on experience operating cutting-edge renewable technology.

Ground source heat pumps are one of the most efficient forms of heating available. Unlike traditional systems that burn fuel, they extract renewable thermal energy from the ground to heat buildings.

LSBTC partnered with British Kensa Group throughout the designing, commissioning and construction processes to ensure that all elements of training would align with industry standards.

This initiative represents a significant stride in integrating sustainable practices into education, highlights the vital role colleges play in preparing students for careers in the green economy, and sets a precedent for education providers across the UK.

LSBU Research Discovers Solar Power Solutions in Zambia

In Zambia, fewer than 6% of rural people have access to electricity. The southern African country could tap into solar power to light up its rural areas, but this potential has yet to be exploited. So far, just 3.23% of its installed electricity generation capacity is solar based.

Research supported by LSBU alongside the University of Reading and published in May established a new research framework named the rural development stakeholder hybrid adoption model which brought together insights from behaviour change, technology adoption, and social influence theories to analyse what helps or hinders people in rural Zambia when they consider taking up solar power.

The key finding was that rural Zambians are most influenced by observational learning. Seeing neighbours using solar power successfully and hearing about their neighbours' experiences was the most important factor underpinning its adoption. Solar take-up was not just about the technology – rather, it was about people, trust, visibility, and empowerment.

The research project published four recommendations for government, policy makers, aid agencies, and other organisations involved in promoting solar adoption and sustainable energy in rural areas:

- Address mindset barriers: Workshops could shift people's thinking from "we need help" to "we can do this ourselves".
- Make policies work for people: Zambia's Ministry of Energy should support flexible payment and ownership models, like pay-as-you-go solar, and ensure that rural financing for solar systems is available.
- Improve communication: Campaigns in local languages, using radio, community theatre or trusted local leaders, can explain where to buy reliable solar, what it costs, and what it can do.
- Tailor solutions to real needs: Solar systems should meet specific local demands, like powering irrigation pumps, cold storage for crops, fridges for vaccines and food, or charging stations in schools.





Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



LSBU Secure Funding to Lead BIG Growth programme

In July, LSBU secured £380,881 from the Greater London Authority to continue leading their subregional partnership of five higher education institutions.

Competition for the funding was intense, with 28 projects bidding and LSBU securing 8% of the total allocation of £5 million. This is reflective of the high regard in which the GLA holds the quality and impact of the University's business innovation programmes.

The programme extension will support 60 south London businesses through locally led innovation, inclusive growth and expertise from the College of Health & Life Sciences and the College of Technology & Environment.

The programme is specifically designed for south London start-ups, SMEs, and Community Interest Companies, who can tap into world-class academic expertise from one of the five partner universities: LSBU (lead university), Kingston, St Mary's, Roehampton, and University of the Arts London.

It follows the successful delivery of the £1.59m UKSPF-funded BIG Growth programme.



SBU Sixth Business Students Successfully Run Events on Campus

In April, SBU Sixth Business students demonstrated the excellent organisational skills they had developed from a course module in managing professional events.

One group of learners organised a recruitment fair open to students from across the sixth form featuring employers including Avon, Natwest and Catch22. Over 200 students dropped in, developing valuable ties with businesses and receiving employability tips.

Another group organised a charity cinema screening, raising around £100 through ticket and refreshment sales, whilst a third group successfully arranged a collection for a local children's hospital.



It was great to see the students embrace the challenge of coming up with events, and the work they put into organising them paid off very well. Not only have they learnt a lot but they helped give the last week of term a real buzz among the whole student community in the sixth form."

Clarise Mofor
SBU Sixth Lead Tutor for Business

SBU Sixth Students Outshine National Averages

LSBU graduates remain the highest paid of all London modern universities for the third consecutive year.

Published in July, Longitudinal Educational Outcomes data shows that the median earnings of LSBU first degree graduates rank 17th in the UK one year after graduation. LSBU graduates also earn more than similar universities in London, one year, three years and five years after completing their studies. The findings are based on the 2022/2023 tax year and reflect average earnings.

At a national level, four LSBU subject areas stand out as particularly impressive and rank in the top ten across the entire UK Higher Education sector:

- Medical science graduates were top earners in the UK, earning more on average than their peers from any other university
- Architecture graduates were the second top earners in the UK
- Health and Social Care ranked fourth for their earnings
- Nursing and Midwifery graduates were eighth highest earners in the UK.

A quarter of all graduates earn over £38,300 a year after graduation.

This data demonstrates the University's excellent track record delivering high quality technical and vocational education that leads to rewarding employment opportunities.



We're pleased to see that LSBU graduates continue to enjoy sustained career success. We design our courses with employability in mind. Our students get to work on live briefs, simulation exercises, and gain experience with local, national and international organisations, giving them the relevant skills employers are seeking.

Along with a range of support available from our careers team, our students are set up to succeed before they graduate."

Professor Tony Moss
LSBU Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience

LSBU Inclusive Supply Chain Project Receives Extension

The LSBU Inclusive Supply Chain Programme, launched in May 2023 to improve access to London's supply chains, was due to end in March 2025.

The project supports local under-represented SMEs to become supply chain ready by building their internal capabilities to meet the procurement criteria of larger businesses. Throughout its initial 22 month run it received £150,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support 30 businesses spanning a range of sectors including food, architecture, sustainability, translation, health & social care, education and digital services.

Each SME received tailored consultancy support from LSBU Business students, who advised on procurement readiness and potential barriers to market access, reviewed business operations and explored growth strategies. As well as providing valuable support to local businesses, this model forced LSBU learners to take responsibility and provided them with valuable hands-on experience.

The programme's success was recognised with the award of an additional £28,000 UKSPF funding to help six additional businesses up until March 2026.



BBC Visit Media Students at SBC

In February, learners studying on Creative and Digital Industries courses at SBC met with industry professionals at the BBC.

Will, an Operations Manager for Political Programmes, and Kimberley, an Assistant Post Production Editor, shared valuable insights on pathways in the media industry, with a specific focus on apprenticeships.

