



Annual Campus Report (no. 13)

For Reporting Year 2019-20

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1. Executive Summary

The Universities at Medway comprises the University of Greenwich, the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, all located on the conjoint campus at Chatham Maritime.

During 2019/20, the students union, known as GK Unions has formulated a five year strategy for 2020-2025 and also re-branded itself as 'GKSU', so as to foster a clearer identity as the Student Union for Medway students. More information on the work, activities and evolution of GKSU is contained on pages 12-18 below. The campus has continued to benefit from the Multi-faith space located in the Pilkington Building. This facility provides dedicated space for the campus community, including student societies and faith groups, to meet, practice their faith or have some quiet contemplative time. The Campus Chaplain has continued to offer a wide ranging programme of organised activities, events and trips for the students and staff as well as pastoral care services. More details on the work of the Chaplaincy can be found on pages 9 to 11.

The Drill Hall Library, located at the heart of the campus, has continued to provide an excellent and innovative learning space for the campus, and has seen an increase in use. Following consultation with students, the Group Zone in the Library has been refreshed and now provides a more sociable space for students as they learn and study together. More information on the work and activity of the Drill Hall Library can be found on pages 8 and 9.

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, operations on the Medway campus and across the three Institutions changed dramatically, with teaching moving online in March for the remainder of the 2019/20 academic year. The Campus Management Board established a Medway Campus Task & Finish Group, in early summer 2020, to work on the response to the pandemic, and incorporated membership from all three Institutions, the Drill Hall Library, GKSU, Estates and Commercial Services and local stakeholders.

The Universities continue to work with our local partners, most notably Chatham Maritime Trust, the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and Medway Council. The Coronavirus pandemic has inevitably impacted the events that are usually held on and around Campus, but the Universities look forward to re-engaging with our local partners, as well as welcoming students and staff back to campus as soon as feasible.

Joint Chairs of the Campus Management Board:

