

Arts Faculty Support for the Undergraduate Research Support Scheme

About URSS

The Undergraduate Research Support Scheme enables undergraduate students to carry out an interdisciplinary summer research project. The scheme is open to any UG student at Warwick of a full-time or part-time course, in any year including first and final year students. This year for the first time public engagement projects are eligible for the URSS. For more information visit the [URSS webpage](#)

Arts Faculty and the URSS

Compared with the other two Faculties, there are fewer Arts students applying and therefore being successful in achieving awards. Over the past 4 years, Arts students have comprised only 10% of successful applicants. The Faculty is therefore putting in support for students and staff to encourage and to support the application process. Students have been encouraged to register interest via this [form](#) and over 75 students have already done so. Supervisors are also asked to get in touch with [Rebecca Stone](#) if they are interested in supporting a project. In the Spring term there will be workshops matching up students and supervisors and on the application writing process. For more information see the [Faculty URSS page](#).

Student Experience of URSS

Ife Akinroyeje, a History and Sociology student sums up what the URSS has meant to her:

For my URSS project I researched black feminist activism in the UK and Berlin. The project combined qualitative methods (interviews) with photography to capture and explore how black women and non-binary people are empowering themselves and others. The project was exciting, and I met inspiring feminist activists creating change and challenging inequality in their societies.

I have found the URSS experience extremely rewarding. Without this programme I would not have been able to conduct this project, particularly at this scale. Since undertaking this research, I have had so many fantastic opportunities. My work for this project has since appeared in print publications including gal-dem and Afropunk, I have presented my research at conferences and events, and my work has been exhibited including at a solo exhibition I created for the Women of Colour Europe conference that was held in Berlin in October. I thoroughly enjoyed the URSS experience and gained so much from the programme. I have increased my skills in everything from research methods, to creating and presenting research, to communicating research to different audiences to organisation and time-management.

in this issue

Arts Faculty Support for the URSS
Spotlight on Equality and Inclusion
Highlights from the Autumn Term FEC
Arts Faculty Student Representatives
Transforming Education Spotlight Winners



Spotlight on Equality and Inclusion

Faculty Equality and Inclusion Forum

The forum is chaired by [Pierre-Philippe Fraiture](#) and focused on the following this term:

Athena Swan: There are discussions about a possible Faculty submission given the small size of some Departments/Schools.

Blended Learning: There are concerns over a lack of equality in blended learning as PHE reports that Covid-19 is disproportionately affecting BAME students.



Student isolation: Students reported difficulty communicating with the university when asked to isolate or not to attend campus.

Technology and internet access: Students are struggling with poor WiFi signals (including in Halls), which may be out of their control and is causing them distress.

Increased staff workload: It was recognised that staff workloads have increased and stress levels are high. More preparation is required for online teaching.

Wellbeing and caring responsibilities: Wellbeing issues are being experienced, in particular for those with caring responsibilities (children, elderly parents, balancing workload).

Widening Participation in the Faculty

WP Student Network: The student network has continued to meet with four events taking place during the Autumn term. The network has grown its membership substantially this academic year, with over 400 members now signed up. Students can sign up for the network [here](#).

Carers Rights: This is a particularly pertinent issue at the moment, with the ongoing pandemic shining a light on the support they provide to the people around them. The Carers Trust estimates that there are over 700,000 young carers and 376,000 young adult carers in the UK today. Unpaid carers in the UK save the state £132 billion a year. At Warwick, we have two brilliant young carers support services on our doorstep: Young Carers Coventry and Warwickshire Young Carers. To find your local service, the Carers Trust website is a good place to start. If you have any students who you feel would benefit from support in this area please do contact [Emily Cannon](#).

Tackling Racial Inequality at Warwick

This new university-funded [programme](#), led by the co-chairs of the WIHEA [Anti-Racist Pedagogy and Process in Higher Education](#) Learning Circle, Dr Meleisa Ono-George and Dr Anil Awesti, is aimed at equipping academic and professional services staff with the knowledge and practical tools to engage with anti-racist pedagogy in their classrooms, and to challenge racial inequality at the University of Warwick at both individual and institutional levels.



ARTS FACULTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE TEAM 2020-2021

Chair: Sarah Richardson

Deputy Chairs: Jenny Burns and Tim White

Secretary: Alison Greenhalgh

Assistant Secretary: Helen Hotten

For Arts Education Committee
E-mail: artsedcttee@warwick.ac.uk

For FYBOE
E-mail: artsboard@warwick.ac.uk

KEY DATES FOR 2020-21

13 January 2021, 1200-1400 Arts Faculty Education Committee (ONLINE)

5 May 2021, 1200-1400 Arts Faculty Education Committee

29 September 2021, 1000-1200 First Year Board of Examiners for the Faculty of Arts (Please note there will be no summer meeting of FYBOE, instead exam boards will take place in Departments)

Highlights from the Autumn Term Faculty Education Committee

Faculty Online Teaching Group: The Online Teaching Group had met regularly during the summer and plan to meet at the end of term to review the teaching and learning experience.

The Faculty now has dedicated technical support for online teaching and engagement. Academic Technologist, Shahid Mahmood, is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week to answer questions and offer support with online systems and platforms. To get in touch with Shahid and to raise queries or issues, email arts-tel@warwick.ac.uk.

