SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

REPORT | 2025 – 2026



UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT

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UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

INTRODUCTION

FROM PROFESSOR PETER BONFIELD OBE FRENG FIET



Alongside Wellbeing and Inclusion, Sustainable Development is a key priority for our University and flow through all we do, connecting our work with the wider challenges facing people, communities and our planet to make a positive impact. Since adopting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2019, we have increasingly embedded them across our teaching, research, operations and engagement, placing sustainable development at the heart of our contribution to a more sustainable, equitable and healthier society and planet.

The 2025–26 academic year has seen significant progress. Our first Climate Assembly (the first of any UK University) brought together more than 200 members of our community to explore the challenges and opportunities of climate change. Our Sustainability Fund supported seven projects, while we maintained our Platinum EcoCampus Award for a second consecutive year. We have also reached an important milestone in Education for Sustainable Development, with SDGs becoming embedded across the core curriculum.

These achievements reflect the breadth and diversity of activity taking place across Westminster. Our three sustainability workstreams – Sustainable Curriculum and Research and Knowledge Exchange, Sustainable Campus, and Pathway to Net Zero – bring together contributions from colleagues and students across the University.

This report celebrates our collective endeavour through examples of the innovative and creative ways our community is contributing to the SDGs. There is much more to do, but we can take confidence from the progress we have made and the commitment of our Westminster community. I commend and thank everyone who has contributed, and hope this report provides inspiration for the work still to come.

All best wishes,



Professor Peter Bonfield OBE FREng FIET
Vice-Chancellor and President

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER'S SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

In 2019 the University of Westminster adopted the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) – approved by all then 193 UN Member States to scaffold the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015-2030) – to frame its own strategic decisions. The University's strategy Being Westminster 2022-2029 officially rooted the SDGs at the heart of all we do in our mission to help students and colleagues from differentbackgrounds fulfil their potential and contribute to a more sustainable, equitable, and healthier society.

The SDG Coordinating Group, established in 2024-25 and co-chaired by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement and Employability) Professor Dibyesh Anand and Deputy Director of Estates Steve Ford, continues to bolster the work of the Sustainability Team by coordinating colleagues from across Westminster to strengthen our commitment to the SDGs. In doing so, it sends a powerful message that everyone has a role to play in creating a better world for people and planet. The University's Sustainability Team then has the pleasure of weaving this collective action together and communicating the resulting narrative. Our annual Sustainable Development Goals Report is a joyous demonstration of just that.

There were many highlights in the 2025-26 academic year for the Sustainability Team. As shared by Peter, the Sustainability Fund – generously supported by Westminster alumnus and mission-led entrepreneur Graham Hobson – had its biggest and most competitive year yet, with seven outstanding projects to prove it. The details of these projects are dotted throughout this report to correspond to their most directly linked SDG. The recommendations from the Climate Assembly can be found towards the back of this report with many exciting opportunities to explore.

Maintaining our Platinum-level EcoCampus Award for the second year is a huge achievement and we hit a major milestone in our Education for Sustainable Development journey (ESD) with sustainability being a part of all core curriculum in a meaningful way from 2026-27 and the launch of Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development. These highlights reinforce the SDGs as our connective tissue at Westminster, where the successes the Sustainability Team has delivered through their three core workstreams are multiplied by the tireless efforts of our colleagues and students to progress sustainable development University-wide and beyond.

Although only a small collection of case studies can be shared in the Sustainable Development Goals Report, the Sustainability Team is confident they will inspire and brilliantly showcase the University's commitment to inclusion, wellbeing and sustainable development. All case studies have been filed under their most relevant SDG in one of the following four categories: Curriculum, Research and Knowledge Exchange, Operations and Community.

Where available, links to further information have been included in the case study title. For further information about sustainable development at the University of Westminster, please see **westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/vision-mission-and-values/sustainabledevelopment** or feel free to contact the Sustainability Team at **sustainability@westmintser.ac.uk**.

We hope you enjoy reading the Sustainable Development Goals Report as much as we enjoyed putting it together.



SDG 1
NO POVERTY
END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



The University provided significant financial support to students through a range of bursaries, hardship funds and scholarships. Student funding awards supported 495 students through the Care Leaver, Estranged Student and Living Expenses Support Schemes, with a total investment of £543,761. In addition, the Cost of Living Assistance (CoLA) scheme received 686 applications, including 160 from international students, with 584 students awarded a total of £146,000. The University also continued to expand and improve access to scholarships, with almost all application processes now available online through e-Vision, contributing to a significant increase in applications, particularly from international students. New scholarship awards included 313 international undergraduate and postgraduate students, receiving £602,000, alongside 92 home students receiving £245,600. A further 204 students received Westminster Bursaries (£289,000) and 154 undergraduate students received other three-year scholarships (£391,000). Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the University's continued commitment to reducing financial barriers and providing targeted support to students from a range of backgrounds.


Adar C. Poonawalla

CURRICULUM

Judy Blame Scholarship for Menswear MA
Menswear MA student Gia Jenkins has been announced as the inaugural recipient of Westminster's new scholarship in partnership with Trust Judy Blame. Established in memory of designer and stylist Judy Blame, the new Judy Blame Scholarship will make fashion education more accessible by providing the full tuition fees for a student each year from underprivileged backgrounds, marginalised communities and LGBTQI+ who demonstrate exceptional potential in menswear design.

Adar Poonawalla Pathways to Excellence in Health and Life Sciences Programme
The new Pathways to Excellence in Health and Life Sciences Programme provides transformative opportunities for Westminster students and academics, significantly expanding accessibility, diversity and excellence in STEM education and research, with multi-year funding to support learners from undergraduate study through to doctoral research and advanced fellowships. Thanks to a landmark donation from distinguished alumnus and CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar C. Poonawalla, the University is able to identify and nurture diverse future leaders from across the globe who will go on to tackle major global challenges, from disease prevention, sustainable healthcare and biodiversity conservation.

New bursaries for Transport Planning MSc
Westminster announced two new bursaries for prospective students applying to the Transport Planning MSc course for the 2026-27 academic year. The Rees Jeffreys Road Fund and the Brian Large Masters bursaries are designed to assist students who require financial aid to pursue their educational goals. Candidates will be selected based on demonstrable financial need, a strong understanding of career opportunities within the transport sector, clear career aspirations and an excellent academic record. Those who have demonstrated commitment to their field through professional experience are also eligible.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Financial inclusion
Professor of Finance Abdelhafid Benamraoui provided oral evidence on the UK's Financial Inclusion Strategy for the Treasury Committee, exploring the biggest challenges facing financial inclusion and questioning the strength of current strategy to tackle the complexities of financial exclusion. Professor Benamraoui argued for smart targets and

£1.4 MILLION
AWARDED IN STUDENT FINANCE AND SCHOLARSHIPS



Bees & Refugees Founder Ali Alzein

accountability, the need for data based evidence of the efficacy of current initiatives and clearer explanations of how civil society and community groups contribute to improving access to financial services. He further highlighted that funding allocation should be justified via specific key indicators and outreach, as well as the importance of strengthening regulations and using artificial intelligence to enhance financial education and capability.

OPERATIONS

Julia Rausing Trust Care Leaver Completion Bursaries

The Julia Rausing Trust has generously awarded funding for Care Leaver Completion Bursaries worth £90,000 over three years. Care Leaver Completion Bursaries are awarded to 45 final-year undergraduate students who were previously in the care system before entering higher education. The bursaries are used to cover maintenance costs while at university, as well as paying deposits for future accommodation one recipients leave university. The bursaries also aim to ease financial burden so students can reduce paidworking hours and focus more on their important final-year studies.

Mrs M's Education Fund expands

Mrs M's Education Fund further expanded to award grants to first-generation female students, as part of its mission to empower women on their career journeys and break down barriers to higher education. The scholarships have been awarded to seven final-year students from courses across the University, with each scholar receiving a one-time grant of £2,000 to support their educational journeys. Mrs M's Education Fund, established in memory of Roshankhanu Moledina who arrived in the UK as a refugee from India and Uganda in 1972, has the mission to open doors for those who seek to help others.

COMMUNITY

Students pitch marketing campaign to Bees & Refugees

Business Management (Marketing) BA students studying on the Discovering Consumer Insights module delivered professional, client-ready marketing pitches to the grassroots environmental charity Bees & Refugees, applying consumer research and insight-driven thinking to their live brief. Working in small consultancy teams, students were tasked with uncovering insights into Bees & Refugees' ideal audiences and pitching creative marketing campaigns to help grow income and engagement. The charity, based in London, supports ecological conservation and refugee inclusion through beekeeping, education and sustainable products.



SDG 2
ZERO HUNGER
END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE


Project Management MSc students

The University continued to support colleagues and students with free breakfast across the Estate which included free porridge as well as free tea and coffee to ensure everyone had access to a healthy way to start the day.

CURRICULUM

Financial support for education and school meals in Guatemala

Students studying on the Project Management MSc raised over £2,000 for as part of their coursework, demonstrating how project management education can create meaningful social impact beyond the classroom. The fundraising initiative formed part of the Project Leadership module, where students apply their learning to a real-world setting via authentic assessment. After agreeing on the charity Niños de Guatemala, students worked in teams to plan, deliver and evaluate their fundraising projects while engaging with the charity as well other private and public stakeholders. The students raised £2,085.53, the equivalent to the charity's target of providing daily school meals for all 530 students for one month.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Cavendish Living Lab Roots and Recipes documentary

Cavendish Living Lab (CLL) has launched its own YouTube channel with the premiere of their documentary exploring how cooking with familiar ingredients and recipes can inspire sustainable choices and create meaningful community connections. The film Roots and Recipes draws on the lived experiences of those who have moved to London to study, showcasing the diversity within the Westminster community and highlighting the universal power of food to create a sense of belonging. CLL also published a new recipe book to accompany the film, bringing together cherished dishes and culinary traditions from across the University.

OPERATIONS

Food waste

Food waste bins were introduced across all Halls of Residence kitchens and all campus foodmaking facilities, with the aim to encourage students, colleagues and visitors to separate food waste for recycling rather than to dispose of food through general waste streams. The initiative has increased the amount of waste sent for anaerobic digestion by 2.08%, reducing the volume of general waste sent to incineration. This has supported the University's commitment to improve resource efficiency and reduce Scope 3 carbon emissions.

4
YEARS
OF FREE BREAKFAST AT WESTMINSTER

COMMUNITY

Right to Food

Students and colleagues from Westminster's Global Public Health and Nutrition (GPHN) MSc partnered with Ian Byrne MP, the Food and Work Network, and the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union to launch the Right to Food Commission in Parliament. The Commission aims to provide a roadmap towards ending hungerand food poverty in Britain, supporting the mission of the Right to Food Campaign to make access to food a legal right for all by having the Right to Food enshrined in law. The Commission was officially launched in Parliament in November, following its announcement at the Right to Food UK Conference held at the University a few months before. The University's GPHN course has worked closely with Ian Byrne MP on the campaign since 2023, and students have since launched a cross-University Right to Food Society.



Westminster City Council grant for greener living

Westminster City Council generously awarded the Cavendish Living Lab (CLL) £14,000 through the Westminster Climate Fund's Greener Living category. The grant will fund CLL's new project, The Green Pathway: Community Food, Wellbeing and Leadership for a Sustainable Future, enabling students to take on paid roles as Climate Champions. The Climate Champions will host public workshops, bridging the gap between the University and local communities to help drive change, promote inclusive education and help build a healthier, greener future.



Cavendish Living Lab group photo



SDG 3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



Cutting the red ribbon for the Clinical Simulation Suites

CURRICULUM

New Clinical Simulation Suites and nursing programmes

The new Clinical Simulation Suites at its Cavendish Campus represent a significant investment in health and wellbeing education with a focus on preventative medicine and provision of care in both community and hospital settings. They coincide with the launch of two new programmes, the Nursing Associate Foundation Degree FdSc and the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship. By prioritising practical preparation, teamwork and emotional resilience, the courses aim to better equip future healthcare professionals for the realities of modern clinical practice. The immersive approach of learning through simulated clinical scenarios helps bridge the gap between theory and practice, building student confidence, competence and professional readiness before entering clinical placements, a key factor in reducing stress and burnout.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Muscle shape in metabolic health and diabetes risk

Westminster's Centre for Optimal Health has demonstrated that subtle changes in muscle shape, detectable through advanced MRI analysis, can provide important insights into metabolic health, ageing and the risk of type 2 diabetes. Led by Dr Marjola Thanaj and Professor Louise Thomas, the study analysed MRI scans using three-dimensional MRI shape mapping to show that alterations in muscle shape rather than simple loss of volume are associated with ageing, lifestyle factors, osteoporosis and type 2 diabetes, with clear differences observed between sexes. The work draws on large-scale imaging data from UK Biobank's record-breaking human imaging project, which Professor Thomas has worked on closely for the past 15 years.