Professor Martin Snowden
Pro Vice Chancellor
University of Greenwich

Jane Higham
Chief Financial Officer
University of Kent

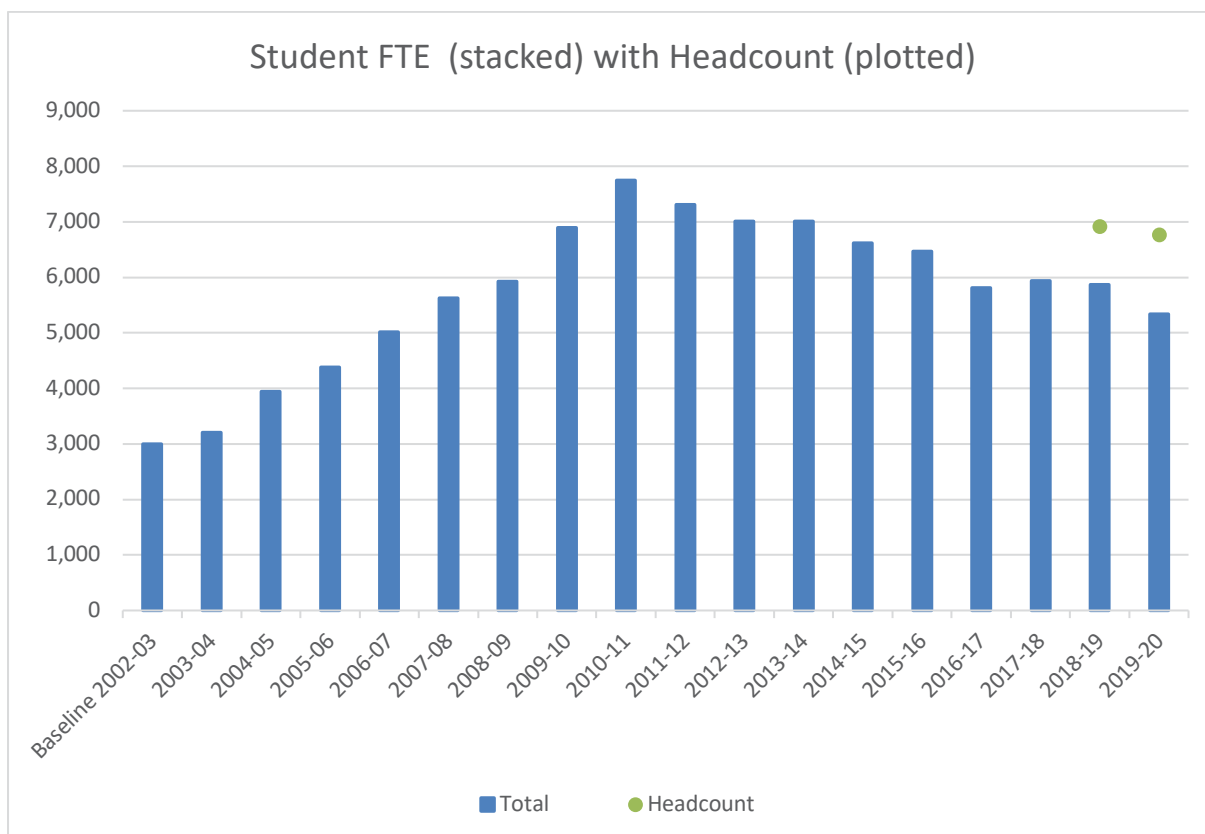
2. Outputs in relation to the project

2.1 Student Outputs

Reporting Period: Academic Year 2019-20

The figures stated below are the combined total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students from all three Universities at Medway from the baseline year (2002-03) to latest reporting year (2019-20). For 2018-19 onwards, student Headcount will also be presented.

	Baseline 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total	2997	3206	3942	4380	5016	5626	5923	6894	7743
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total	7313	7088 *	7010	6623	6472	5810	5932	5871 FTE 6912 Headcount	5334 FTE 6765 Headcount



*MKC student numbers not included from 2012-13 onwards.

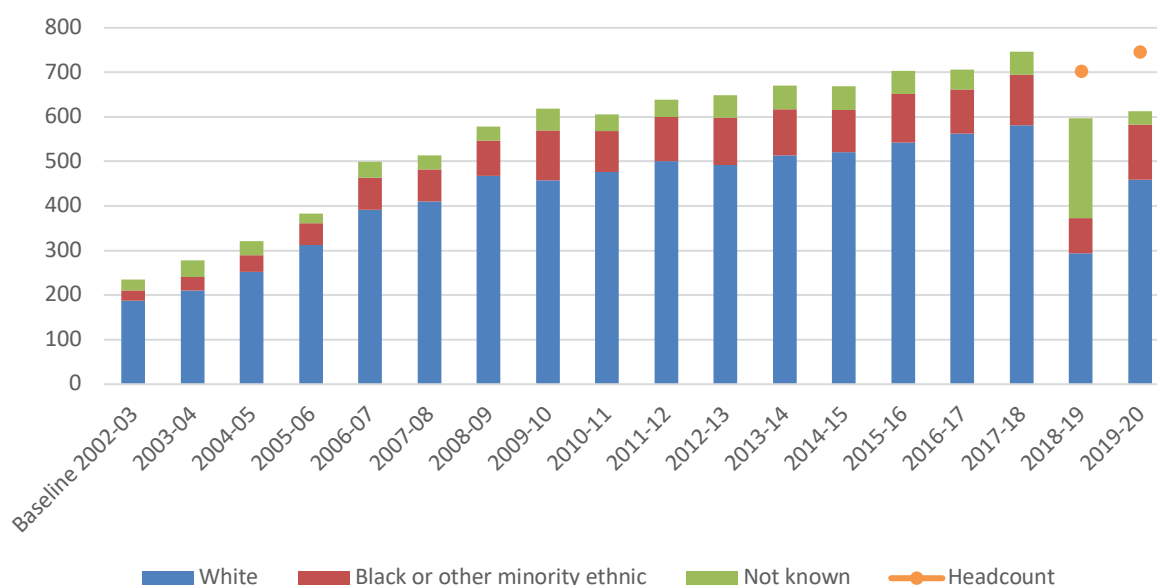
2.2 Job/Staffing FTE Staff Outputs

Reporting Period: Academic Year 2019-20

The figures stated below are the combined totals of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff from all three Universities at Medway, broken down by ethnicity. Data from the Baseline year (2002-03) charts FTE only and from 2018-19 onwards both FTE and Headcount are presented.