Kimberley also spoke about her background studying Creative Media at South Bank Colleges and how her time at the College was a springboard for securing an apprenticeship with the BBC.

London Deputy Mayor for Business Welcomed to LSBTC

Howard Dawber, Deputy Mayor of London for Business and Growth, and colleagues from the Greater London Authority visited LSBTC in May.

During their time at the College they were shown how SBC, as part of LSBU Group, was contributing to London's Growth Plan by preparing learners for the Capital's future skills needs.

The Deputy Mayor was given a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities and shown how courses are closely aligned with industry to ensure that they meet the needs of both learners and our future economy. His visit included meeting with apprentices working in green skills courses and with partner employers.

The event reinforced the important role LSBTC and the wider LSBU Group will play in delivering the capital's Inclusive Talent Strategy, supporting Londoners into good jobs, and helping businesses to access the skilled workforce they need to grow.

LSBU Skills Bootcamp Success

Skills Bootcamps are funded by the Greater London Authority to help Londoners aged 19+ to enter employment, upskill or change career and are open to adults who are full-time or part-time employed.

LSBU ran three sets of Carbon Smart Skills Bootcamps for 19 learners between July 2024 and April 2025 and two cohorts of Net Zero Futures Skills Bootcamps for 17 participants between July 2024 and February 2025.

Providers who run Skills Bootcamp programmes receive funding based on their success against three barometers – the number of participants who start and attend an initial session; how many receive an interview offer or demonstrate an intention to take on additional responsibilities at work; and the number that receive a job offer or who start additional responsibilities in their ongoing role.

Results from LSBU Skills Bootcamps for the 2024-25 academic year show 78% of participants progressed in or into work compared to a 39% national average.

As a result of their excellent progression results, during the 2024-25 academic year LSBU was awarded £100,730 in GLA funding. This will allow the University to continue delivering Skills Bootcamps throughout the 2025-26 academic year.



National Bakery School Shop Completes First Year

The National Bakery School is the UK's oldest bakery school. In December, the School's Shop wrapped up its first full year of operation.

The NBS Shop is a core element of the Level 6 bread module: The Science and Technology of Bread Fermentation. It was designed to build on Level 5 Business and Product Development modules to give students real life business experience and is the most advanced example of an outlet for Level 6 bakery learners to practically demonstrate commercial skills in the UK.

Throughout the 2024/25 academic year learners had to prepare high quality applications for the limited number of positions in the shop. Those who were successful operated the business's budget and cash-flow, managed customer demand, led marketing campaigns, and were responsible for scheduling, purchasing, cost control, labelling, packaging and waste disposal.

The shop generated roughly £9,000 in sales and £7,500 in profit between September and December. It is another successful example of the way LSBU embeds enterprise skills in course curriculums, equipping students with real-world skills.

South London Partnership Launch New Economic Vision

A bold plan to accelerate south London's economy, attract new investment, and support more people into well-paid, secure jobs, was launched in June by the South London Partnership.

BIG Ambition: South London Growth, unveiled at a launch event in Wimbledon with London's Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, outlined a shared commitment by the boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond and Sutton to deliver long-term, locally driven growth – driving forward sectors such as health and life sciences tech, creative and digital industries, environmental innovation, and advanced manufacturing.

Aligned with the London Growth Plan, this sets a clear vision, clarifies priorities, and sets out how and where inclusive, sustainable growth can be delivered over the next decade. As an anchor institution in the South London Partnership subregion, LSBU will play a vital role in delivering this through innovation, training, and employment opportunities.



LSBU strongly supports this Statement and its focus on regional innovation and place-based growth. We are proud to align our strengths in research and innovation with its growth clusters, particularly health and life sciences, net zero, and creative and digital industries.

We believe in the power of collaboration to unlock potential and are committed to working together to build a fairer, better connected, and more prosperous sub region."

Professor Tara Dean
LSBU Provost

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



LSBU Engineering Students Secure Top Industry Award

Mechanical Engineering students from LSBU won prestigious awards at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Design Challenge in May.

The second-year students participated in the regional heats of the annual competition hosted by Imperial College London and were recognised for their technical excellence and teamwork.

The competition challenged university teams to design and construct an autonomous vehicle capable of simulating an electric vehicle (EV) charging process. This demanding task required precision engineering, innovative problem-solving, and mastery of autonomous control systems under tight design constraints.

LSBU's Team, Vroom Vroom, received the Best Presentation award alongside the Top Peer Review Score for their clear and professional oral presentation detailing their design process, testing, and engineering methodology.

Team Plug In Baby, competing in the advanced category, secured third place overall and won the Best Poster Design award. Judges commended their effective communication of complex technical concepts through clear visuals and detailed explanations.



The achievements of our students highlight their technical skill, creativity, and resilience. Successfully balancing the demands of this rigorous extracurricular challenge alongside academic commitments exemplifies the strengths of LSBU's practical, project-based learning approach."

Elisa Puccinelli
LSBU Lecturer in Engineering
Product Design



'Tsunami Generator' Project Launched by LSBU

Research launched by LSBU and engineering and technology company HR Wallingford in September marked the start of the development of a world-first system for physically modelling the impact of tsunami waves.

There is currently no capability available for scientists to model both incoming and outgoing waves, limiting the understanding required to protect people, buildings and infrastructure from the enormous damage tsunamis cause.

The LSBU / HR Wallingford 'Tsunami Twin Wave generation technology' (TsuTWin) project will complete in 2026. TsuTWin will develop the complex computer modelling and prototype design for a dual pneumatic tsunami generator, paving the way for the production of design blue prints for the world's first facility to generate tsunamis.



This award is a career-defining moment and recognises over 20 years of work, the vision of David and Prof Tiziana Rossetto at UCL Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering and our partners in HR Wallingford. In that time, we have collected over a year's worth of data, nearly 2TB unprocessed in size and produced impactful peer-reviewed academic papers. We have directly contributed to the new set of building code guidance for tsunami forces on structures."