Sustainability Fund project spotlight – ScreenWell

Students Bobby Brewe, Fatima Butt, Keira Mannion and Trix Valentine produced the podcast ScreenWell with the help of Senior Lecturer Dr Christopher Hogg. They explored the importance of wellbeing during turbulent times and asserted that the first step to staying well is communication. Using the screen industries as a launching-point, the podcast explored themes of universal importance for work and life today. Each episode centres around a professional screen-industry guest where they share personal stories, reflect on triumphs and challenges and offer insights on maintaining wellbeing..

New Centre for Gene Editors of the Future

The Westminster Centre for Gene Editors of the Future, the UK's first gene editing centre connecting cutting-edge research with inclusive future-ready education, launched in 2025-26. The Centre aims to develop understanding regarding how gene editing

WESTMINSTER RANKS 4TH FOR AGEING BIOLOGY RESEARCH

can help treat genetic diseases by detecting and correcting faulty genes. The Centre builds on five years of gene editing work at the University through the Gene Editors of the Future programme led by Dr Kalpana Surendranath. Their work focuses on training students to use and become confident with Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, a technology that research scientists use to specifically modify the DNA of living organisms.

OPERATIONS

Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Advocates

The University welcomed four students, Adri Abeysekera, Temitope Afolabi, Tanya Afshin and Leandra Wilson-Patrick to begin their roles as Mental Health and Wellbeing Advocates in 202526. Over four months, the students worked in partnership with Kristy Robinson, Co-Head of Student Support and Residential Life, to help shape how mental health and wellbeing support develops across the University. This initiative contributes to the University's wider commitment to the principles of the University Mental Health Charter, ensuring that student perspectives play an active role in shaping institutional approaches to mental health and wellbeing. .

COMMUNITY

Understanding brain injuries

Westminster hosted a training event for probation officers from the HM Prison and Probation Service Ealing and Hillingdon Probation Delivery Unit to understand brain injuries. The session aimed, a mix of theoretical content and interactive activities, to give probation officers an understanding of the causes and consequences of brain injuries and explore how they can best support those living with one.

New Community Counselling Service to support locals' mental health

The new Westminster Community Counselling Service (WCCS) launched in 2025-26, providing counselling to residents in the City of Westminster. The WCCS aims to help address the growing demand for mental health support across the borough, particularly for under-served communities, and give graduates and trainees from the University the chance to put their studies into practice. Counselling is delivered by graduates and trainees from the Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling, all of whom are supervised by highly experienced academic colleagues and supported through ongoing professional development. WCCS offers with fees on a sliding scale from free to £35, and no eligibility criteria. People with no income, such as refugees, can access sessions at no cost, while others, such as those on maternity leave, can pay reduced rates.



Left to Right: Temitope Afolabi, Adri Abeysekera, Tanya Afshin and Leandra Wilson-Patrick



SDG 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



CURRICULUM

Education for Sustainable Development update

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been Westminster's mechanism for delivering its commitment to embed sustainable development and the SDGs into the entirety of its education offer. This work is driven by a collaboration between the Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation (CETI) and the Sustainability Team, with Westminster's Academic Council approving an ESD Action Plan in 2024 and all University academic colleagues taking responsibility for ensuring its realisation.

From 2025-26, all Foundation and undergraduate courses must include at least one core module in every level of study which teaches holistic sustainable development through the use of the SDGs and reinforces this learning through authentic assessment. ESD is a combination of knowledge of sustainable development, subject specific knowledge and skills and key competencies relating to emotional intelligence and human interaction. Our approach to target core modules and mandate authentic assessment ensures ESD theory remains intact no matter the discipline.

2025-26 saw the same methodology applied to all postgraduate courses. The results of this endeavour will be visible in the upcoming 2026-27 academic year, completing Westminster's first phase of ESD to ensure all students benefit from teaching which allows them to fulfil their potential and contribute to a more sustainable, equitable and healthier society.

To support teaching colleagues at the centre of our ESD journey, CETI and the Sustainability Team programme regular support into the academic calendar and offer bespoke school-, course- and module-level support specific to colleagues' needs.

Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development

The Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation and the Sustainability Team launched Vertically Integrated Projects (VIPs) for Sustainable Development as a University-wide elective module in 2025-26 to complement Westminster's ESD in core curriculum. First year students piloted the module by participating in two projects: Co-Creating Rwanda's Future supporting a fashion collaboration between the University and the British High Commission in Rwanda; Language Matters in Migration supporting new, permanent home of the Migration Museum in London with translation of exhibition material. The successful pilot opened the doors for all undergraduate students to take part in VIPs from 2026-27.

School of Arts Sustainable Stories

The School of Arts Sustainable Stories films, spearheaded by Dr Rosie Wallin, showcase excellent student projects which directly engage with the SDGs. By capturing authentic student experiences and impactful projects, the films help raise awareness of the SDGs and encourage wider engagement with sustainability at Westminster. Students who shared their Sustainable Story include: Jewel Appiah, Ruby Carpenter, Tess Cerciello, Sia Akougny Coud, Oscar J. Dooley, Ann Ivan, Ugochukwu David Ogbuehi, Mathilde Schira and Muchemi Wanyeki. These films build upon pilot case studies provided by Molly Sellars and Beth Theobald.

WESTMINSTER COLLEAGUES RECOGNISED FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIA

Professor Mykaell Riley

Professor Mykaell Riley, Director of the Black Music Research Unit (BMRU) and Lead Researcher for the Bass Culture project, was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for his outstanding services to research and education around Black British music. A founding member of the Grammy-winning reggae band Steel Pulse, Professor Riley has spent over four decades shaping the sound, study and understanding of Black British music. He continues to bridge music, academia and cultural policy, shaping how Black British music is understood, valued and taught. Professor Riley is the first Professor of Black British music in the UK and, as Director of the BMRU, has led landmark research projects that have reshaped national conversations about Black British cultural history. Alongside his research leadership, Professor Riley has played a central role in developing one of the UK's most innovative music degree programmes , the Westminster Music BA – the only degree in the country offering real-time learning, professional work placements and on-screen credits on a major TV drama.

Dr Doug Specht

Dr Doug Specht, Head of the School of Media and Communication, was awarded the Principal Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (PFHEA), making him the first person to simultaneously hold the Chartered Teacher Status, Advanced Teacher Status and now the PFHEA, alongside his existing qualifications of Qualified Teacher Status, Postgraduate Certificate in Education and Master of Arts in Higher Education. Dr Specht was also awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from Advance HE. The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme celebrates individuals who have made an outstanding impact to student outcomes and the teaching profession in UK higher education.

Dr Kalpana Surendranath

Dr Kalpana Surendranath, Reader in Genome Engineering, won the PRECIOUS Awards 2025 in the Outstanding Woman in STEM category for her trailblazing work in inclusive science education and genome engineering. The PRECIOUS Awards were founded by Foluke Akinlose MBE to recognise exceptional women of colour who are making a difference through innovation, leadership and community impact in the UK. Dr Surendranath is the Founder and Director of the Gene Editors of the Future programme, the UK's largest extracurricular CRISPR training initiative. Through her work, Dr Surendranath has transformed access to advanced biotechnology training for over 1,500 students from more than 30 countries.

1ST
IN LONDON FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

How Do Values Take Shape in Classrooms?
The Swiss National Science Foundation awarded funding to a new project comparing how values are formed in classrooms across Switzerland and the UK. Westminster Reader in Psychology Dr Anna Doering and Swiss academics collaborate to deliver the project How Do Values Take Shape in Classrooms? A Mixed-Methods Study of Teacher and Peer Influences on Children's Value Formation in Primary Schools in Switzerland and the UK. By collecting data from children and teachers across the two countries, a comparative perspective will development to understand how values are formed in different cultural environments. Their findings will enable educators and policymakers to adapt values education to reflect the cultural and social realities of their communities, as well as provide material for teacher training and professional development.

Sustainability Fund project – EcoAnatomy
The EcoAnatomy project aimed to transform anatomy education through sustainable, inclusive, and neurodiversity-supportive methods. The team, involving students Vera Bowerman, Elizabeth Daketse and Ruweyda Elmi alongside Senior Lecturer in Life Sciences Dr Joan Liu and Assistant Laboratory Technician Ignas Stankaitis, created reusable 3D-printed anatomical models and interactive activities – such as painting regions of a 3D-printed brain – to replace traditional dissection and reduce exposure to hazardous materials. Using in-house printers, recycled materials and washable paints, they developed affordable teaching tools, focusing on the brain and beginning early prototypes of the nephron.

OPERATIONS

New Immersive Experience Lab coming to Westminster
Westminster has secured £2,496,000 in funding from the Office for Students to create a new Immersive Experience Lab on its Marylebone Campus, designed specifically to tackle critical skills shortages already affecting employers in London and across the UK. The Lab will provide students with hands-on, industry-aligned learning that builds practical and strategic skills in high-growth sectors, including digital technology, finance, construction, manufacturing, professional and business services, and the creative industries.

COMMUNITY

Public Speaking and Communication course at HMP Pentonville
Prisoners and workers at HMP Pentonville recently celebrated the successful completion of an empowering Public Speaking and Communication course ran in partnership with the University. The seven-week course was designed to build self-esteem, confidence and communication skills, preparing participants for real-life speaking situations such as job interviews, court appearances and public forums. Throughout the course, prisoners and prison officers worked together to explore the art of storytelling, role-play, persuasion and self-awareness, combining theory with practice through short speeches, storytelling exercises and mock debates.

Partnership with Digital Schoolhouse
Westminster has partnered with Digital Schoolhouse, a not-for-profit company transforming computing education through play, to improve how computing and digital skills are taught in schools. For the last two years, the University hosted the Playful Computing Conference and Festival of Play, where pupils develop digital skills through play and teachers learn about the latest developments in technology and education. Now with an official partnership, the University will combine its leading academic expertise with Digital Schoolhouse's innovative teaching programmes. Together they aim to bridge the gap between school-level education and university-level study in digital fields, allowing Digital Schoolhouse to reach even more pupils and teachers.

Future Leaders
Westminster hosted a series of Future Leaders events at its Cavendish Campus for Year 12 and 13 students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and underrepresented communities from partner schools, supporting them to develop skills, build confidence and increase access to post-18 education. Future Leaders, founded in 2020, works to improve social mobility, social justice and pathways into higher education and employment for disadvantaged young people. The organisation now reaches more than 10,000 students across the UK.

23 years of science4u at Westminster
The School of Life Sciences hosted its 23rd annual event in collaboration with science4u to inspire Year 9-11 students from London schools to study science. This year's theme, Science for Sports, focused on unlocking human potential and learning from each other. The Annual Schools Science Conference, science4u, was launched in 2003 to inspire pupils from London to study science through demonstrating its importance in everyday life and showcasing future career options. Westminster has hosted the event since 2015 and welcomes 350 students and their teachers from secondary schools across London each year. The schools are joined by organisations including the NHS, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Institute of Biomedical Science, as well as a range of universities and pharmaceutical companies.



Sustainability Fund 2025-26 teams, organisers, and finale invitees



SDG 5

GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



Westminster researcher at the panel event in Italy

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Media and misogyny

Westminster doctoral researcher Luba Kassova launched the report The Global Misogyny News Coverage Tracker: The Missing Misogyny-related Coverage in an Era of Endemic Violence against Women. It is the seventh report in the Missing Perspectives series from Kassova and her business partner Richard Addy. New evidence gathered by the tracker at the centre of the report, which analysed over a billion global online news stories since 2017, has demonstrated that reporting on misogynistic harassment and violence against women remains scant and that existing reporting is predominantly focused on individual incidents rather than systems enabling the crimes, dominated by male experts and largely excludes survivor voices and solutions based angles. The report aims to ensure that stories sharing the perspectives of women and girls are told with more sensitivity for real change via new laws, initiatives and programmes that both protect women and challenge damaging social norms.