	Baseline 2002-03	2003- 04	2004- 05	2005- 06	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2009- 10	2010-11	2011-12
White	188	211	252	312	392	410	467	458	477	500
Black or other minority ethnic	22	29	37	50	71	72	79	111	91	100
Not known	25	38	32	21	36	31	32	49	38	39
TOTAL	235	277	321	383	499	513	578	618	606	639
	2012-13	2013- 14	2014- 15	2015- 16	2016- 17	2017- 18	2018-19 FTE Headcount		2019-20 FTE Headcount	
White	492 *	513	521	543	562	581	464	553	459	564
Black or other minority ethnic	106 *	104	95	109	100	113	198	98	124	146
Not known	50 *	53	53	51	44	53	35	35	30	35
TOTAL	648 *	670	669	703	706	747	597	597	613	745

Staff FTE (stacked) plus Headcount (plotted)



*MKC staff numbers not included from 2012-13 onwards

3. General Campus Update

3.1 University of Kent

The University of Kent has undergone a significant reorganisation which has incorporated the move from three Faculties to six Divisions, with the subjects in the Medway portfolio being a part of five of those Divisions: the Division of Natural Sciences, the Division of Law, Society and Social Justice, the Division of Arts & Humanities, the Division of Computing, Engineering & Mathematics and the Division of Kent Business School.

The Centre for Professional Practice (CPP) and the Centre for Higher Degree Apprenticeships (CHDA) have merged under the banner of Digital and Lifelong Learning, and the University has continued to develop apprenticeships in response to demand and also work is underway with each of the six Divisions in the development of the digital portfolio of the University.

There have been changes to the Executive Group of the University, with Professor Richard Reece joining the University as the new Deputy Vice Chancellor Education & Student Experience. The former Deputy Vice Chancellor Engagement & Civic Mission, David Nightingale, retired in July 2020 and his role as co-Chair of the Campus Management Board has been taken on by Jane Higham, the Chief Financial Officer of the University. Furthermore, Dr William Collier has been appointed as the new Strategic Lead for Medway. Dr Collier will be working alongside the Directors of Division and the academic units in the University on the curriculum offer for the Medway campus going forward, and the recommendations that came out of the Medway Task & Finish Group established by the Vice Chancellor and Chaired by the previous Dean for Medway.

The last year has very much been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The University swiftly moved to online delivery in March 2020 followed by a successful online examination and assessment period in the summer term of 2020. At the start of the 2020/21 academic year, the University offered a blended learning approach which was in place through the autumn term, but since the government announcement of Lockdown 3.0 in January 2021 has continued to deliver all lectures and seminars online, with the exception of those subjects that require a physical presence on campus for dedicated facilities. The University has worked with its partners at the Medway campus in the Covid response to ensure the safety of both students and staff while continuing to deliver our academic provision and support our students.

3.2 University of Greenwich

The University of Greenwich welcomed a new Vice Chancellor, Professor Jane Harrington, in December 2019. In addition, around 36 new members of academic staff joined the Faculty during the 2019/20 academic year, including a new Head of School of Engineering, a new Professor of Chemical Engineering and four Professors in NRI.

The Faculty of Engineering and Science achieved growth of around 10% in student numbers at Medway across all areas of activity in 2019/20 compared with the previous year. A number of overseas MSc students have deferred their start from September 2020 to January 2021 and the Faculty received around 450 January starters, the majority of which will be on the two-year MSc with Industrial Practice programmes. This is a substantial increase on previous years.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the University closed all campuses on 23rd March and all remaining teaching was converted to online delivery and staff worked remotely from home. Our examinations in April/May were also conducted online and the process was successful. A partial reopening of the Medway campus was arranged in early June to allow our important research to restart and this proved successful. Various staff members got involved in Covid related research projects, eg. virology and cell interaction relating to Covid-19, the printing of 3D face masks for local hospitals, and our stocks of PPE were donated to the NHS.