Dr Keith Adams

LSBU Lecturer in Construction and Project Management

LSBU's Dr David McGovern and Dr Keith Adams have spent 20 years researching tsunami engineering and coastal risk assessment, and they were pivotal to this work.

In November they received a prestigious international award recognising their pioneering contribution to this field. They accepted the Hamaguchi Award from Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism on behalf of the MAKEWAVES Consortium, a worldwide group of tsunami engineers and scientists from LSBU, University College London, and HR Wallingford.

The accolade recognised the team's excellence and impact in tsunami and coastal hazard engineering and for their dedication to prevent future tragedies like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which claimed 228,000 lives.

The award is named after Hamaguchi Goryo who saved villagers from a tsunami in the mid-19th century.



Receiving the award is a great honour and a career highlight and is particularly poignant as the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami approaches."

Dr David McGovern

LSBU Senior Lecturer in Water Engineering



Knowledge Exchange Framework Improvements for LSBU

The Knowledge Exchange Framework explores a range of information covering the different ways universities collaborate with external partners. Their results of their fourth exercise – KEF4 – were published in September and showed significant improvements for LSBU.

The University was ranked 50th across 140 participating institutions, up 12 places from 62nd in KEF3, and rose three places to seventh out of the 21 providers in London.

LSBU received top marks in both the Local Growth and Regeneration and Working with Business categories. The results endorse the University's reputation as a driver of real-world impact and demonstrate the strength of our relationships with businesses and communities. These links also help to build real-world experience for students in the classroom.



LSBU has performed brilliantly in KEF4, further solidifying our position as a leader in knowledge exchange. This is a testament to the tremendous efforts of our academics, students, and professional services staff, along with the invaluable contributions of our external partners in business, government, and the local community.

Our success in KEF4 reflects the University's deep commitment to creating impactful partnerships that address real-world challenges and shows how we are driving meaningful change for society and the economy. I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in these exceptional outcomes."

Professor Rodney Day
LSBU Pro Vice-Chancellor
(Research and Innovation)

LSBU forensics course developed to address staff shortages

A new study led by LSBU and published in July revealed that unlocking the design secrets that allow beetles' jaws to be used as weapons and precise tools could drive major technological advances in robotics and medicine.

By applying advanced engineering analysis to the fighting jaws (mandibles) of stag beetles, a project led by Dr Hamed Rajabi, Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering and Design, has discovered a world of hidden functions and design principles that challenge long-held biological assumptions.

The research team found that the link between a beetle's weapon shape and its combat strategy is not as simple as it appears; while some mandible designs are highly specialised for specific tasks like squeezing or twisting, others possess surprising "latent" capabilities for manoeuvres they aren't known to use. This discovery suggests a disconnect between a weapon's physical potential and an animal's observed behaviour, highlighting a major gap in knowledge.

The research, published in the journal PNAS Nexus, argues for a new focus on the vast, unexplored link between the design, material composition, and real-world function of natural weaponry.

The study makes the case that to unlock the next wave of bio-inspired technology, more research and support are urgently needed in this area.

Understanding the intricate co-evolution of a weapon's geometry and its material properties, like the beetle's hardened cuticle, is fundamental to translating these natural innovations into human technology.



Our study reveals how little we know about how these tools are truly used and designed. The findings show that nature's engineering is far more subtle and complex than we give it credit for. There's a whole world of functional potential hidden within these structures. The future applications could be immense and transformative."

Dr Hamed Rajabi
LSBU Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering and Design

WorldSkills UK Final Beckons for LSBTC Plumbing Apprentice

LSBTC plumbing apprentice Hannah Barrow was named a finalist in the prestigious WorldSkills UK 2025 finals in July. She was the first student from a London college to achieve this honour.

Hannah's achievement was the result of success in a regional competition of almost 8,000 students from across the UK. From those, 417 finalists (roughly 5%) were selected to compete in 47 disciplines at the south Wales national finals in November 2025. Competitors will demonstrate their expertise in high-pressure, real-world scenarios—laying pipework, diagnosing faults, and installing fixtures to industry standards—while being assessed by leading employers and skills experts.

Winners will earn the opportunity to represent the UK at the global “skills Olympics” in Yokohama, Japan, in 2028.

Hannah studies plumbing on a City & Guilds apprenticeship programme at LSBTC. She has impressed staff and peers alike with her technical proficiency, attention to detail, and dedication to quality workmanship, and her success reflects both her personal commitment and the College's emphasis on world-class training standards in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) subjects.



This is an outstanding achievement for Hannah and a milestone for our college. As far as we know, she is the only finalist from a London college this year. We're immensely proud of her and the hard work of our plumbing team, led by Danny and Jim, whose coaching has made this possible."

Wayne Wright

Principal of London South Bank Technical College (2023-2025)



LSBU Entrepreneurs Recognised at South Bank Ignite Ceremony

The third annual South Bank Ignite competition, measuring entrepreneurship proposals submitted by LSBU students and alumni, took place between October and June.

Over 100 learners and recent graduates from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds submitted ideas including problem-solving businesses, freelancing services, and social impact enterprises.

From January through April, applicants attended workshops and received 1-2-1 mentoring with the South Bank Starters team to increase the understanding of their customer, define their business models, and gain confidence to pitch before an audience.

Applicants had to demonstrate the viability of their proposals to progress through to the finals in June, with funding awarded to 17 winners.

Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries



LSBU named University of the Year for Social Inclusion

In September, LSBU was named the Daily Mail's University of the Year for Social Inclusion "for its stellar record in breaking down the barriers to higher education".

In the corresponding Daily Mail University Guide 2025, LSBU rose 27 places to the rank of 47th. Out of 55 institutions offering Forensic Science, LSBU's course was ranked as the best in the country.

The publication of the Guardian University Guide 2025 brought further league table success for the University. LSBU rose 22 places to be ranked 59th out of 122 institutions, with Mental Health Nursing, Mechanical Engineering and Economics courses highlighted as nationally excellent.