Sustainability Fund project spotlight– Aya

Team Aya, involving students Kaavya Lakshminarayanan, Alice Moore and Aayushi Shahu alongside Lecturers in Media and Communication Dr Nathasha Fernando and Reshel Shah, created a short documentary about a young British-Muslim woman – Life Sciences student Aya Hijazi – who became the first hijabi national amateur boxing champion in Great Britain. The documentary looks past the ring to consider how Aya channels determination, faith, anger and ambition into a space that, unexpectedly, became the one that made sense for her. The team will be submitting their film to festivals and hope to host a screening at the University's Regent Street Cinema in the near future.

OPERATIONS

Athena Swan - Strengthening Gender and Intersectional Equity at Westminster

The 2025/26 academic year marked a significant milestone in Westminster's commitment to gender and intersectional equity, culminating in the submission of an Athena Swan Silver Award application to Advance HE, with the outcome expected in September 2026.

Our Self-Assessment Team engaged over 500 colleagues and students through surveys, focus groups, interviews, policy reviews, data analysis and benchmarking. This provided valuable insight into progress and highlighted priorities including women's progression into senior academic and leadership roles, workload equity, caring responsibilities, organisational culture and student continuation. The process recognised achievements including strengthened EDI governance, family-friendly policies, leadership development, the Women of Westminster Network and increased female representation in senior leadership.

Findings informed a five-year Athena Swan Action Plan (2026–2031), establishing measurable actions and accountability across recruitment, progression, workload, leadership, culture, wellbeing and student success. The process has strengthened institutional learning and collaboration, supporting Westminster's wider EDI ambitions.

News from Women in Westminster

The Women of Westminster colleague network ran three events in 2025-26: a Menopause Support event to launch Westminster's recent menopause support guidance and provide a breathwork session and care packages for attendees; a Global Diversity celebration consisting of student performances, cultural food and team building activities; an event on women's health with specific focus on the lived experience of endometriosis and the Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic experience of menopause.

COMMUNITY

2025-26 events for gender equality

Westminster brought students, colleagues and beyond together for gender equality by hosting a number of events framed by the themes evoked in the SDGs, including wellbeing, racism and climate change. Some highlights include:

- The FemIDEAS Conference 2026, providing a space for international scholars, activists, survivor-leaders and policymakers to address

OVER 500 COLLEAGUES ENGAGED IN ATHENA SWAN APPLICATION

inequalities across universities worldwide. Organised by the FemIDEAS research project, the transnational conference offered free access to participants and aimed to bridge theory, policy and practice to better prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in higher education institutions. FemIDEAS is led by Dr Adrija Dey, and supported by Dr Erin Shannon and Kyra Araneta

- The Being a Black Female Leader event on International Women's Day 2026, organised as part of Westminster's Black History Year initiative, where inspiring Black female leaders shared their journeys and achievements. Black History Year is an innovative programme which celebrates Black history, stories, lives, politics, creativity and achievements all year round. Dr Deborah Husbands, Reader in Psychology , leads the Black History Year Programme and is Co-Chair of the University's Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Colleague Network and EDI Committee.
- Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment (ProBE) panel discussion to explore feminist climate policy, bringing together academics, politicians, environmental activists and unions to discuss the reframing of climate change issues from a feminist perspective in light of the book Feminist Climate Policy in Industrialised States: A Gender Just Climate Emergency Response. ProBE is a cross-school research centre between Westminster Business School, the School of Architecture + Cities and the School of Social Sciences, focused on finding innovative ways to construct a just, inclusive and sustainable society via the built environment.

Girl Tech experience day

Westminster hosted the Ahead Partnership's Girl Tech London event, aimed at tackling the underrepresentation of women in the technology and digital sectors. In collaboration with global IT consultancy Netcompany, the event connected female tech leaders with young women to inspire and encourage future careers in the digital industry. Girl Tech was founded in 2018 to motivate young women to consider careers in the technology and digital sectors. The programme connects girls aged 12–14 with diverse role models, helping to challenge misconceptions and tackle gender imbalances across the industry.



Students at Girl Tech experience day



SDG 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL


Professor Stroma Cole

Water consumption across all the campuses for the period 1st of August 2025 until 31 of July 2026 was 93,255 m3 which is 22% decrease from the previous year. Close monitoring of water consumption across the University has been achieved using automatic meter reading. In addition, several water reduction initiatives from the water surveys were implemented mainly at Harrow campus.

CURRICULUM

Students win chance to design shopfronts across Marylebone

Fashion Design BA students won the opportunity to design vacant shopfronts across Marylebone, London, after taking part in an innovative hackathon organised by the Baker Street Quarter Partnership in collaboration with Portman Marylebone and The Portman Estate. The hackathon challenged students to create vinyl concepts for empty shop windows and pitch their ideas to industry professionals. The winning team was made up of Angela Cammarota Perez and Souki Faulkner. Inspired by theRiver Tyburn, once a vital source of drinking water in London, their design reflected the idea of hidden flow beneath the city. This narrative is seamlessly combined with the use of bows, a recurring motif found in the architectural detailing of surrounding buildings and townhouses in the Marylebone area.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Professor Stroma Cole named in Most Influential Women in Travel

Stroma Cole, Professor in Tourism and Human Rights and Co-director of the new Destinations and Experience Research Centre, was included in TravelPulse's Most Influential Women in Travel list for her work advancing gender equality across the industry. Professor Cole has researched extensively on the connections between gender, water rights and tourism. Her research highlights the importance of sustainable practices when analysing the complex relationship between tourism and water resources. Her work advocates for equitable water distribution, ensuring that tourism development does not compromise local communities' access to essential resources.

Biodesalination

The Sustainable Biotechnology Research Group's Clement Nyadroh, Professor Tajalli Keshavarz and Professor Godfrey Kyazze published the article Biodesalination: Can Nature Help Solve the Global Freshwater Crisis? in the journal Earth: Environmental Sustainability. The increasing demand for freshwater, driven by population growth, water pollution, industrialisation, urbanisation and climate change, has intensified pressure on conventional freshwater sources. Desalination of seawater has become an increasingly attractive strategy to augment water supply. Although conventional desalination technologies have demonstrated high efficacy in converting saline water into potable water, these systems are associated with critical environmental and financial drawbacks. Biodesalination has emerged as a promising alternative, harnessing biological systems and bioinspired mechanisms for salt removal. This paper advocates for biodesalination as a low-energy, sustainable alternative to tackle the global freshwater crisis.

22%
DECREASE IN WATER CONSUMPTION FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Water heritage and climate change
Professor Stroma Cole and Senior Research Fellow Ripin Kalra collaborated with Satya Wacana Christian University's Yesaya Sandang to publish the paper on titled Rethinking Tourism: Water Heritage Relations under Climate Change in the Annals of Tourism Research journal. Although societies are increasingly exceeding hydrological limits through systemic failures in water governance, tourism-climate change research treats water as a resource to be managed so tourism can continue thus implicitly accepting tourism as a legitimate and primary water user. This paper asks what happens when water heritage is recognised not as a resource within tourism systems, but as a governance system in its own right – one that precedes tourism and defines the conditions under which any economic activity may operate.

OPERATIONS

Water audits
As mentioned above, water audits were conducted across all the campuses during the previous year leading to several water reduction suggestions. The surveys are a part of our supplier's water reduction campaign which align well with the efforts of the University to reduce water consumption where possible.

During August 2026, all the Harrow Halls were surveyed with the implementation of new water inserts in the taps across most student halls. The purpose of these devices is to reduce the flowrate of the taps and consequently thewater consumption. In addition, new water shower head were provided to be installed in the future.





SDG 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL



RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Climate Change and Energy Policy lecture series

The Climate Change, Energy Policy and Sustainability research group organised a lecture series for students and colleagues in 2025-26. It included the launch of the University of Westminster Climate Assembly and themes of polycentricity in relation to climate change, artisanal and small-scale mining for a low-carbon transition, the origins of and lessons learned from the Energy Charter Treaty and misogyny and why it matters for democracy and climate change

OPERATIONS

Renewable energy on campus

Generating clean electricity using Solar PV is a part of the University's decarbonisation plan. Solar PV feasibilities studies have been completed for most roof across all the campuses. Additional Solar PV have been installed at Zone 29 as a part of the recent refurbishment. Regent Street Solar PV are expected to be connected during this financial year as they are already installed.

Building management for energy efficiency

Understanding the building operation and a strategic, planned investment into the BMS and building controls is a priority for the University this year. Greater technical control of our estate will enable further energy reduction by ensuring comfort temperatures are maintained, and controlled as required, in all our buildings. An example of how the BMS could support the energy reduction is the Christmas shut down that was completed from December 2025 to January this year. The project was to turn off most of the buildings during the two holiday weeks which required understanding of the building operation. This led to a great savings considering that heating was not required for almost two weeks during one of the coldest periods of the year.

COMMUNITY

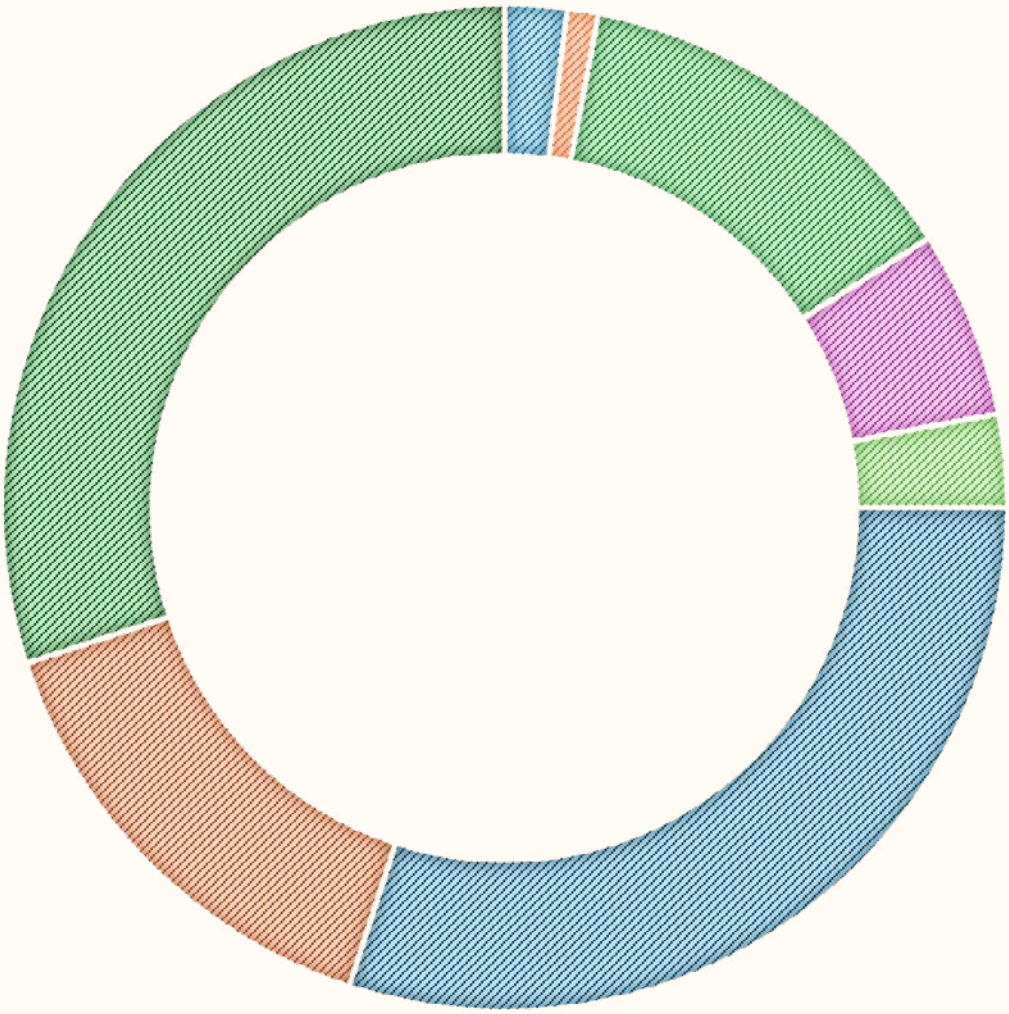
Westminster top clean energy producer in Westminster City Council

The University is a proud signatory of the Westminster City Council Sustainable City Charter, a pledge containing eight commitments to reduce carbon emissions from non-domestic buildings which covers areas such as energy use, procurement, transport, waste, and deliveries. The Charter also commits to net zero buildings by 2040 or earlier. It was announced in 2025 that signatories collectively generated 218,542 kWh of electricity from on-site renewables, with the University leading the way by producing 78,330 kWh from its 200+ solar photovoltaics panels installed across our London campuses.