The summer was a busy period with staff preparing for a blended approach to teaching for the 2020/21 academic year and various safety precautions were put in place on the campus, eg. one-way systems through the buildings, extensive signage around campus, teaching rooms rearranged for social distancing and room capacities set, sanitiser stations and cleaning products at all entrances and exits and in teaching rooms. Teaching in the Faculty during term one followed a blended approach, with all laboratory sessions and small tutorials taking place face to face on campus and lectures online. To facilitate the Covid safe delivery of practical work, the Sports Hall on campus was converted into a laboratory for Engineering and Science first year students, as featured on BBC South East today.

In terms of on-Campus academic developments, the Faculty had its first cohort of graduates in July from the new BEng in Chemical Engineering programme. The Faculty is seeking professional accreditation of this suite of programmes and a successful benchmarking visit by the IChemE took place at the end of January 2020. An official opening ceremony for the new microbrewery in Medway took place on 11th December 2019 and the brewery produced its first brew in January 2020. Three of the Faculty's programmes, Mechanical Engineering, Forensic Science and Chemistry, achieved 100% in overall student satisfaction in the NSS this year.

With respect to the REF, the Faculty will submit work from more than 100 staff for assessment, which is a significant increase since the last REF in 2014.

We have had two very significant successes over the summer period. The Faculty is playing an important role in the £17.9 million "Growing Kent and Medway" project funded through the Government's Strength in Places Fund. This investment will allow us to build on the Expanding Excellence in England (E3) award to NRI that has allowed us to create a new Food Innovation Laboratory on Campus. Work on this new laboratory was completed over the summer and this will provide a focal point for food-related research in the Schools of Science and Engineering as well as the NRI.

Further strengthening of our position in food research and following a competitive process, UKRI has awarded a £5 million contract to a consortium led by the NRI for a Centre for Doctoral Training on Food Systems (<https://www.ukri.org/news/5-million-to-transform-uk-food-systems/>). This centre will train the next generation of research and innovation leaders who will contribute to the transformation of the UK food system to support healthy people and a healthy environment.

Not including these two bids that will fall into the 2020/21 financial year, the Faculty won £17.3 million in new contracts in 2019/2020. Taking the two new large contracts and this new contracting together represents a healthy position in a difficult operational environment.

Another series of GREat Talks took place during 2019/20, a series of popular public lectures held in the Pembroke Ward Room, covering a diverse range of subjects including Mitigating Climate Change, Social mobility, Sustainable Development, the Next Generation of Biological Drugs, getting a good night's sleep for the older generation and improving compliance for low dose aspirin in geriatric patients.

3.3 Canterbury Christ Church University

The University community of staff and students at Canterbury Christ Church Medway campus have continued to move forward together positively during the 2019-2020 academic year.

In September 2019, we increased our Apprenticeship offering further, introducing the Advanced Clinical Practice apprenticeship, which offers qualified healthcare practitioners' opportunities to develop their career, and take on new roles to enhance and support the transformation of healthcare locally. We also expanded recruitment to our healthcare programmes based at the Medway Campus, through multiple entry routes. This was supported by our increasingly popular 4-year programmes with Foundation level entry, and as a result of our Engagement and Outreach Team's work in partnership with local colleges to inspire and retain local college students. This work helped more students progressed from college 'Access' style courses directly into our undergraduate programmes, than ever before.

This initial success was tempered by the emergence of Covid 19, which has had a devastating impact on the nation's health. It has also provided challenges for the higher education healthcare communities across the UK, which rely on placement within the health and care services for their students. In March 2020, our Medway based health care profession students, swiftly moved to blended learning approach to their studies, which enable many to continuing to attend campus for essential and practical focused taught elements. Our CCCU Estates Team worked to develop our Covid 19 secure site, in partnership with the other universities across the campus, with CCCU premises remaining open for most of the year to support health students. Our Medway based staff have demonstrated their commitment and resilience to supporting students during challenging times, through swift programme redesigns to enable studies to continue to meet Professional, Regulatory, and Statutory Body requirements, despite the impact of Covid19.