Social inclusion runs through London South Bank University like a stick of rock. It is one of the leading institutions in the UK for making higher education a viable prospect for students who might not get the chance elsewhere.

The work of the wider London South Bank Group provides clear pathways from partner schools and further education institutions into the University to make the transition an attainable prospect. The result is one of the most diverse student populations anywhere in the UK."

Alastair McCall

Editor of the Daily Mail University Guide



LSBU Maintains Top Ten World Ranking for Reducing Inequalities

LSBU has ranked sixth in the world for reducing inequality, maintaining a top ten position in the prestigious Times Higher Impact Rankings 2025.

The ranking, based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, measures universities' research on social inequalities, their policies on discrimination and their commitment to recruiting staff and students from under-represented groups.

With over 1,200 institutions participating across 110 countries and territories, LSBU's outstanding performance in the Times Higher Impact Rankings 2025 reinforces the important work of the University to reduce inequality, which includes:

- Supporting students with disabilities.
- Raising awareness of STEM careers for female students, including LSBU's work with primary and secondary schools encouraging girls to study STEM subjects at university.
- UK-first research projects, including an award-winning intervention to bring blood pressure testing into barbershops, and working with at-risk communities to identifying gaps in stroke awareness education.
- Projects supporting the local community, including a personal injury clinic providing free legal advice to south London communities.

LSBU also ranked in the top 100 for two other Sustainable Development Goals: Good Health and Wellbeing, and Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Higher education institutions from 125 countries and regions took part in this year's ranking which assesses universities' commitment to sustainability across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach and teaching.

LSBU Lead Universities in Commitment to Disabled Students

In July, LSBU reasserted its commitment to reducing inequalities by, alongside the University of Greenwich, becoming the first higher education providers to publish their Disabled Student Commitment Action Plans for the academic year 25/26.

The Commitment is designed to improve access, support and inclusion for disabled students in higher education in the UK by working with disabled students, universities and regulatory bodies.

The publication took place at an event hosted by LSBU which attracted 103 colleagues from across the sector and which was designed to provide support for other universities to sign up or to create an action plan and strategy.

The Disabled Student Commitment is based on the work produced by the Disabled Students Commission, of which LSBU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Framework) Professor Deborah Johnston was a commissioner. Student panels also helped to inform this work, with support provided by Luke Howson, Head of Student Success, Phoebe Cleary, Disability Advisor, and Jonathan Thompson, Disability and Dyslexia Services Manager.

The ambition of the Commitment is to create a whole institutional approach to improving the experience of disabled students that ensures all students are able to get the most out of their studies and progress into their chosen careers.



I am delighted that LSBU has taken the proactive steps in implementing the Commitment. The actions within the Commitment have been shaped by student voices, and I believe it reflects our dedication to further removing barriers, fostering inclusion, and enabling disabled students to fully engage in all that the University offers.

We understand that true accessibility goes beyond policies—it's about listening, learning, and taking action to ensure that every student can thrive. We are dedicated to ensuring that every disabled student feels valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Our goal is to build a community where all students, regardless of disability, can flourish academically, socially, and personally. Together, we will make LSBU a leader in inclusive education and build a community where all students, regardless of disability, can flourish."

Professor Deborah Johnston
LSBU Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Framework)

LSBU Project Recognised for Supporting Ethnic Minorities into Leadership

Over the Summer the ELEVATE (Ethnic Leaders Empowering Vision and Transformative Excellence) programme, a project designed by LSBU colleagues to advance leadership opportunities for individuals from underrepresented racial backgrounds working in nursing and midwifery, was awarded £20,000 from NHS Wales to rollout in the country.

The original programme, delivered in 2023 in collaboration with NHS England, reached over 60 participants and received national recognition by winning the 'Exceptional Programme of the Year' at the Ethnic Minorities into Leadership Conference in 2024. Professor Calvin Moorley, Professor for Diversity & Social Justice, was the LSBU lead for this programme and his outstanding contribution to nursing and social justice as demonstrated during the project contributed to his awarding of a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List.

ELEVATE Wales will run in conjunction with White Allyship at Work, a programme designed for white colleagues to understand their unique role in advocating for racial equity, from September 2025. Over 20 applications had been made by August, and learnings from this will inform a second English programme to be rolled out during the 2025/26 academic year.



Lambeth College Organise Community Food Drive

Inclusive Learning students in Lambeth College's Transition to College programme showcased their community spirit in December when organising a Community Food Drive.

Designed to support those who were vulnerable as well as those who were homeless during the winter months, students gathered countless donations of non-perishable food, toys, books and clothes.

The initiative was led by student Samuel Richards, who demonstrated excellent leadership skills whilst coordinating this initiative. His compassionate approach to supporting those in need inspired a number of his peers.

Professor Deborah Johnston Appointed Government Disability Ambassador for Universities

In August, Professor Deborah Johnston, LSBU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Framework), was selected as one of 20 Disability and Access Ambassadors (DAAs) by the UK government.

Professor Johnston was chosen as one of the senior business leaders tasked with improving accessibility for disabled people across various industries by the Office for Equality and Opportunity.

Professor Johnston's role will specifically focus on helping to ensure universities are doing all they can to support disabled students and staff. Her appointment comes after the most recent National Student Survey showed that overall disabled students were less positive about their higher education experience than those who did not report being disabled. This has led the Office for Students to urge institutions to consider if they're doing enough to support disabled students.

Professor Johnston's academic focus has been on inequality and poverty and she was awarded an MBE in 2024 in recognition of her work to make higher education more accessible for students who stammer. She is an advocate for accessibility and equality for disabled students and staff, inspired by her personal experience of studying and working with a speech difference. She is also a member of the Office for Students Disability in Higher Education Advisory Panel and was a commissioner in the Office for Students Disabled Students Commission.

The new ambassadors will join current DAAs in improving services and facilities for people with disabilities across various sectors. The roles are voluntary and ambassadors can serve for up to three years.



I am passionate about improving the experience of disabled people and have already been working to tackle the issues they face in my role as Chair of the national body supporting the Disabled Student Commitment.