649,529 KWH
OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM SOLAR PV ACROSS CAMPUSES IN 2025-26

WESTMINSTER'S PROCURED RENEWABLE ENERGY MIX

Off-shore wind	30%	Landgill Gas	3%
On-shore wind	30%	Biodegradable	2%
Photovoltaic	15%	Biogas	1%
Biomass	13%	Filled Storage Hydro	0%
Hyrdo	6%		





SDG 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



Panel discussion at Social Enterprise UK

CURRICULUM

Closing NHS England tissue and blood genomics skills gap

Westminster has been awarded a years-long national contract with NHS England and the National School of Healthcare Science to carry out the full development and delivery of two new Postgraduate Certificates in Genomics, which will ultimately lead to closing skills gaps currently hindering the diagnosis of some cancers. The new courses focus on histopathology, the study of tissue-related diseases, and haematology, which is the study of blood-related diseases. These programmes will provide hands-on laboratory and informatics skills training to NHS workers, helping them analyse and interpret genomic data and integrate it into clinical decision-making.

Social entrepreneurship

Westminster partnered with Social Enterprise UK to host a major social entrepreneurship event at our new home for careers and enterprise Zone29. The event was led by Social Business Founder, Investor and Coach Peter Ptashko, with support from the Research Centre on Peripheral Populations co-directors Professor of Social Enterprise Lilian Miles and Reader in Social Innovation Dr Maria Granados and the Westminster Enterprise Network and brought together a diverse group of social entrepreneurs to network and share their experiences. Around 50 social enterprises attended, alongside students and researchers from the Westminster Business School.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Self-employment for NEET young people

A team from Westminster's Centre for Employment Research collaborated with the Institute for Employment Studies to evaluate whether self-employment can provide a route into work for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The research developed an intervention model to support NEET young people moving into self-employment. The flexibility of self-employment could offer an alternative path to earning for young people who struggle to find work, yet existing knowledge about how this can be achieved effectively is limited. To find out more, Westminster colleagues Professor Richard Dorsett, Dr Gerda Buchmueller and Dr Veruska Oppedisano led a project for Youth Futures Foundation which aims to understand young people's views and intentions.

OPERATIONS

WeNetwork at Zone29

Westminster Enterprise Network (WeNetwork) has launched a new support offering as part of the Westminster's new Zone29. WeNetwork is the University's enterprise and entrepreneurship team, working to boost students' career readiness

while enabling students and graduates to bring their business ideas to life. Students and graduates can now apply for four types of funding opportunities and gain access to WeNetwork's full enterprise support programme, including workshops, one-to-one appointments, on-demand courses, resources and access to Zone29's co-working space, makerspace and digital studio.

Living Wage Accreditation
Westminster has become an accredited organisation with the Living Wage Foundation, recognising the University's commitment to paying employees a wage that meets the cost of living in London. The Living Wage commitment sees that everyone working at Westminster receives a minimum hourly wage of £14.80, significantly higher than the government minimum for over 21s which currently stands at £12.71 per hour.

COMMUNITY

Westminster Skills Summit
Westminster has partnered with Westminster City Council to host a dynamic Skills Summit, bringing together employers, training providers, policymakers and community leaders to explore practical, forward-thinking solutions for workforce development and to champion the growth of the local area. The summit unfolded in two parts. The first was an online session that set the stage for discussion, followed by an in-person event held at the University's Little Titchfield Street site, where ideas were refined and collaborations strengthened.





WeNetwork group photo



SDG 9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION



Professor Gregory Sporton speaking at Research Culture Symposium

CURRICULUM

Redesigning the curriculum for future construction professionals

Curriculum enhancement across the Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management programmes were carried out in 2025-26 to strengthen graduate employability and professional competence. Working with colleagues, employers and professional bodies, the curriculum was redesigned to embed authentic assessment, sustainability, digital transformation and professional judgement. These enhancements supported the successful reaccreditation of the programme by both the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Chartered Institute of Building, providing independent recognition of its quality and industry relevance.

New SPARKX Lab for innovation in audio and creative technology

Westminster launched the SPARKX Lab, a new hands-on creative technology hub dedicated to studio production, applied research and knowledge exchange. Led by Grammy Award-winning Audio Innovation Technologist Natalia Milanesi, the lab serves as a platform where educators, students and industry professionals can come together to explore emerging audio and creative technologies in meaningful and practical ways.

Entrepreneurship Festival

Students from the Level 5 New Venture Creation module developed Minimum Viable Products to address real customer problems in competitive markets. Students carried out market research, identified target audiences and integrated category entry points and category design to create sustainable business concepts. The module culminated in an Entrepreneurship Festival, where students showcased their ideas to peers, staff and external guests where students could build confidence in pitching and network.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Sustainability Fund project spotlight - Microvision

The Microvision project, involving students Oliver Bryan, Tommy Priest, Thomas Russel and Michal Wasowski alongside colleagues Muharrem Maloku and Dr Saumya Reni, produced a prototype of an affordable, low-power automated medical microscope and slide scanner designed for communities with limited access to expensive medical equipment. This device uses motorised X, Y and Z movement, is controlled by a single-board computer with integrated power management, and can be operated through a web interface. The team now plans to refine the prototype in collaboration with the School of Life Sciences.

Finance and Accounting Research Symposium

The School of Finance and Accounting hosted its sixth Finance and Accounting Annual Research Symposium. This year's event explored the theme of Sustainability in the Digital Era, focusing on a range of topics from sustainable finance to the role of artificial intelligence in sustainable decision-making. The symposium examined the intersection of sustainability and digital innovation across finance, data analytics and accounting. It was supported by the International Review of Financial Analysis and the Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money, and saw attendees from 23 countries.

OPERATIONS

Year of Research Culture

2025-26 was dedicated as a Year of Research Culture at Westminster. Inclusive research culture is a key commitment in the University's strategy, where diversity, equity and integrity are central pillars. The University's Research Culture Statement commits to "research for everyone", embedding inclusion, ethics and development into every stage of the research process, ensuring all members of its community can bring their whole selves to work and have a world leading impact.

Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice

Westminster has joined leading institutions across the UK to become a signatory to the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice. The Concordat represents a shared ambition for the UK to deliver cutting-edge research in a more environmentally responsible and sustainable way. The Concordat was co-developed by the UK research and innovation sector to ensure research and innovation continues to play a critical part in understanding how the planet is changing, while helping the sector to act responsibly to protect and promote the environment. As signatory, Westminster is committed to recognising the need to change how it conducts research and innovation as well as promote wider solutions.

New home for careers and enterprise Zone29

Westminster is transforming how it prepares students for career success and collaborates with businesses and the local community with the opening of Zone29, located across

10 YEARS
1,000+
STUDENTS
SUPPORTED BY IGNITE FUND

Luxborough Street from the Marylebone Campus. This fully accessible and sustainable nine-storey building in the heart of London is dedicated to connecting the University's diverse student and academic talent with the world of business and the community. In line with The Mayor of London's Growth Plan, the development champions sustainable and inclusive skills and economic growth, while showcasing student-centred innovation and adaptability which make London the higher education capital of the world. At Zone29, students, graduates and the local community have access to sector-leading digital facilities, collaboration and event spaces, and work-related workshops and experiences to help them reach their full entrepreneurial and career potential.

Research Impact at Graduate Festival 2026

Research Impact is the difference that research makes to the wider world beyond academia, where research outputs and activities drive demonstrable change. The Research Excellence Framework broadly considers that research can create Impact across eight areas, all overtly aligned to the SDGs thus to Westminster's strategic vision to contribute to a more sustainable world. The Research and Knowledge Exchange Office and Sustainability Team collaborated for the Graduate Festival 2026 to deliver an expert panel of Westminster Impact Stars to demonstrate the natural link between Research Impact and impact for sustainable development. Impact Stars included Dr Jay-Marie Mackenzie, Professor Lilian Miles and Dr Doug Specht.



Zone29 Exterior

COMMUNITY

Partnerships for responsible AI in Quantity Surveying

Senior Lecturer Olayinka Omoboye contributed to the Artificial Intelligence for Quantity Surveying initiative, bringing together expertise from six universities, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and five industry and sector organisations to develop the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Competence Framework for Quantity Surveying. The framework provides practical guidance for developing responsible, ethical and effective AI competencies for higher education and professional practice and was officially launched at the University with stakeholders.

Westminster hosts London FameLab Final 2026

Being the London FameLab hub since 2024, Westminster hosted the 2026 London FameLab Final. FameLab is the world's largest science communication competition where contestants competed for a place in the UK FameLab Final. It is an international competition which sees contestants explain a scientific, engineering, mathematical or social science concept in an engaging and accessible way in under three minutes, without PowerPoint or notes. The prize was awarded to Westminster doctoral researcher Fabia Hannan Mone, whose presentation addressed how difficulty swallowing in end-of-life care affects more than just nutrition – it also impacts culture, memory and identity.



SDG 10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES
REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

6 years of the Challenging Racisms Conference
The University of Westminster hosted Contestations, Cohesion and Communities, the sixth annual Challenging Racisms Conference in May, bringing together academics, practitioners and activists for a day of insightful discussions and engaging conversations on combating racisms, embracing difference and exploring commonalities.

21 years of National Student Pride at Westminster
National Student Pride (NSP) celebrated its 21st anniversary and was co-hosted at the University of Westminster, marking the last iteration of the UK's longest-running LGBTQ+ student event. This event, made for students by students, has been committed to enhancing the LGBTQ+ student experience across the UK.

CURRICULUM
LGBTQI+ Evidence for Asylum
LGBTQI+ Evidence for Asylum (LEAP), a collaboration between the Westminster Legal Advice Clinic, LGBTQI+ charity Rainbow Migration and Wilson Solicitors LLP, launched in 2025 in response to an access-to-justice crisis affecting LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum in the UK. LEAP aims to create a sustainable blueprint for specialist, trauma-informed, student-led pro bono collaboration that increases access to justice for LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum, while strengthening the future legal aid workforce. Student volunteers are trained to recognise signs of trauma, set professional boundaries and sustain themselves in emotionally demanding work. Each student then works with a single client across the academic year to undertake supervised casework, prioritising depth over volume to help students develop ownership of cases and so clients experience continuity.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
Improving care for living with Long Covid
Reader Dr Nina Smyth and Professor Damien Ridge have played a key role in the development of a new digital tool designed to support medical professionals and improve care for those living with Long Covid, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds. The online learning tool, Health and Social Care PROfessional–Long Covid (H-Pro-LC), highlights the challenges people from ethnic minority groups face when accessing healthcare for Long Covid. Long Covid remains a significant public health issue, though awareness, diagnosis and access to appropriate support can vary widely. H-Pro-LC directly addresses these challenges by offering practical guidance for healthcare professionals, alongside resources that support more effective and compassionate communication with patients.

Holding the Space conference
Westminster hosted the second annual Holding the Space: Shining a Light on Black Academics conference, a landmark event dedicated to amplifying the voices, research and lived experiences of Black academics, students and professional services colleagues in higher education. The conference brought together a cross-institutional group of over 100 speakers, delegates and advocates for racial equality from across the UK and internationally to address pressing issues and facilitate dialogue for structural change. .