CCCU is proud that our Medway staff and students have provided significant contributions to the local, regional and national responses to Covid 19. This was led by our Faculty Executive, who worked directly with Health Education England and all local NHS Trusts, to develop standardised risk managed arrangements to support 'student employment' during late spring and summer period. This enabled senior students to continue with their programmes, whilst being deployed in local hospital placements as employees. These employed students received payment for their unique contribution to the initial pandemic surge. This partnership working resulted in Kent and Medway having the largest numbers of healthcare students employed in the region, with the greatest contribution locally provided by CCCU students.

In addition to this, our Medway based scientific staff were deployed into local NHS Biomedical Laboratories to help support and set up Covid testing procedures, academic staff were supported to return to full time or part time Clinical Practice or took on additional employment in clinical practice, and many university staff and students volunteered within the community in a wide variety of activities to support the vulnerable. In the later part of the 19-20 year, our work began to focus on supporting the emerging 'light' of vaccination, through our work with the local CCG and Community NHS Trusts, and by providing facilities and resources to support the training of this workforce.

Concurrent to this our local links have been enhanced by the appointment of our Vice Chancellor as an Associate Non-Executive Director within the local Medway Hospital, our lead role as Academic Partner to the Ebbsfleet Healthy New Town Project and our continuing programmes of nationally and internationally funded research with partners locally supporting

the use of Arts in Health, supporting positive Mental Health, Diabetes Care, Social Inclusion, enhancing the understanding of Adaptive Technology, and an increasing variety of medical and clinical science projects. This is supporting an enhanced submission to the imminent Research Excellence Framework.

3.4 Drill Hall Library

Through the 2019/20 academic year the Drill Hall Library has played an integral part of in academic life of the Medway students both on campus and virtually.

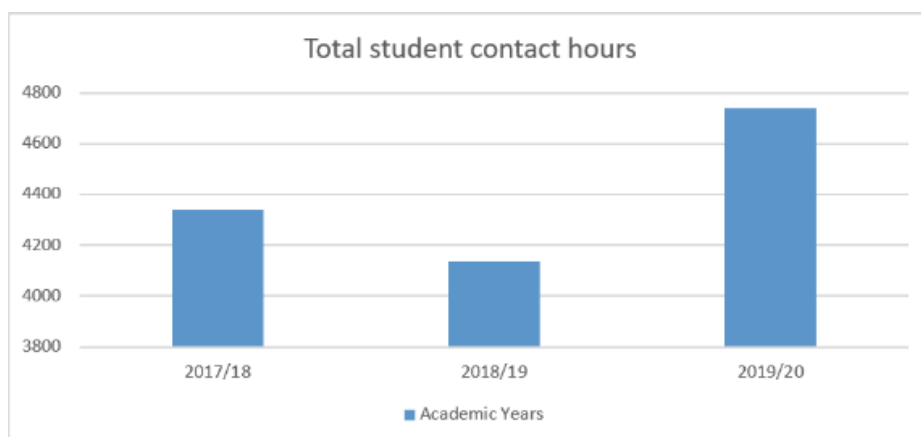
COVID

The pandemic has had a big impact on the work of the Drill Hall this year. In March 2020, the Drill Hall library closed, and where possible all services were moved online. The Drill Hall reopened its doors on the 6th July 2020 for a click and collect service and to allow book returns between 11am and 3pm.

On the 27th July we opened 100 study spaces to users, with a mix of PC and desk available. We did not have a booking system; users could just turn up and pick a space for them. It was not very heavily used, averaging about 20 users studying a day but those who did come in really appreciated it. From the 10th of August we extended our opening hours to 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Then from the 1st September we opened the whole main library floor, allowing access to study spaces and the book stock and ended our click and collect service.

Teaching and Learning

We are now embedded for teaching in more schools and departments than ever. This teaching support continued virtually once the library had closed due to the pandemic. We had a big increase in the total student contact hours across the year, this reached a total of 4,378.



During the lockdown a virtually orientation was planned for the September induction so all students could benefit.