I am delighted to say that LSBU has been leading the way in this area, publishing its Disabled Student Commitment Action Plan, alongside Greenwich University, just last week. I recognise that there is still work to do and I am incredibly honoured to have been chosen for this role which I hope will lead to further improvements."

Professor Deborah Johnston
LSBU Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Framework)



Black Mental Health Project Launched by LSBU

In March, LSBU Lecturer Dr Opeyemi Olusegun launched a project investigating help-seeking behaviours for people with mental ill-health in Black communities.

Research had previously discovered that individuals from these communities often turn to their cultural and religious networks for support instead of traditional mental health services.

The impact of religious communities in encouraging people to seek help for mental health issues in the Black faith community hasn't been extensively researched. The LSBU study aimed to address this gap by developing interventions in collaboration with community members by working alongside patient and public involvement specialists, religious leaders, and mental health professionals, and evaluating training materials to ensure that mental health support was more accessible.

The project, which will conclude in November 2025, aims to empower these communities to better connect with mental health resources and reduce the stigma associated with seeking help.

SBC Celebrate Cultural Diversity

In March, South Bank Colleges hosted a vibrant event to embrace and celebrate the cultural diversity of the College community.

Led by SBC Students' Union, the 'Love Your Culture' event provided opportunities for staff and students to dress in traditional clothing and showcase the variety of cultures represented throughout SBC. It featured lively music, dancing and games, as well as spaces where attendees could share and learn about different cultural traditions.

The event was a successful celebration of people from all different backgrounds and demonstrated SBC's commitment to inclusivity and respect.

LSBU Publish 2024 English Social Mobility Index

In December, LSBU published its annual English Social Mobility Index alongside the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) for the fourth year in a row.

The Index measures the social distance travelled by socio-economically disadvantaged graduates from each higher education institution in England as well as the proportion of graduates so transported. It combines access, continuation and outcomes measures for undergraduates for all modes of study (except apprenticeships).

Improvements have been made to the methodology of the index each year since its inception. In the 2024 iteration, graduate salaries were weighted by region to account for salary differences across the country, meaning the salary premium enjoyed by London graduates has largely been accounted for.

The University of Bradford and Aston University maintained their respective positions of first and second. Out of 100 institutions measured, LSBU was ranked 22nd.

English Higher Education
**Social Mobility
Index 2024**

Compiled by LSBU



Despite growing up in a deeply disadvantaged area I had the opportunity to go to university – but I was one of the lucky ones. Breaking the link between where a young person goes up, and the opportunities they have, is central to our mission.

Following the recent measures taken to stabilise universities, we will now demand more from the sector through far-reaching reform – including opening up access to working-class young people.

We are committed to restoring universities as engines of opportunity, growth and aspiration. We will fix the foundations of higher education to deliver change for students."

Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education



Addressing the Disability Pay Gap

LSBU's mean disability pay gap has decreased from 1.1% in 2023 to a very low 0.9% in 2024, while the median has reversed to be in favour of disabled staff (to -2.6% in 2024). Encouragingly, this is below both the national (12.7%) and HE sector (5.9%) benchmarks.

One in ten staff members at LSBU are disabled. The University is cognisant to the range of challenges these colleagues face and strives to offer an inclusive working environment for all.

2024 was the first year of SBC disability pay gap reporting. Both the overall mean and median were encouragingly low at 6.4% and 6.0% respectively, well below the national benchmark of 12.7%.

LSBU Deliver Tailored Campus Visit for SBC ESOL Students

LSBU hosted English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students from SBC for two tailored visits in December and February.

ESOL learners face a range of specific challenges. These include navigating unfamiliar educational pathways, language proficiency concerns, understanding entry requirements, balancing studies with external responsibilities, and a lack of tailored information. Recognising this, the LSBU Student Recruitment and Outreach team actively collaborated with SBC to provide targeted interventions designed to demystify HE, build confidence, and encourage aspiration.

The sessions were designed to address specific barriers faced by ESOL learners, raise awareness of higher education pathways, showcase LSBU facilities, and highlight courses in Health and Social Care and Creative Industries to raise student aspiration.

Through tailored lectures, student ambassador interactions, campus tours, and academic taster workshops, the visits demonstrably increased interest in pursuing higher education for those in attendance.

SDG 13

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

LSBU Lead Pioneering Project to Map and Assess Waste Heat Potential in Cities

A groundbreaking research initiative, launched in April and led by LSBU, aims to identify and map waste heat from urban cooling applications, using Birmingham as a case study.

The Waste Heat Assessment and Resource Mapping (WHARM) project, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council through the Reef-UKC (a research network focused on integrating renewable energy with clean cooling technologies), will produce a georeferenced database on energy-intensive sectors such as data centres, supermarkets, cold storage facilities and industrial sites to better understand their waste heat generation and the potential for reuse on site or “export” to neighbours.

Operating as a partnership between LSBU, Aston University, Birmingham City Council, Star Refrigeration, and Skilled Mapping, the WHARM project aims to:

- Identify, map and characterise waste heat from cooling systems in Birmingham.
- Produce economic models to quantify the levelised costs of capturing and upgrading waste heat to different temperature levels.
- Engage with stakeholders to identify challenges such as high costs, uncertainty over business models, and mismatch between heat supply and demand.
- Support local authorities and businesses in making informed decisions when assessing waste heat opportunities.



The WHARM project is a great initiative bringing together industry leaders and academics to provide a blueprint on how to approach waste heat with data, ultimately building knowledge that can support the decarbonisation of our cities and industries.”

Dr Henrique Lagoeiro
LSBU Research Fellow



Jemal Countess / Getty Images

LSBU Led Research Explores Preventing Refugee Camp Flooding

Almost one million people who have fled conflict in South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea live in 24 camps for refugees and internally displaced people in Ethiopia.

One of the challenges for those living in these camps is drainage. The region experiences very intense, short storms, and the camps don't have proper water drainage systems, meaning the stormwater causes flash flooding and mudslides.