Online assessment: Senate had approved that all assessments would be held online this academic year. The Academic Development Centre (ADC) is offering online workshops to support Module Leaders and Directors of Studies to choose effective alternative online assessment methods.

Update on the New Faculty of Arts Building: The new building was only behind by a few weeks with regard to completion date of end June 2021.



A small-scale 'Topping out' ceremony took place on 12 November.

An Operational Group had recently started to meet to discuss operational aspects including procurement of furniture, larger equipment and audio-visual items, the physical move, security in the building, producing a communications plan involving students and local community representatives, planning visits to the new building, early consultation with students on furniture requirements for student learning areas.

NSS: There has been a mixed set of results across the university with some institutional and external challenges felt more in Faculty of Arts, and variability of results is more evident in Arts. Learning community is an area for concern for staff and students is area which requires focus. There are a number of Faculty initiatives on community engagement including a project for second year students commencing in January designed to help students engage with the campus community using Modern Records Centre (MRC) resources for student research as well as building confidence and resilience in students.

ARTS FACULTY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES 2020-2021

The Faculty has three active student representatives for 2020-21. These are their priorities for the year:

Agatha Allen-Jones (English Literature): Communication, increasing library funding and accessibility.

Sydney Pycroft (History and Politics): Utilise SSLCs to assist improved communications between SSLCs, the SU and the departments.

Charlton Sayer (History and Politics): Increasing availability of library resources, ending library fines, Essay feedback to be quicker and more constructive, more regular format, avoidance of strike action and impact on the students and teaching and learning.

The Role of the Faculty Representatives

Each Faculty has an undergraduate and postgraduate representative. Faculty Reps try to visit as many SSLC meetings as possible during the year. It is the Faculty Rep's job to attend and represent students at Faculty Board meetings. The Faculty Rep can also ensure that issues specific to the Library, Careers Service, Academic Office or IT Services are raised at the University Resources SSLC or Students' Union Liaison Group. Faculty reps also provide advice to SSLC Chairs and Secretaries on the operation of SSLCs.

To support them in their work, Faculty reps should feel able to call upon the support of the SSLC Coordinators where this may be required to help determine the most appropriate course of action to take in response to particular issues or concerns raised by students.

Transforming Education Spotlight Winners

With the student voice being so important to the educational experience, the Students' Union wanted to regularly highlight some of the great work that is happening in SSLCs across the University so they launched the Transforming Education Spotlight - a termly celebration of the people who are dedicated to the student voice at Warwick.

University Staff Member

Margaux Whiskin – Modern Languages & Cultures

"Margaux is doing an incredible job organising the SMLC SSLC, constantly supporting both reps and academic convenors, reminding us of deadlines in a very friendly way in these very stressful times. Her Student Voice newsletter, to which she encourages students to contribute either artistic



content or whatever they feel passionate about and in which she keeps everybody informed about extracurricular events and also keeps us amused is just amazing and puts a smile on my face every time a new edition comes out."

Arts Course Rep

Paula Strubel – Liberal Arts

"As chair in AY2019-20 and now reappointed in AY20-21, Paula has done an excellent job of helping to form the LA SSLC from a generally informal and not always impactful group into a well organized committee despite the substantial challenges posed by COVID-19. Liberal Arts is a new and small department, so we haven't inherited a culture that supports activities like the SSLC: we've had to build it from scratch. Many students have contributed to this, but Paula's commitment to the SSLC and student voice more generally has made a huge difference. Paula's particular efforts to gather weekly feedback from students on the issues around COVID has been of real importance (and took real effort). Beyond the SSLC itself, she has done an exemplary job representing students on various departmental committees. This has helped the department work on a range of strategic objectives, including those shared by the wider University around liberating the curriculum. I strongly support Paula for recognition."

FACULTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

The Faculty Education Committee Newsletter will be published twice a term. As well as news from the Education Committee the Newsletter will share best practice; celebrate our students and alumni; and focus on key areas of educational strategy. If you would like to have an item included please contact [Sarah Richardson](#)

FACULTY OF ARTS STUDENT EVENTS

Study Buddies

Term Dates:

Friday 5th February 2021
Wednesday 3rd March 2021
Tuesday 16th March 2021

Study Buddies is back in term two as an online-only programme. Study Buddies sessions are available to all students in the Faculty of Arts and provide support and motivation for academic work. An academic will be on hand all day to provide guidance and encouragement. For more information visit our [webpage](#).

Digital Assessment in the Faculty of Arts

This summer the Faculty of Arts supported a student-led co-creation project designed to develop our understanding of student perceptions of digital assessment methods. The project resulted in a collection of resources, guidance and information, check out the resources here: [Let's Get Digital](#).

Student Research in the Faculty of Arts

In term two the Faculty of Arts will be running an interdisciplinary student research programme, open to all second and third year students in the Faculty. Students will be given the chance to conduct an interdisciplinary group research project in conjunction with the Modern Records Centre. The project will give students the opportunity to expand their research, communication and team-working skills alongside developing resilience and engaging with the wider University. This opportunity will be advertised to students directly in term two. If you would like to know more in the meantime email [Becca Stone](#).