Furniture and PCs

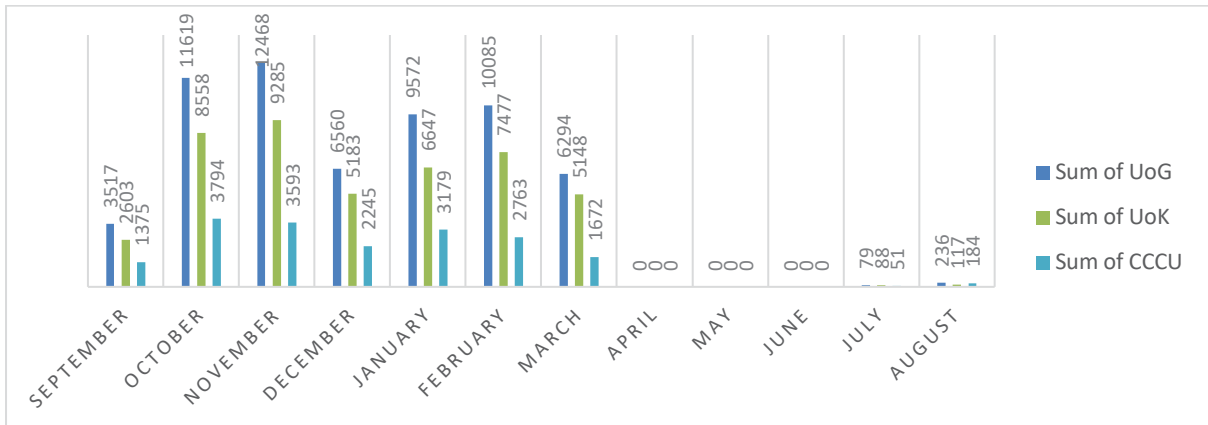
The furniture in the Drill Hall had not been replaced since it was opened 15 years ago. During the Spring of 2019 we ran consultation sessions with the students over what they wanted from the Group Zone. The main requests from students were for sofas and soft seating, and more PCs in that space.

In August 2019, we replaced all the furniture in the Group Zone to make it a much more sociable space to support students as they work together. The feedback from the students about the furniture was very positive and the usage of the area increased between September and March.

During August 2019 we also replaced all the PCs on the library floor. We reviewed where most PCs were used and increased the numbers in those areas. So, PC numbers were reduced in the silent zone and increased in the Group Zone

Gates

In September 2019 we were able to turn on the card access for the gates at reception. This allows us to manage access to the building much more easily as anybody without a valid card will not be able to come in. This has also meant that we can keep better track of the number of users that are coming into the library, at what time, and from which institution they are from.



The next phase of this project is to be able to break down the data further so we can look at what programme the users are from to help us better understand the needs of our users.

3.5 Medway Chaplaincy

Sept 2019 – March 2020

- All of our regular activities ran well during this time period:
 - World Café, TABLEtalk, Bargain Corner, DHL Chaplaincy Pop-Ups, Bring & Share Lunches, Staff De-Stress Coffee & Cake Breaks
- We ran four trips to: Cambridge (52 participants), Canterbury (by train 14 participants), Oxford (60 participants) and Bodiam Castle/Rye (34 participants).



Cambridge Day trip



Bodiam Castle & Rye trip

- Other activities have included:
 - October 2019 - Black History Month film night - 14 attendees
 - November 2019 - Fireworks Night - 17 attendees
 - November 2019 - Green Week Book Sale
 - November 2019 - Remembrance Day Service - approx. 100 attendees (prayer were said in multiple languages)
 - Dec 2019 - Carols on Campus - 40+ attendees
- September 30th 2019 Bishop James (Bishop of Rochester) visited campus, meeting with several students and staff from DHL, GKU, and RETI



- November 12th 2019 we also helped facilitate a memorial service for two local fireman who lost their lives in Anson building in 1974. This was very well received and much appreciated.
- March 9th 2020 we facilitated a memorial service for a member of UoK staff.

March 2020 – August 2020

- Virtual Café - once we went into lockdown we began running an hourly Virtual Café online each week, though numbers were small I believe it served a purpose for those who attended.
- Food deliveries - between March–July 2020 we made approx. 12 deliveries of donated food to Greenwich halls of residence - see photos and blog link.