A group of academics from universities across the UK including Dr Oluwatoyin Ajibade, Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering at LSBU, developed sustainable drainage models which simulated the conditions found in the Lietchuor refugee camp in the Gambella region of Ethiopia.

Sustainable drainage systems are designed to mimic nature's way of absorbing stormwater when it rains. They aim to slow down and reduce the volume of water that flows rapidly across the surface during a storm.

Their research found that both engineered wetlands (wetlands created by humans) and pilot-scaled gravity filters (a filter that uses gravity to draw water in and remove pollution) would be able to control floods and improve the quality of floodwater in camps.

The academic collective recommended these models be set up in the camps immediately and tested fully, and that humanitarian organisations and government agencies introduce drainage systems to the planning and design stages of new and existing refugee camps.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



LSBU Research Finds “Arts-based Approach” Uniquely Placed to Reintegrate Women with Convictions

An arts-based approach to transformative justice can improve social cohesion and shows promise for reintegrating women with convictions into their communities, according to research published by LSBU academics in October.

Women with convictions account for 13% of deaths of people on post-release supervision, yet women represent under 5% of the prison population. Community-based responses are identified as the most effective way to prevent reoffending, but community provision is inconsistent.

An alternative to traditional criminal justice, transformative justice focuses on challenging unequal power relationships and building community understanding of people's lives and needs. Offenders are offered a safe space for healing, accountability, and to build resilience.

The two-year research project, 'Transformative Justice, women with convictions and uniting communities', was carried out in Stoke-on-Trent. The research team was led by Dr Tirion Havard, Professor of Gender Abuse and Policy at LSBU and included Professor Chris Flood. It was awarded £1.1 million by The Nuffield Foundation and the British Academy as part of their 'Understanding Communities' programme designed to inform policy and practice on improving community wellbeing across the UK.

It found that locally rooted arts organisations are particularly well placed to facilitate spaces for communities to come together and creatively explore justice and harm. The researchers call for such organisations to be adequately resourced, meeting spaces protected from closure or sell-off, and options provided for community asset transfer.

LSBU Co-Launch Free Personal Injury Law Clinic

In March, LSBU co-launched a Personal Injury Law Clinic in south London alongside law firm Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors.

The Clinic, which is based in Elephant and Castle, provides free advice and assistance to members of the local community.

As well as supporting those in need, LSBU law students gain a practical development opportunity and can benefit from the expertise and leadership of Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors' Personal Injury Partner. Their exposure to real-world cases is invaluable to their employability.

The service runs throughout term-time and clients can access it by attending a drop-in session.

The partnership between LSBU and Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors underscores their combined commitment to social justice and education and represents a significant step forward in bridging the gap between legal education and practical application, preparing students to enter the legal field as competent professionals, while fulfilling a crucial community service.



Damning Assessment of Windrush Compensation Scheme Published by LSBU Academics

Researchers from LSBU in November published a report which found that the compensation scheme established following the Home Office Windrush Scandal had extended the injustice and suffering for survivors and family members.

As of December 2024, an estimated 80% of Windrush scandal victims had not been compensated despite the Scheme launching five years previously.

The report, titled *The Windrush Justice Clinic Policy Briefing: Time for Justice*, features analysis of governmental and non-governmental reports on the Windrush Compensation Scheme. It describes a system which is poorly designed and has so far failed in its primary objective of securing justice for the victims.

The work was authored by Samantha Hunt, a visiting Senior Lecturer and Supervising Solicitor at LSBU Legal Advice Clinic and Catherine Evans, the Director of the Legal Advice Clinic and Senior Lecturer at the University.

Partnership for Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



LSBU Involvement in UK-Ukraine Academic Partnership Hits Key Milestone

In April, LSBU and Ukraine's Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas (NUNG) celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of students from their jointly developed MSc in Informational Technologies for Sustainable Energy Engineering.

The programme, launched in 2023 with the support of the UK-Ukraine Twinning Initiative, offers Ukrainian students the opportunity to upskill in critical areas of sustainable energy and digital technology. It was coordinated by Cormack Consultancy Group with the support of Universities UK International, the President's Fund of Ukraine for Education, Science, and Sports, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine with the aim of supporting the Ukrainian higher education sector by fostering meaningful, long-term partnerships between UK and Ukrainian institutions. It promotes academic collaboration, capacity building, and mutual support in the face of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

This dual degree programme was designed to equip students with the technical expertise needed to support Ukraine's green energy transition and long-term reconstruction. As the first group of graduates complete their studies, their success represents not only academic achievement but a symbol for hope and resilience.

25 students enrolled on the Informational Technologies for Sustainable Energy Engineering MSc for the 2024/25 academic year compared to just 11 students who had enrolled the previous year. This growing pipeline of future graduates will play a long-term role in the future of Ukraine's energy sector.



This partnership has brought immense academic and emotional value to our University. The dual degree programme reflects the importance of international solidarity in education and has already begun shaping the next generation of Ukrainian energy engineers."

Ihor Chudyk

Rector at Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas



LSBU and Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology Launch Joint Institute for Engineers

In June, the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China officially approved the establishment of the London South Bank University – Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology (NJUIT) Joint Institute.

This partnership is based on shared values of practical learning, innovation and access to opportunity and marks a major step forward in LSBU's strategic commitment to practice-based transnational education. It will benefit students through opportunities to study abroad, facilitate staff exchanges, and enable joint professional development initiatives between both institutions.

The new Joint Institute will deliver three undergraduate programmes designed to meet the growing global demand for engineers. These are:

- Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering in Advanced Vehicle Engineering

These courses have been carefully developed to reflect technological transformation across sectors such as intelligent manufacturing and digital energy systems.

Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology has built a long-standing reputation for excellence and consistently ranks among China's top 50 vocational institutions for international impact. It hosts over 500 international students from more than 40 countries and has been recognised with the Gold Award for Applied Research and Innovation by the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP).



SBU Sixth Trip to Geneva a Success

In March a group of sixty SBU Sixth students took part in an educational trip to Geneva, Switzerland.