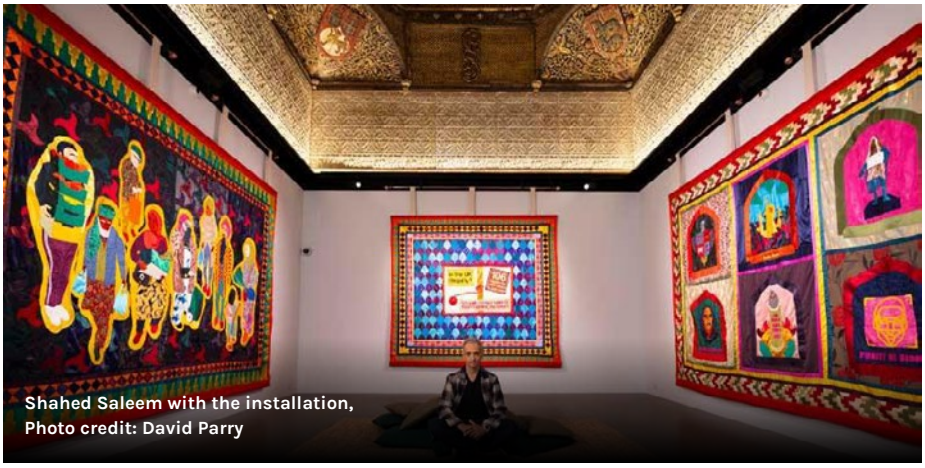
OPERATIONS
New Cavendish Campus prayer and contemplation rooms
Westminster has opened new multi-faith spaces at its Cavendish Campus, co-designed with the Students' Union to ensure full inclusivity. The spaces are fully accessible, designed for all students, colleagues and visitors. They comprise a multi-faith quiet contemplation room and dedicated Muslim prayer rooms, gender-separated with integral ablution facilities. All the rooms are furnished with timber finishes, gentle lighting and calming imagery to create an environment of tranquillity, reflection and community.

Black Music Means Business Report
Professor Mykaell Riley has contributed to and sat on the Steering Group of Parliament's landmark Black Music Means Business Report, the first European study to quantify the commercial contribution of Black music to the UK economy across 30 years of recorded music. The report draws upon Professor Riley's Beyond the Bassline research, which outlines the profound impact of Black British musicians on the UK music industry, revealing that Black music has contributed an estimated 80% of the UK's £30 billion recorded music market since 1994.



LGBTQI+ Evidence for Asylum Project (LEAP) Team

21
YEARS OF NATIONAL STUDENT PRIDE AT WESTMINSTER


Shahed Saleem with the installation, Photo credit: David Parry

Sanctuary at Westminster
Led by Dr Natasha Ramachandran, Sanctuary at Westminster, an initiative dedicated to supporting and celebrating the University's refugee and displaced student community, has launched as part of the University's work to become a University of Sanctuary. The University of Sanctuary is a UK-wide initiative that recognises universities which provide a safe and supportive environment, promote understanding of the experiences of displaced people and take proactive steps to remove barriers to education. In an era of unprecedented global displacement, Sanctuary at Westminster serves as a central hub to coordinate the University's response, ensuring that students from forced migration backgrounds can access and graduate from higher education. Under Dr Ramachandran's guidance, students have also established a Student Action for Refugees group, ensuring Westminster's support services are designed by students, for students.

News from the Black History Year Researchers Network
The Black History Year Researchers Network (BHYRN) is led by Dr Deborah Husbands, Reader in Psychology and Co-Chair of the University's Black and Minority Ethnic Colleague Network, and Kate Theophilus, Research Development Manager. The Network was set up to support Black researchers at Westminster and tackle the systemic barriers to career progression that Black academics face.

Black History Year Researchers Network wins Research Culture Impact Award
The BHYRN co-leads won the Research Culture Impact through Researcher Development Award at the annual Vitae Impact, Culture and Engagement (ICE) Awards. The Vitae ICE Awards celebrate impactful and innovative work carried out by the researcher development community, with the Research Culture Impact through Research Development Award specifically recognising outstanding practice that demonstrates how researcher development can act as a catalyst for change in research culture.

Amplifying Black Scholarship conference
BHYRN hosted their second annual Amplifying Black Scholarship conference. The conference welcomed Westminster researchers, aspiring researchers, those in supporting roles and those interested in new scholarly work to explore how Black researchers are shaping knowledge production across disciplines, communities and global contexts. It showcased the breadth, depth and impact of research being undertaken by Black scholars at the University, shining a light on exceptional contributions from inspiring doctoral students to distinguished senior academics.

COMMUNITY

Pride, Passengers and Personnel
Westminster and London Transport Museum Doctoral Researcher Zoe Few have collaborated to uncover the overlooked journeys of LGBTQ+ passengers and transport workers who lived, travelled and worked across London in the 1970 and 80s. The Pride, Passengers and Personnel project explores the forgotten or neglected histories of the LGBTQ+ community in relation to London transport and aims to contribute to current debates around collecting historically important items as tools for empowering communities. This coincides with the Museum receiving an original Never Going Underground poster – an iconic 1988 protest piece against Section 28 – highlighting the importance of preserving LGBTQ+ transport histories.

Drag Up The Organ!
Westminster hosted Drag Up The Organ! where drag performance met the historic Compton organ in the University's Fyvie Hall, bringing central London its first drag cabaret with live organ accompaniment. Traditionally associated with churches, classical recitals and formal ceremonies, the organ is rarely seen at the heart of contemporary cabaret. Drag Up The Organ! boldly reclaimed and reinvented this grand instrument, transforming it from a symbol of tradition into a dynamic partner in drag performance. Performers included Dawn Solstice, Alexandra Francis, Sharon Le Grand, Saffron, Max & Hazel, Simon Sins and Cailin Cummins.

I Was Born Here
Reader in Architecture Shahed Saleem designed an installation at V&A East Storehouse titled I Was Born Here, exploring today's anti-immigration policies and language in relation to histories of exclusion. I Was Born Here was commissioned as part of New Work, V&A East's biannual creative commissions programme where artists create work exploring how art and design interact with daily life. The installation places three tapestries designed by Saleem under the 15th century Torrijos ceiling at the Storehouse, made during a time when Spain's colonial empire was expanding and a monarchy focused on religious and ethnic purity replaced centuries of cultural exchange. Through the installation, Saleem questions how ideas of ethnic and cultural purity continue to echo in our language and politics today.



SDG 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE



CURRICULUM

Students produce soundtrack for BBC Three's Boarders

After their successful work on the first and second seasons, Westminster students were invited back alongside Professor Mykaell Riley to produce the soundtrack for the third season of the BBC Three series Boarders. The critically acclaimed show follows the journeys of five talented underprivileged Black students from London who gained scholarships to an elite boarding school. Throughout the experience, students developed the practical skills involved in music production and faced the real-life challenges of creating a TV soundtrack.

Students curate landmark series for Regent Street Cinema's 130th Anniversary

Business of Film MA students worked with the Regent Street Cinema to run On The Brink – Turning Points In Cinema, a three-day series celebrating landmark works of world cinema as part of the venue's 130th anniversary. The programme showcased pivotal international films alongside live performances, expert talks and cultural experiences, giving students hands-on industry experience in curating and running a professional film event. As part of their core work placement, the students took on industry-focused roles that gave them a high level of independence and responsibility.



On the Brink - Turning Points in Cinema at the Regent Street Cinema

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

News from the Active Travel Academy

The University's Active Travel Academy (ATA) is renowned for producing innovative research in the field of active travel. The ATA aims to address the global problems that car-dominated transport systems have created.

Walkability in London

In 2025-26, ATA's Dr Tom Cohen, Reader in Transport Policy, gave evidence to the London Assembly Transport Committee on the walkability of London's pavements. Following the meeting, Assembly Members used the evidence to produce a report examining whether the right actions are being taken to make walking and wheeling attractive and accessible in the city. The report was published in December and provided clear recommendations for Transport for London (TfL) on how to achieve its goal to make London the world's most walkable city.

Accessibility and Inclusion in Transport Planning report

Dr Cohen contributed to the Assembly's Accessibility and Inclusion in Transport Planning report. His insights into how accessibility and inclusion can be embedded into transport planning from the earliest stages were quoted within the document and he was invited to its official launch at City Hall, where policymakers and sector leaders gathered to discuss the future of inclusive transport in the capital. The report examines how TfL can better understand and meet the needs of Londoners who face barriers to using the transport network, including the disabled community, the elderly, carers, parents with young children and people from low-income households.

Parliamentary Walk and Wheel

ATA hosted its third annual Parliamentary Walk and Wheel in June. For many years, there has been an annual Parliamentary Bike Ride organised by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Cycling and Walking. ATA was instrumental in creating an equivalent event for walking and wheeling, this year following a route from Houses of Parliament to Elephant and Castle where new developments are changing the urban form and feel dramatically.

Addressing accessibility gaps in museums

Westminster's Workshop for Inclusive Co-created Audio Description (W-ICAD) project received the Pioneering UK-US Breakthroughs Award from UK Research and Innovation. W-ICAD's collaboration with US institutions helps to bridge accessibility gaps and enriches how museum collections are interpreted and shared with everyone. The internationally recognised W-ICAD model developed by Westminster academics Professor Alison Eardley, Dr Deborah Husbands and Dr Lindsay Bywood, with Professor Hannah Thompson from Royal Holloway, University of London, is enabling museums and heritage organisations to transform the way in which they create audio guides. Adopted across 25 museums in the UK, US and Germany, W-ICAD is transforming museum practice by supporting richer, multisensory and more inclusive visitor experiences.

OBSERVISTA in London

The School of Architecture + Cities hosted OBSERVISTA in London. As part of the European research network Observatory of Innovative Strategies for Repurposing Terrain Vague (OBSERVISTA), the event brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers and community organisations from over 25

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REGENT STREET CINEMA

countries to investigate how underused urban spaces can be reimagined as catalysts for social inclusion, ecological regeneration and sustainable urban transformation. OBSERVISTA aims to rethink how unused urban spaces, commonly known as terrain vague, are understood and reused.

OPERATIONS

Bobby Hanlon Prize Fund

Westminster launched the new Bobby Hanlon Prize Fund to recognise outstanding work in music business management. The Fund was set up in memory of the life and impact of Westminster alumnus Bobby Hanlon. Bobby Hanlon graduated from Westminster's Music Business Management MA in 2016 and went on to become a music manager and advocate for social justice, continuously championing equality and fairness within the music industry. The prize was awarded to Charmaine Toh, a 2025 graduate of the Music Business Management MA, who received £1,000 along with an additional £500 bursary for her research. Charmaine's thesis examined how religious and cultural conservatism shapes LGBTQ+ representation in Malaysia's live music industry and the strategies artists and industry stakeholders employ to navigate these constraints.

Westminster Waves

2025-26 saw the launch of Westminster Waves (WW), a new Ofcom-licensed community radio station broadcasting across London on DAB Digital Radio, online and via smart speakers, with a mission to become the sound of student life in London. As the only university in London to hold an Ofcom community radio licence, WW was created to connect with its local community and half a million students across London, including more than 160,000 international students who make the capital one of the world's most vibrant and diverse student cities. Broadcasting from the University's Harrow Campus with a rich 24/7 schedule of programmes, WW aims to be the station at the heart of student life in London.

COMMUNITY

Soho Poly Shakespeare workshop series

Westminster's Soho Poly arts venue and Regent Street Cinema held Soho Poly Shakespeare workshops for pupils from six partner schools, offering a full day of film, theatre and hands-on learning designed to boost English literacy and widen access to higher education. The workshops took place across six days, with 240 pupils taking part in the programme. The programme builds on a successful 2023 pilot with Eastbury Community School, where 75% of pupils reported feeling more motivated to study at university after taking part and more than half said the workshop increased their confidence in English Literature.

Brent Biennial 2025

Northwick Park Hospital and Westminster's Harrow Campus came alive with creativity and collaboration as they hosted AIR Ritual, a week-long programme of exhibitions, talks and workshops forming part of the Brent Biennial 2025. Curated by Annie Jael Kwan, a PhD researcher and curator at the Westminster School of Arts, the events brought together artists, academics and the community to explore the transformative power of art.

London Walking Festival Conference

The London Walking Festival ran throughout the month of May, including many guided walks and other activities. As part of the Festival, the University's Sustainable Cities and Urban Environments Research Community organised a day-long conference at Marylebone Campus. Over a hundred participants attended plenary sessions and participated in workshops.