<https://medwaystudents.blogspot.com/2020/05/food-glorious-food.html>



- Sacred Space from a Different Place - I worked with CCCU Chaplains to provide a faith resource for students and staff

<https://www.flipbookpdf.net/web/site/b79923885ce873242794243e3539791539159c8dFBP19466806.pdf.html>

Pastoral Care

From Sept 2019 – Aug 2020 I have met with 71 students pastorally. Broken down as follows:

Greenwich	51	Kent	11	CCCU	9
UnderGrad	42	Masters	17	PhD	12
Male	29	Female	42	X	0
British	26	European	7	International	38
Catholic/Christian	20		Muslim	10	
Hindu	5		Buddhist	7	
Jewish	1		None/Unknown	28	

Training

Personally, this past 12 months, I have attended training in 'Time Management Techniques' and 'Suicide Prevention & Awareness'.

PLEASE NOTE that in preparation for this current academic year Chaplaincy produced a Welcome video which has been very well received. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/4K2yWgFVqtl>

3.6 GK Unions

1.0 Introduction

GKSU (Greenwich and Kent Students' Unions), formally GK Unions is a partnership on the Medway campus between Greenwich Students' Union and Kent Union. It is formally governed by the Kent Union Board of Trustees, with oversight via the GKSU Strategy Board and Operations Committee, which include representation from both Home Unions and institutions, as well as current students.

GKSU is run by students for students to ensure that they have a voice, fulfil their potential and get the most from their University experience at Medway. GKSU services include:

- Activities – sports clubs, volunteering, societies and a varied Give It A Go and Team Medway Social programmes
- Representation – enhancing the visibility and impact of student voice in Medway through an Academic Rep programme and student networks
- Advice Centre – confidential, impartial advice on issues including housing, finance and academic
- The Deep End – the bar and catering facility, offering our very own branded 'Campus Coffee', food, drink, a range of live events and the biggest screen on Campus for live sport.

1.1 GKSU Rebrand

As part of our ongoing work to clarify the role and identity of the partnership in Medway, we rebranded our service to Medway students from GK Unions to GKSU. The rebrand was built on students, staff and stakeholder surveys and interviews to be more aligned with the Medway students' needs and requirements. The rebrand included identifying key priorities, which formed out new 5 year strategic plan and also developed our values, mission, vision for Medway, which can be found here <https://gksu.co.uk/your-voice/values-mission-vision>.

1.2 GKSU Strategy 2020 – 2025

Our new Medway-centric strategy focuses on how we create autonomy to find Medway solutions to Medway problems, whilst also maintaining strong connections with our partner Unions and Universities. The 5-year plan is based on the following principles:

- We are here for you
- We are the voice of Medway
- We are your home from home
- We are Medway

You can find the full strategic plan with our aims and objectives here <https://gksu.co.uk/your-voice/gksu-plan>.

2.0 Student Activities

2.1 Sport Clubs (Team Medway):

It was a reasonably successful year for sports clubs at Medway, with 158 memberships (167 being unique students) within 12 sports clubs. This is lower compared to the last academic year, but was expected with lower student numbers on campus for 2 years running and also because some key committee members had graduated and as such a few clubs had folded. These figures of sporting engagement are in addition to the social sport free programme, Team Medway Social (*See below*). Team Medway sports clubs continues to promote inclusivity and new opportunities which is evidenced by new non-traditional sports such as boxing and Jiu Jitsu which develop from the Social programme.

Regrettably, leagues were unable to be finished due to Covid-19 and so specific club winners in British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) can't be announced for 2019-20. One of the notable success stories was Futsal who were one game away from winning their league.

A 'Varsity' style competition named clash of the campuses event had been organised for the end of term 2 which would have seen 12 sports participate in a Medway versus Canterbury event. This was due to take place in March and expected numbers (players and spectators was to be circa 300).

GKSU successful was granted funding for a multi-use games area 3G on-campus, however, this has since been retracted due to the financial implications of the pandemic. GKSU have since formed a partnership with UTC Waterfront who will be hosting various sports for 20-21 fixtures and training.