The visit, which was SBU Sixth's first overseas trip, included visiting CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Students learned how the internationally recognised science research centre was pioneering in the field of quantum physics, with a simulation of the hadron collider demonstrated to engineering and science students.

Learners also took in the United Nations Headquarters, hearing from experts about its role in protecting human rights across the world, as well as the Museum of the History of Science and the International Red Cross Museum. The visit combined educational and cultural experiences and also presented students with time to independently explore the historic city.

SBU Sixth Awarded £142,000 Under Turing Scheme

In June, SBU Sixth secured £142,000 funding under the Turing Scheme for the 2025/26 academic year.

This money will support international work placements for SBU Sixth students, unlocking life-changing experiences across the world.

The scheme is administered by the Department for Education and is a key part of the UK's global mobility programme. Placements give learners the chance to develop new skills, gain vital international experience and boost their employability.



LSBU Academic Selected for British Council Tour

In August, Professor Saurav Goel, Professor of Manufacturing at LSBU, won a place on a British Council initiative designed to raise the profile of British higher education in India.

Professor Goel was one of a handful of academics selected from universities across the UK to represent the British Council on the GREAT campaign. He will share his expertise in the built environment with schools and colleges across East India in November 2025 as part of an initiative led by the UK government and delivered by the British Council to promote the UK as a place to visit, study and do business.

He will deliver a talk to Indian students, teachers and academics titled 'From lotus leaves to lasers: how we're reimagining engineering through the lens of nature' exploring how nature-based solutions to human problems is reshaping how people discover and communicate research and teaching.



For students and academics in India, the UK offers not just access to high-quality education, but also a global platform to co-create solutions with lasting impact. By reimagining engineering through the lens of nature, and by promoting cross-border knowledge exchange, we can build a new generation of STEM leaders equipped to solve the challenges of tomorrow."

I am elated to be selected to deliver a series of GREAT talks, which is rewarding for both myself and for LSBU. Associating with the British Council in India presents a great opportunity to build on our international profile and I am very much looking forward to engaging with engineers of the future."

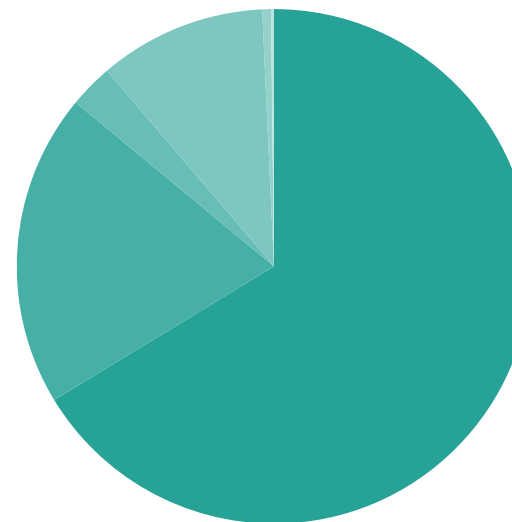
Professor Saurav Goel
Professor of Manufacturing
at LSBU



Financial summary

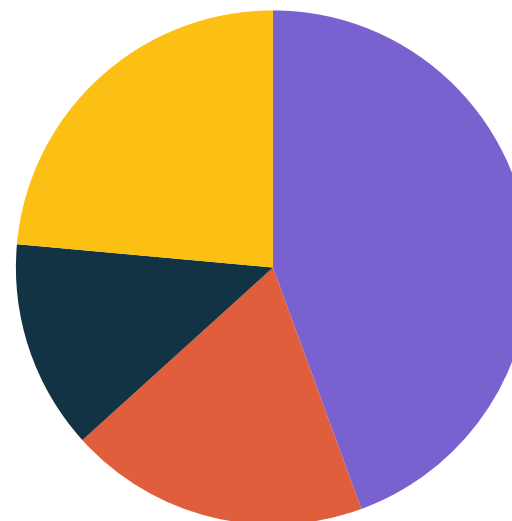
These figures are provisional. For the most recent end of year figures, please see the University's financial accounts. Available on the LSBU website.

2024/2025 Income Breakdown



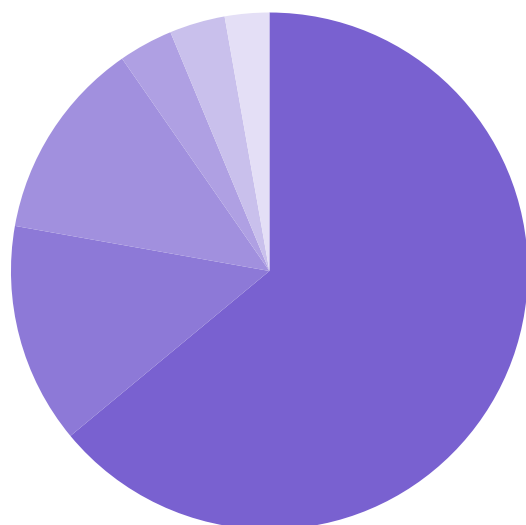
1. £130,894,000 - Tuition fees and education contracts
2. £43,194,000 - Funding body grants
3. £4,338,000 - Research grants and contracts
4. £18,211,000 - Other income
5. £179,000 - Investment income
6. £420,000 - Donations and endowments

2024/2025 Expenditure Breakdown



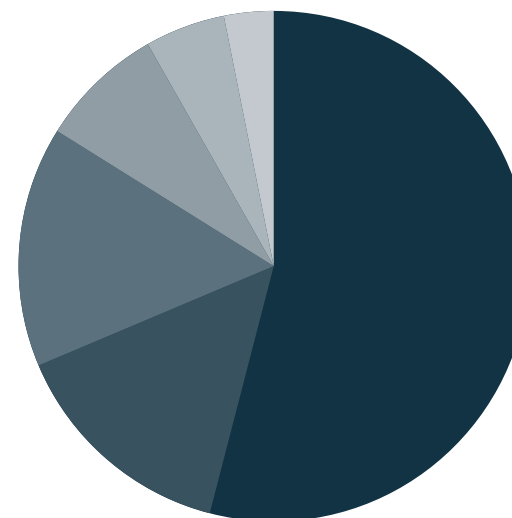
1. 44% - Student facing activity
2. 19% - Student facing service
3. 12% - Other professional services
4. 25% - Enhancing infrastructure and the student experience