Studio Manager Jason Rosam and Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Bonfield



SDG 12

REDUCED CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

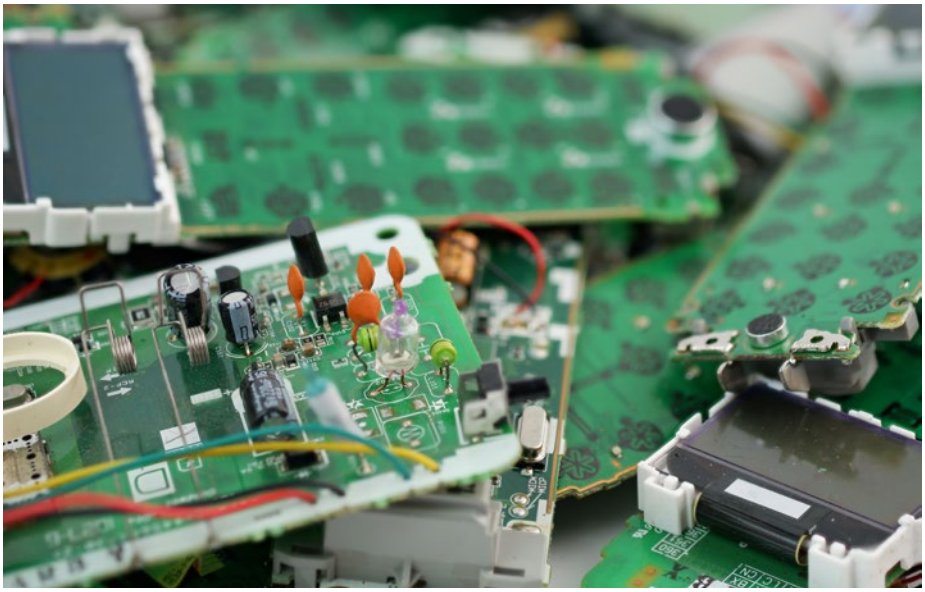
Waste management continues to be a key focus for the University and support its commitment to environmental responsibility. During the 2025-26 academic year, a range of initiatives were delivered across campus to reduce waste generation, improve recycling performance and encourage the correct segregation of materials. Waste efficiency projects included enhancements to recycling infrastructure, clearer waste disposal guidance and engagement activities designed to increase awareness and promote positive behaviours. Through a combination of operational improvements and behaviour change projects, the University continues to work towards reducing waste and a circular economy.

Through 2025-26, the University achieved an average recycling rate of 37.85% across its campuses. Waste-related emissions were 106.97kgCO_2e per FTE, compared with 180.14kgCO_2e per FTE in 2024-25. This reduction reflects the impact of ongoing waste minimisation measures, alongside changes in operational activities, which have helped divert more materials from disposal and increase recycling opportunities.

CURRICULUM

Eco-Ensembles exhibition for waste-based and circular fashion

The Eco-Ensembles Fashion exhibition brought together students and researchers to create experimental garments made from waste-based materials, challenging traditional ideas of fashion and luxury by turning waste into wearable design. The exhibition was organised bystudents alongside Fashion Business Management Lecturer Denise Francis-Brown and Student Engagement officer Edgar Lee, in collaboration with undergraduate and PhD researchers from the University's Cavendish Living Lab (CLL). First and second-year Fashion Business Management BA students created designs using experimental waste-based materials produced by CLL, including buttons made from coffee grounds, leather derived from kombucha cultures and bio-based string for accessories.



RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

AI identification of critical minerals in e-waste

Senior Lecturer in Health Data Analytics Dr Dipankar Sengupta was awarded funding to develop and test the commercial potential of a transformative artificial intelligence (AI) tool that identifies critical minerals in electronic waste. Electronic waste (e-waste) is the fastest-growing waste stream globally, with over 50 million tonnes of e-waste generated worldwide each year. Yet, much of this material is processed with limited visibility, suboptimal recovery and avoidable carbon loss. To address this issue, Dr Sengupta is developing RECLAIM-WISE, an AI-driven waste intelligence approach to improve critical mineral identification, value recovery and decision-making in e-waste systems.

Sustainability Fund project spotlight - Slowing Fast Fashion Down II

The Slowing Fast Fashion Down project was awarded funding through the Sustainability Fund for a second year in a row. This iteration continued to reimagine textile waste as a material resource for architecture to advance circular material practice. The team collaborated with upcycling design house RE_CONSIDERED to produce a bench made out of University students' clothes that were collected and shredded at textile recycling start-up FibreLab and made into RE_CONSIDERED's Fabreco panels, combining shredded clothes with bio-resin.

OPERATIONS

Merch guide

The introduction of a Sustainable Merchandising Guide in November 2025 aimed to support more responsible procurement activities and reduce waste associated with promotional items and event merchandise. The guide instructs departments on how to minimise unnecessary merchandise, prioritise sustainable and ethically sourced products and consider product lifecycle impact before procurement decisions are made. As part of the implementation, departments completed internal merchandise stocktakes to identify existing stock and reduce unnecessary purchasing. The initiative will be further developed during 2026-27 to embed sustainable merchandising practices within

37.85%
RECYCLING RATE ACROSS UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES THROUGH 2025-26

marketing and event planning processes to reduce organisational waste generation.

New bins at Zone29
The University procured standardised internal bin suites within the new Zone29 building in Spring 2026 to create a consistent and user-friendly waste management system. By providing clear and uniform waste disposal facilities throughout the building, occupants can correctly segregate waste and the new bins encourage more sustainable disposal behaviours. The introduction of standardised bins supports improved recycling performance and reduces contamination of recyclable materials.

Maintaining EcoCampus Platinum Award
In 2025-26, Westminster maintained its Platinum Award though the EcoCampus Scheme for Environmental Management. The Platinum Award is the equivalent to the industry standard ISO14001:2015 for Environment Management Systems (EMS). The EMS provides a framework for environmental management across the University estate and acts as a system for continuous improvement. Since first receiving the Platinum Award in 2024-25, Westminster is audited annually to monitor compliance and identify any issues and/or areas for improvement.

COMMUNITY

Greener Futures Leaders
Greener Futures Leaders from Cavendish Living Lab delivered a series of sustainability workshops at local secondary schools, empowering young people to take meaningful action on environmental sustainability within their school community. The Greener Futures Leaders are funded by the London Community Foundation and the Grosvenor Trust's Greener Futures Fund project, delivers interactive workshops on food sustainability to children in the City of Westminster. In 2025-26, the Greener Futures Leaders participated in Fitzrovia Fête, ran handson workshops at local centres for school children attending summer camps, delivered sustainability workshops at The Grey Coat Hospital School and trained the Eco Club at The St Marylebone CE School to carry out food waste audits, analyse waste patterns and design a food waste awareness campaign.

Pack It Green Fitzrovia
Cavendish Living Lab (CLL) collaborated with The Fitzrovia Partnership business improvement district to help promote sustainable business practices in the local area with the Pack It Green Fitzrovia project. The project explored the significance of sustainable packaging in the food and drink sector, with a particular focus on identifying barriers to implementation and investigating practical, eco-friendly alternatives. Their research found that while 44.4% of businesses cite cost as the biggest barrier to switching to sustainable packaging, 43% of businesses that fully switched to sustainable packaging reported no financial impact at all. This finding challenges assumptions about sustainable packaging being unaffordable and will help encourage other businesses to make the switch.



Greener Futures Leaders at The Grey Coat Hospital School



SDG 13
CLIMATE ACTION
TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT



Climate Action Week fashion exhibition

CURRICULUM

Architecture + Cities Climate Action Week
Westminster's School of Architecture + Cities held its second annual Climate Action Week in 2025-26, bringing together more than 325 first-year students across the six architecture and built environment disciplines to explore how design can help address the global climate crisis. Students attended a range of collaborative events during core teaching, where they considered how the built environment might respond to significant climatic, ecological, social and political issues.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Improving built environment research for net zero
Westminster's Centre for the Production of the Built Environment hosted a debate exploring ways to collaborate to improve the spaces around us – from housing and schools to transportation networks and play areas – in the context of the transition to net zero. The panellists included a variety of built environment experts from across the country where together they questioned what a new public sector research organisation in the UK might look like and how this could be created. Speakers collectively agreed that there is a need for the public sector to have a role in enabling and coordinating research that will inform the future direction of the industry.

Ignite Fund helps launch carbon footprint tracking app
Westminster's Ignite Fund helped Software Engineering BEng Honours alumnus Anshul Yadav launch his carbon footprint tracking app CarbonQuest. CarbonQuest helps people track their weekly carbon emissions by calculating a user's emissions and providing actionable insights to help them reduce their footprint using gaming elements. The project has won multiple competitions and is now being developed into a research-grade application with ambitions to reach thousands of users.

OPERATIONS

University of Westminster Climate Assembly
This year colleagues Yasmin Kulasi, Graham Smith and Ro Spankie launched the first UK university climate assembly at Westminster. The University of Westminster Climate Assembly (UWCA) consisted of six sessions running between January and March 2026 and involved around 45 assembly members, including students, academics, professional services colleagues and contractors, all selected through democratic lottery to make sure the University's diverse community was fully represented. Alongside assembly members around 20 other members of the

185
TONNES CARBON SAVED FROM HARROW CAMPUS SOLAR PV IN 2025-26

Westminster community – 15 of whom were students – were trained as facilitators to lead discussions on how the University and its community could take forward meaningful action on climate change. The UWCA resulted in in 51 recommendations, the implementation of which will now overseen by the University-wide SDG Coordinating Group.

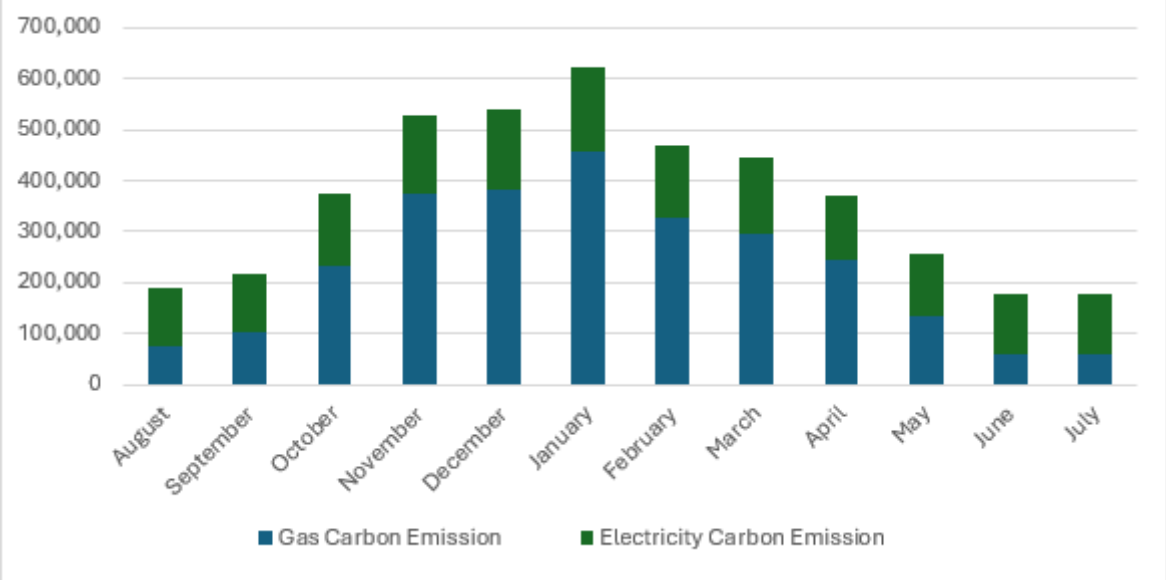
COMMUNITY

Financing a sustainable future
The School of Finance and Accounting hosted the Academy of Sustainable Finance, Accounting, Accountability and Governance's fifth conference. The event provided an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to discuss and debate critical issues on green finance and accounting, specifically on the role of innovation, financial technology and artificial intelligence in delivering net zero. The conference featured research presentations, representing 60 universities across 27 countries. It also welcomed editors of leading finance and accounting journals who shared valuable insights into current publishing trends and priorities in the field.

Climate Assembly exhibition at ARTiSIP Gallery
The ARTiSIP Gallery on Regent Street showcased the creative responses to the University's Climate Assembly. The exhibition featured a range of student work exploring what it means to be a citizen living on a planet with limited resources. For example, Interior Architecture BA students created 3-D plywood citizen self-portraits, reflecting the complex and interconnected realities of living sustainably within the planet's limits.

During the previous financial year, the University emitted 2,737 t/CO2 from indirect emissions (electricity) and 1,639 t/CO2. This is a 17% savings for Scope 1 (Gas Only) and 32% for Scope 2.

TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS KG/CO2





SDG 14
LIFE BELOW WATER
CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CURRICULUM

Sustainable Seas at the School of Arts
Westminster School of Arts hosted the two-day Sustainable Seas event designed to educate and inspire first year students about ocean conservation and environmental action. The event began with a screening of David Attenborough's documentary Ocean with an introduction by the film's director, giving students a unique insight into the making of the documentary and the importance of marine conservation. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring artists, photographers and environmental activists, including the Ocean Photographer of the Year and Extinction Rebellion, who explored the role of creativity and activism in addressing the climate crisis. Students also participated in a series of hands-on workshops focused on sustainable textiles and environmental photography, developing practical skills while considering sustainable approaches to design and visual storytelling.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Urban Liquefaction: Rethinking the Relationship between Land and Sea
Professor Lindsay Bremner, Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange in the School of Architecture + Cities, contributed a chapter titled Unthinking Coastlines to the 2026 publication Urban Liquefaction: Rethinking the Relationship between Land and Sea. Urban Liquefaction brings together contributions from scholars and practitioners from around the world to tackle the tensions between the solidity of humanity's relationship with land and the fluidity of our relationship with the sea. Sea level rise poses unprecedented threats to this oppositional relationship, forcing a reconsideration of these tensions in the design of the built environment.

Sustainability Fund project spotlight – Betacore
The BetaCore project combined sustainability innovation with the team's passion for rock climbing to address the sport's growing environmental impact – particularly around the issue plastic pollution in sportswear. The team, involving students Aydan Ackermann, Zeliha Aydin and Marta Massarini alongside Senior Lecturer in Management and Marketing Philip Holden and Senior Lecturer in Organisations, Economy and Society Dr Martin Mathews, designed a modular climbing shoe that allows climbers to replace only worn components, encouraging a repair driven culture and a deeper connection between climbers, craft and nature. After consulting local climbing gyms, they focused on designing a modular training shoe tailored for beginners.

OPERATIONS

The University has undertaken a review of processes that discharge to water across its campuses, with attention given to activities at Harrow involving the use and disposal of dyes. This work aims to ensure that wastewater is managed responsibly and disposed of in accordance with relevant environmental requirements and reduces the risk of pollutants entering local water systems. By evaluating existing practices and identifying opportunities for improvement, the University is helping to protect aquatic ecosystems, where contaminants can have adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life.

COMMUNITY

London Rivers Week
For London Rivers Week 2026, Dr Louise Rondel from the School of Architecture + Cities co-led a walk tracing the route of the Kyd Brook in Petts Wood in south-east London. Responding to the theme to know your local river – residents and river enthusiasts joined the walk and looked for glimpses of the Kyd Brook which has been culverted under roads and straightened to run between houses and gardens. The walk considered how the river has been impacted by the development of the Petts Wood suburb. Residents' stories gathered at a previous workshop were communicated, including stories about the changes observed in local wildlife, children playing in the water and serious flood events over the years. The walk ended in woodland, where participants heard about the work being done to monitor water quality and raise awareness of river pollution and its effects.







SDG 15

LIFE ON LAND

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS



CURRICULUM

Making Marylebone Campus more sustainable

Westminster students took part in a Greening the Campus competition to redesign the frontage of the University's Marylebone Campus. This competition was organised as part of Westminster City Council's Greening Westminster Fund to improve sustainability in the area. The competition invited students from the School of Architecture + Cities to redesign the public realm in front of the campus to increase biodiversity, comfort and sustainability. This was kickstarted by Westminster colleagues Maria Kramer and Julian Williams, who secured £50,000 in funding from Westminster City Council's Greening Westminster Fund to support the project and implement the designs.

Land, People, Culture module

Core in the first year of the Culture, Environment and Social Change BA, the Land, People, Culture module explores how human societies and cultures are shaped by their environment and have increasingly impacted the world in which we live. It informs understanding of how those processes also shape wider social and cultural challenges. Students learn about the histories, forms, and structures of human-nature relationships over the course of modernity, and the unequal role that historical forces such colonialism and capitalism have played in shaping societies and environments across the Global North and South.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Collective Landscape Futures

Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture + Cities Dr Eric Guibert contributed a chapter titled The Ontopolity of Feral Landscapes to the 2026 publication Collective Landscape Futures. The book investigates the common, shared, and public endeavours that produce landscapes, addressing varied concerns across diverse geographies. Dr Guibert's chapter deals with feral landscape practices, where humans co-create landscapes with the ecosystems and species. These landscapes are neither wild nor fully designed and offer

a diverse spectrum with varying degrees of control and scale, including rewilding and ecological forms of landscape architecture.

Sustainability Fund project spotlight– Ecobrick

The EcoBrick project, now in its third year as a Sustainability Fund project, continued developing sustainable bricks that support biodiversity. Working with Bulmer Brick and Tile, the team, including student Clevy Bento and Lecturer in the School of Architecture + Cities Dr Corinna Dean, experimented with duckweed – 1,700 tonnes of which are removed from London canals annually - and boiled seaweed as a natural binder to create bio-receptive bricks. They also designed a tile mould to encourage bat habitation, with a testing wall planned to be built at Marylebone Campus. The team was invited to present their work project as part of the Marylebone Minds series within the Saint Marylebone Festival.

OPERATIONS

Biodiversity

Biodiversity remains an important component of the University's sustainability journey and contributes to campus resilience and wellbeing. Through 2025-26, the University supported a range of biodiversity-focused spaces across campuses, including the Marylebone growing space which is used by students and colleagues. By engaging with the University's contracted grounds maintenance team, opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been idetified and will be prioritised for the upcoming year. The University aims to minimise the use of fertilisers and pesticides wherever possible, particularly at Harrow campus which has the largest proportion of green space. A biodiversity audit undertaken at Harrow during the year has provided a baseline for future improvements and will inform the development of targeted biodiversity initiatives in 2026-27.





SDG 16

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



CURRICULUM

Students visit the Old Bailey

A group of first-year Criminology BA students visited the Old Bailey Criminal Court as part of their Justice and Human Rights module to learn about the criminal justice process. The visit gave students the opportunity to observe real criminal trials first-hand, taking what they have learnt in the classroom directly to the courtroom, from initial arrest to post-release. Former inmates, some of whom were tried and sentenced at the Old Bailey, were also invited as guest speakers to share their experiences with the criminal justice system, allowing students to hear firsthand accounts after attending court.

Embedding of SDGs in law curricula for career-readiness

Dr Miracle Chinwenmeri Uche, Senior Lecturer in the Westminster Law School, started the project Embedding SDGs in International Law Modules at Undergraduate and Postgraduate Levels in 2025-26. The first step within the project involved embedding SDGs in activities and assessments in the appropriate modules, where students delivered conference-style presentations on selected legal issues and their connection to the SDGs. Students then received peer and instructor feedback and reflected on how specific SDGs intersect with international law. SDG awareness supercharges career-readiness by showing our students the true versatility of a law degree – from outer space to the boardroom, from tech to farms, health and climate change. Law goes everywhere, so can our students.

Transforming Education: Innovation for Sustainability in the AI Era conference

Students hosted the ninth annual Democratic Education Network (DEN) International Conference – titled Transforming Education: Innovation for Sustainability in the AI Era – , bringing together more than 100 students, colleagues and international partners to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the way we learn. A central moment of the day was the launch of DEN's eighth publication, Transforming Education: Innovation for Sustainability in the AI Era. The book brought together 20 student articles, and like previous volumes, it was written, edited and peer-reviewed by students in collaboration with colleagues.


DEN Conference group photo

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

New Centre for Legal Education and the Legal Profession

Westminster launched the Centre for Legal Education and the Legal Profession (CLELP), a dynamic hub for research and innovation dedicated to addressing the key challenges shaping today's legal system. The CLELP studies how the profession and legal services market are changing and how legal education in law schools is evolving through evidence-based, legal and social research. Its Legal Careers, Employability and Professional Development Hub supports law students in exploring a wide range of career pathways.

Protection of civilians against cyber warfare

Professor Marco Roscini has co-drafted a report with the International Committee of the Red Cross on civilian involvement in cyber warfare and how this raises risks under international humanitarian law (IHL). Titled IHL and the Growing Involvement of Civilians in Cyber Operations and other Digital Activities in Armed Conflict, the report responds to the growing trend of civilians being drawn into armed conflicts through digital means. This ranges from collecting militarily relevant information and "hacktivist" groups to technology companies providing services and infrastructure to states or peoples engaged in armed conflict, raising serious risks for civilian protection under international humanitarian law.

Bryan Bonaparte inducted into Martin Luther King Jr Collegium of Scholars

University of Westminster Senior Lecturer in Psychology Bryan Bonaparte has been inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College, Atlanta. This honour recognises Bryan's work reflecting King's values of service, justice and ethical leadership. Through his research, Bryan looks at masculinity and how its social construction and ideology often provide a toxic playbook of how men, particularly

5 YEARS
OF UN INTERNSHIP PARTNERSHIP

ethnically marginalised men, navigate their life journey.

News from Unredacted
Unredacted, led by Professor Sam Raphael and Dr Jac St John, investigates and documents secretive UK state and corporate practices in the context of national security. Their work helps to uncover the details of these practices and identify abuses of power.

Investigation into killing of human rights defenders
Unredacted's Claire Lauterbach and Namir Shabib led on the report titled Chasing Shadows, which finds a range of protection and accountability failures in five separate killings of human rights defenders (HRD) from around the globe: Fikile Ntshangase from South Africa, Thulani Maseko from Eswatini, Jude Fernandez from the Philippines, Quinto Inuma Alvarado from Peru and Maria Bernadete Pacifico from Brazil. Identifying the protection failures and accountability gaps in real-life cases can support in-country attempts to address the lack of justice for the killings of individual defenders. Identifying cross-case themes can also assist the global human rights community to build capacity and strategies for challenging state and corporate actors more broadly.

Unredacted plays central role in European Court of Human Rights case
Expert testimony provided by Unredacted researchers proved central to the July 2026 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that found that Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri – a Saudi national who has been detained at a US Department of Defence detention facility at Guantanamo Bay for nearly 20 years – was held for more than five months in 2005-2006 at a secret facility in Lithuania run by the CIA. Triangulation between a range data sources enabled Unredacted to determine, beyond reasonable doubt, that al-Nashiri was secretly detained and tortured in Lithuania.

OPERATIONS

Student journalism prize in memory Patrick Stoddart
In 2025-26, Westminster launched a prize in memory of former Senior Lecturer in Journalism Patrick Stoddart. This award aims to encourage and recognise excellence in student journalism at Westminster and offer students funding and industry mentorship. Patrick began his career in local newspapers in the 1960s at the Watford Observer, before reaching the peak of his professional career at the BBC and The Sunday Times. He joined Westminster in 2005 and taught for over a decade and a half before his retirement in 2021. The award is open to all Digital Media BA students as well as Multimedia Journalism MA students studying either on the broadcast or print and online pathways.



Patrick Stoddart photo frame and plaque

Democratic Education Network highly commended at Green Gowns
The University's long-running student community Democratic Education Network (DEN) was highly commended in the Student Engagement category at the Green Gown Awards 2025, recognising the powerful collaboration of students and colleagues at Westminster to strengthen understanding, participation and engagement. Founded and led by Dr Farhang Morady in 2016, DEN empowers students to become global changemakers through extracurricular engagement and international collaboration.

COMMUNITY

War in Ukraine through art and dialogue
Westminster hosted a public panel discussion on the war in Ukraine accompanied by a photography exhibition by Denis Skopin examining political life in Russia, titled Symptoms of War: Political Life in Russia after February 24, 2022. Panellists reflected on its profound impact on both Ukraine and Russia, as well as the international community's ongoing response. The discussion, hosted by the School of Social Sciences and the Centre for the Study of Democracy, examined the war and its global impact, with speakers analysing the international response to the conflict and possible paths forward.

Fact-checking to tackle misinformation
Peter Cunliffe-Jones of at Westminster's Communication and Media Research Institute, delivered training for leaders of 19 Arab fact-checking organisations. The training aimed to help fact-checkers be more effective in identifying and countering potentially harmful misinformation. Held in Amman, Jordan, the workshop took place during the 18th annual forum of the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, the largest investigative journalism gathering in the Arab world.



SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



People at the Digital Media exhibition at Harrow campus

CURRICULUM

Museum of the Future

Since 2023-24, final-year Digital Media BA students conclude the academic year with an exhibition at the University's Harrow exploring what the world would look like 100 years after the success of SDGs. The exhibition, titled Museum of the Future, is part of the Digital Media Project module led by Alexander Sergeant, Pathway Leader of the Digital Media Production BA course and Deputy Course Leader for the Film BA. During the module, students select one of the SDGs to build two to four artifacts from. The artifacts aim to reflect students' skillsets and understanding of sustainable development developed over the three years of studying in the course.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

New Interdisciplinary Innovation Fund for collaborative research

Westminster has launched the Interdisciplinary Innovation Fund (IIF) to support research projects that cover multiple subject areas and which therefore have great potential to contribute. The IIF will support both Westminster research and collaborative projects with other universities and organisations, aiming to encourage major funding bids for interdisciplinary research relevant to one or more of Westminster's research communities. The funding will support the resulting interdisciplinary teams grow and develop strong applications for major grants that address key challenges and issues.

OPERATIONS

Sustainability Week 2026

For Westminster's Sustainability Week 2026, the Sustainability Team collaborated with new University partners to widen the appeal and access of the Week's events. Sustainability Week has events happening across all of Westminster's campuses, engaging students and colleagues to promote sustainable living and raise awareness of Westminster's sustainability initiatives. Programming each day of the week is largely aligned to specific SDGs. This year's events included:

Monday – Bike Breakfast was organised to encourage sustainable travel as well as free bike checks and minor repairs from a Dr Bike mechanic. The Students' Union also hosted the Five Steps to Wellbeing Fair, where attendees explored how connection with others can help build a healthier lifestyle while supporting a more sustainable future.

Tuesday – A clothes swap took place run by circular fashion and sustainable lifestyle service Loanhood. The swap encouraged the community to refresh their wardrobes sustainably by exchanging preloved clothing. Alongside the swap, a repair artist from sustainable apparel and homeware brand TOAST demonstrated creative mending techniques, showcasing how extending the life of garments supports a circular economy.

Wednesday – The first annual Green Careers Fair came to Regent Street Campus, bringing together a range of businesses and charities to showcase the world of ethical work and highlight pathways into sustainability focused careers. The Careers and Sustainability Teams were also on hand to offer any guidance needed.

Thursday – The Library Team put on a Sustainable Library Pop-Up to showcase sustainability resources and offer badgemaking using repurposed materials. The Sustainability Team also hosted its second annual SDG Prize Event, which celebrates students' sustainability-related work. Categories and winners included:

Creative Arts

- First place – Jiatang Ye
- Second place – Denise Ghelli
- Third place – A team consisting of Boyan Dragomirov, Cristiane De Oliveira Alves, Julia Pinheiro Bassani and Panagiota Riga.

Pitch Presentation

- First place – Bao Chau Khuat Nguyen
- Second place – Muhammad Rohail
- Third place – Deleesha Elza Chacko

Poster Competition

- First place – A team consisting of Fatuma Mohamed Hirsi, Ildiko Laszlo and Safia Irfan
- Second place – A team consisting of Julia Pinheiro Bassani, Laima Tokhi, Nellmah Sahar, Priyambada Sinha Roy and Soumya Sharma
- Third place – Eva Di Cino



Friday – Sustainability Week concluded with a Climate Assembly Lunch to provide students with the opportunity to feed into the University of Westminster Climate Assembly.

COMMUNITY

House of Lords symposium on sustainability in higher education

Dr Deborah Husbands, Chartered Psychologist and Reader in Race and Sociocultural Psychology, was invited to the House of Lords to speak about equity as a strategic driver of sustainability at a symposium on reimagining sustainability in higher education (HE). The symposium explored a variety of ways to reimagine sustainability in HE with a heavy focus on the inseparability of equity and sustainability. Dr Husbands focused on strategic equity actions that institutions could implement within the next year that would measurably strengthen financial sustainability, reputation or student recruitment while securing senior executive buy-in.

8th national meeting of European Affairs Societies Network

The University hosted the 8th meeting of the European Affairs Society Network, bringing together over 100 students from European Affairs Societies across the UK, as well as representatives from EU member state embassies, the European Parliament Liaison Office, the National Union of Students, the Erasmus Student Network and the European Young Movement UK. The Network engages students in discussions around European affairs and provides students with the opportunity to make new friendships and grow their professional networks.

Post-2030 SDG Summit

Reader from Architecture + Cities Dr Tom Cohen and members of the University's SDG Coordinating Group Anna Brown, Morgan Lirette and Zsuzsanna Matyak hosted colleagues from across London higher education (HE) to discuss the future of the SDGs. The SDGs are inseparable from Westminster's organisational strategy and mission, and the team were eager to hear how other London universities were thinking about the Goals – whether that be positive or negative. The aim was to kickstart a dialogue within the sector and find the consensus to a white paper that may inform the United Nations' task of refreshing or replacing the SDGs by 2030. The event hoped to inspire other regions of universities to do the same, thus building a united movement within HE.



Group photo at the meeting of the European Affairs Societies Network

Update from the SDG Coordinating Group

The SDG Coordinating Group comprised 18 academic and professional services (PS) colleagues, demonstrating a collaborative approach to sustainable development. Co-chaired by Dibyesh Anand, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) for Global Engagement and Employability, and Steve Ford, Deputy Director of Estates Services, the Group met five times during the academic year, with engagement strengthening across meetings. The key achievements include:

- Introduced themed deep-dive sessions co-led by academic and PS colleagues, sharpening focus and strengthening cross-University collaborations. We covered SDGs5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13.
- Oversaw the strengthening of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) across all levels of study
- Supported key SDG initiatives, including the University of Westminster Climate Assembly, the first of its kind in the UK university sector.
- Advanced SDG integration in research through collaboration.

Overall, the Group has established a strong foundation for embedding sustainable development across the University and will continue to drive impact and alignment with the UN SDGs.

Deep-dive sessions promoted knowledge sharing, identified opportunities for collaboration and highlighted effective practices across the University. We noted the development of the Westminster Sanctuary Group, as part of the broader alignment between inclusion and sustainability priorities. The Group reviewed key institutional reports, including the Environmental Report, SDG Report, and THE Impact Rankings submission, strengthening transparency, accountability and external benchmarking.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2026

One measure of Westminster's dedication to sustainable development and the SDGs can be found in our results in the annual Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ratings. The THE Impact Rating is the only global performance table that assesses universities against the SDGs. We have participated in the Ratings since 2019 and have remained in the top 20% of submitting universities worldwide for the past six years.

Highlights from this year's Ratings include:



SDG 5 Gender Equality
In the top 20% of universities for SDG 5 Gender Equality



SDG 7 Responsible Consumption and Production
Top marks for our institutional measures towards affordable and clean energy



SDG 10 Partnership for the Goals
Top marks for our institutional measures against discrimination



SDG 12 Partnership for the Goals
Top marks for our operational measures towards responsible consumption and production



SDG 16 Partnership for the Goals
Top marks for our internal governance measures



Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development Showcase

People and Planet 2025

The University of Westminster achieved an overall score of 51.0% in the People and Planet University League Table, placing 76th nationally. Each year, People and Planet assess publicly available resources about the University's commitment to sustainability. In 2025, Westminster performed most strongly in 'Education for Sustainable Development', which reflects the University's ongoing commitment to integrating sustainability into teaching and learning. The University also performed well in 'Environmental Auditing and Management Systems', reaffirming its commitment to use of good environmental management practices. Overall, the results demonstrate good progress across varied areas of sustainability and highlighted key areas for improvement in ongoing years.

Green Gown Awards 2026

The Green Gown Awards, run by the Environmental Association of Colleges and Universities, are the leading sustainability awards for universities and colleges in the UK and Ireland. Westminster has proudly participated in the Green Gowns for a number of years. In 2025-26, three of our five submissions were shortlisted as finalists. These include Cavendish Living Lab and the University of Westminster Climate Assembly in the Student Engagement category and an application to name the School of Arts Dr Rosie Wallin as a Staff Sustainability Champion.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

Thanks to the formation of the SDG Coordinating Group with its wide representation, colleagues from across the University can offer a broader perspective to the organisation of strategic activities which further embed the SDGs into all Westminster does. In addition to this and overseeing the SDGs in University governance, the Group is committed to supporting the Sustainability Team in the annual THE Impact Ratings submission and results review, including coordinating efforts to continuously improve Westminster's performance within the Ratings.

The progress and next steps directly related to SDG Coordinating Group activities, with particular attention to Westminster's performance in the THE Impact Ratings and other external markers of success, can be found summaries in the table below.

Progress and next steps relating to the Sustainability Team's three workstreams – Sustainable Curriculum and Research and Knowledge Exchange, Sustainable Campus, and Pathway to Net Zero – can be found across the Team's annual Environmental Report, Environmental Objectives and Education for Sustainable Development publications. All can be accessed via the University's Sustainable Development webpage at

westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-university/vision-mission-and-values/sustainable-development

AREA	2025-26 PROGRESS	2026-27 NEXT STEPS
Education for Sustainable Development	Sustainability is now a core part of the curriculum and saw the launch of Vertically Integrated Projects for Sustainable Development.	Continue to promote and deliver ESD and VIP for Sustainable development
THE Impact Ratings - Submission	Use the SDG Coordinating Group to improve our submission process with a comprehensive review of areas for improvement from the previous results	SDG Coordinating Group - Maintain or improve our ranking from the previous submission
Climate Assembly	First Climate Assembly held, resulting in 51 recommendations	Implement recommendations that the Assembly prioritised for action.
Decarbonisation Plan	Solar PV feasibilities studies have been completed for most roof across all the campuses. Early closure during Christmas saved approximately £90k.	Continue with decarbonisation surveys and proposed recommendations and plans.



London Student Sustainability Conference 2026

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

CLIMATE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS

The University of Westminster Climate Assembly (UWCA) has made 51 recommendations in three areas:

- Community and culture
- Learning and professional development
- Emissions from information and communications technology (ICT) and artificial intelligence (AI)

Assembly members voted on each recommendation using the methodology to assign either 'love', 'like', 'live with' or 'loath' to a recommendation. The figure in brackets after each recommendation is the sum of 'love' and 'like' percentage votes. Members then ranked the two recommendations in each area that they think should be prioritised for implementation.

A summary of the resulting recommendations is below.

1. CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT

Prioritised for implementation:

1.1. Run climate action week across schools and campuses during the same week (87.5%)

1.2. Run intersectional climate events tailored to the interests of particular schools or disciplines (93.8%)

2. EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Prioritised for implementation:

2.1. Ensure more students have the opportunity to be involved in climate change-related work and projects with external partners (96.9%)

2.2. Build stronger links between our university and local residents (87.8%)

3. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHING

Prioritised for implementation:

3.1. Develop a centre for student-led interdisciplinary projects and research that supports university activity related to sustainability focused topics (90%)

3.2. Provide hours for academics to create interdisciplinary content around sustainability (80%)

4. SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS

Prioritised for implementation:

4.1. Students, academic staff and professional services staff should all have allocated time for projects (90.3%)

4.2. Create an online website or digital hub dedicated to sustainability, including opportunities, events, and staff/student work on climate (100%)

5. COURSE CONTENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Prioritised for implementation:

5.1. Offer someone from every academic department hours to develop recommendations about how to integrate climate change into course specific curriculums (87.5%)

5.2. Credits and rewards for students who contribute to climate change efforts (90.7%)

6. STUDENT AND COLLEAGUE EMPOWERMENT

Prioritised for implementation:

6.1. Develop an overarching climate change strategy in collaboration with colleagues and students and external partners (90.9%)

6.2. Establish a peer network of committed university students and colleagues for university climate change discussion, using an online forum (81.8%)

7. AI POLICY AND PRACTICE

Prioritised for implementation:

7.1. AI policy and practices should have strong focus on building AI literacy, including around AI's environmental impact (96.8%)

7.2. Provide much clearer guidance on when not to use AI (90.3%)

8. EMISSIONS FROM ICT

Prioritised for implementation:

8.1. Explore options for reducing over-provisioning of equipment in ICT (90.3%

8.2. Create a carbon reduction plan for ICT emissions (96.8%)

9. OVERARCHING

9.1. Increase resourcing and staffing for the Sustainability Team (90.3%)



Post 2030 SDG Summit

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

SUSTAINABILITY FUND FINALE 2025-26











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