2024/2025 Expenditure Breakdown
44% Student facing activity



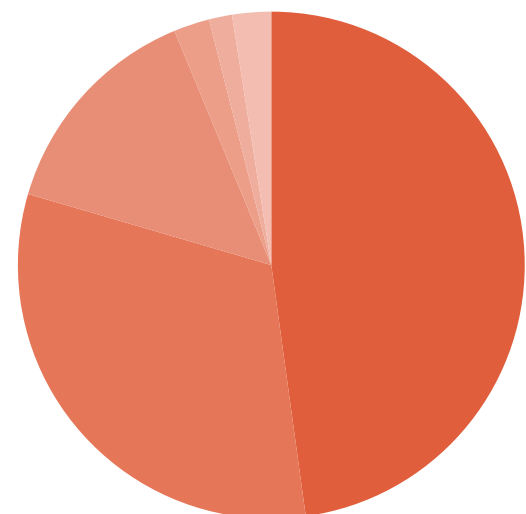
1. £58,001,000 Academic staff
2. £11,613,000 Other academic costs
3. £11,561,000 Course administration
4. £3,178,000 Student financial support
5. £2,834,000 Equipment and learning materials
6. £2,550,000 Technical support

2024/2025 Expenditure Breakdown
12% Other professional services



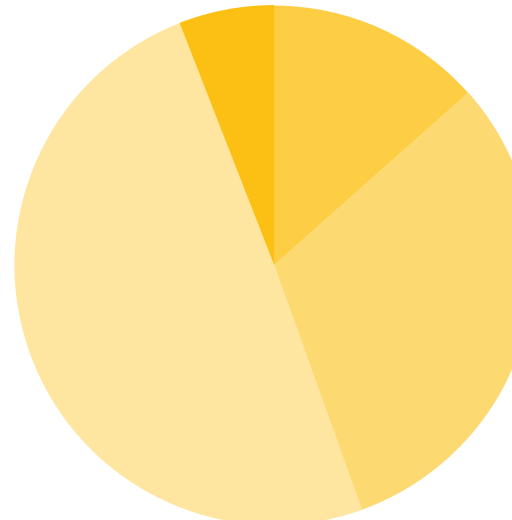
1. £12,564,000 Marketing, Recruitment and communications
2. £3,222,000 Finance and Management information
3. £3,181,000 People, Culture and Legal
4. £2,689,000 LSBU Group Leadership
5. £1,447,000 LSBU Global
6. £395,000 Governance

2024/2025 Expenditure Breakdown
19% Student facing services



1. £18,594,000 Student Services
2. £13,126,000 Information Technology and Digital Learning
3. £5,272,000 Libraries and Learning Materials
4. £988,000 Academic Standards
5. £270,000 Alumni and Student Communications
6. £960,000 Students' Union

2024/2025 Expenditure Breakdown
24% Enhancing infrastructure and the student experience



1. £6,974,000 Research and Enterprise Costs
2. £15,397,000 Depreciation (cost of building the Estate and maintaining equipment)
3. £26,164,000 Other Estate Costs
4. £2,619,000 Other Investments

Governance

Each part of the LSBU Group is headed by a Board of Governors or Trustees, which is responsible for overseeing the institution's activities and determining its future direction in contributing to the overarching Group aim of transforming lives, communities, businesses and society through applied education and insight.

London South Bank University Board of Governors

- Dr Andreas Raffel
*Chair of the Board, Pro Chancellor,
and Chair of the Group Nomination
Committee*
- Dr Shona Brown
*Vice-Chair of the Board, Pro Chancellor
and Chair of the Strategy and People
Committee*
- Duncan Brown
*Chair of the Group Audit and Risk
Committee*
- John Cole
*Chair of the Honorary Awards
Joint Committee*
- Prof. Ruth Farwell CBE
*Chair of South Bank Colleges
Board of Trustees*
- Mark Lemmon
Senior Independent Director
- Ola Obadara
Helen Coleman
- Jennifer Thomson
- Jeremy Parr
Chair of the Remuneration Committee
- Vinay Tanna
*Chair of the Finance and Investment
Committee*
- Paul Hayes
- Neelan Pillay
(from 12 May 2025)
- Prof David Phoenix OBE
(until 31 May 2025)
- Prof Deborah Johnston MBE
(from 1 June 2025)
- Prof Tara Dean
(from 1 June 2025)
- Montasar Hamdi

Student Governors

- Areej Mansuri
LSBU Council Chair
- Charlotte Adams
SBSU President

South Bank Colleges Board of Trustees

- Prof Ruth Farwell
Chair of the Board
- Sue Dare
Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of Quality Improvement Committee & Safeguarding Lead and new Vice-Chair of the Board
(from 1 August 2024)
- Steve Balmont
Chair of the Audit Committee (from 1 August)
and Lead Trustee for Remuneration
- Prof David Phoenix OBE
(until 31 May 2025)
- Dr Mee Ling Ng OBE
(until July 2025)
- Thesia Kouloungou
- Cllr Issa Issa
- Nyla-Rae Graham
SU President and Student Trustee
(from September 2024 until July 2025)

South Bank Academies Board of Trustees

- Ruth Spellman from 1 August 2024
Chair of the Board
- Trevor Gordon
Chair of South Bank University Sixth Form SAB
- Fiona Morey
CEO, Accounting Officer
- Prof David Phoenix OBE
(until 31 May 2025)
- Zac Yiallourous
Chair of Audit and Finance Committee
(from October 2024)
- Joanne Young
Safeguarding Link Trustee
- Tony Moss
- Safia Barikzai
Chair of the South Bank University Academy SAB
(from 6 May 2025)



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