2.2 Social Sport (Team Medway Social):

Team Medway Social is a free social sport programme available to every student and staff member on campus. 2019-20 was an exceptional year with the total number of attendees across all sessions being 3237 of which 601 were unique participants. This number was less than a 2% reduction on the total attendees for 2018-2019 despite the programme finishing 9 weeks early due to Covid related restrictions. Prior to the pandemic, the Team Medway Social programme was on track to exceed its target of 3500 and 900 unique individuals.

To diversify its programme, TMS ran a programme of events over welcome fortnight, for the This Girl Can Campaign and a series on larger one off events across the year. These events included bubble football, an outdoor ice rink, inflatable obstacle course, quasar laser and archery tag.

The 'This Girl Can Campaign' reached 6725 people on social media and had 235 interactions which is the widest reach of any TMS social media post. Testament to this was a spike of 31 additional attendees during that one week.

This year, TMS launched a loyalty card to incentivise regular attendance which has been a real success with student engagement and thus, will be continued for future years.

Team Medway Social had a target to develop 5 of its regular sporting activities into official student led Sports Clubs that could then train regularly and compete in BUCS. Following the popularity of the sessions, the following sports have now appointed student presidents to lead official sports clubs for 2020-21; Boxing, Table Tennis, Women's Futsal, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Handball.

2.3 Give It A Go:

The Give It A Go programme has developed a flexible, varied and inclusive programme in order to appeal to a diverse range of students including mature, part-time and commuter students. The total number of attendees for 2019/20 was 1833 (unique student numbers were 794 (of which 24% were Kent students and 57% were Greenwich and Medway School of Pharmacy students). The remaining 19% of attendees are unknown due to lack of student data on our website system. Before the programme was cut short because of the Lockdown, the programme was on track to significantly exceed the total attendees in 19-20.

Working collaboratively with established student groups has proven successful and which significantly increases engagement with the programme. Trips to the London Science Museum in conjunction with some of the Academic Societies and Pool Society tournaments were extremely well attended. The highest attended events across the year were the Bluewater Student Lock In, Quiz Night, Quasar Laser, Thorpe Park, Gladiator Ring, Café de Paris and Archery Tag.

In an attempt to reach and engage with more Kent students based on the Dockyard site, a series of Popcorn Pop Ups took place across term 2 to run interactive activities with previously less engaged students (around 56 Dockyard campus participants).

2.4 Societies

This year there have been 822 society memberships, of which 644 are unique students across 42 student led societies. Despite all society activity finishing weeks earlier due to the pandemic, this was a slight increase on the total 2018-19 figures.

There has been a group of student leaders, Societies Exec who have been instrumental in mentoring society committees of the new societies, offering practical advice and support and

additional funding to societies to ensure active societies who want to run additional events have the resources to do so.

There have been a diverse and inclusive range of social society activities this year ranging from Business Society's UV Traffic Light Party, Islamic Society's Charity Week, Pool Society tournaments and the annual MPSA Ball. Academic societies have really thrived this year too; the Finance and Investment Society organised termly online stock market competitions, the Forensic Science Society organised an external speaker to discuss cold cases and use of evidence in court and the Chemistry Society arranged a trip to the immersive molecular cocktail bar, ABQ. A particular society highlight this year was the ratification of new society TEDX Society which sources several different funding streams and brought the first officially organised TEDx event to the Medway Campus.

Other big events were also booked into The Student Hub and had to be cancelled included the Music Society's Battle of the Bands Final, the Medway Amateur Dramatic Society musical, American Idiot and an International Robot Wars event organised by the Engineering Society.

2.5 Volunteering

This year, the direction for student volunteering changed so rather than encouraging students to log volunteering hours on the Toolkit, the focus shifted. Instead, significant efforts were made to improving the website and offering a wider range of volunteering opportunities in the community and specifically matching various projects to academic subjects which had come from student feedback.

At the beginning of the year, team of volunteers were recruited and trained as Welcome Helpers to moved in new students and facilitate activities such as the Campus Tours, Welcome Fair and Buddy Lunches to help integrate new students into University life. These volunteers were used for further Buddy Scheme events and initiatives, but with limited success. As such for 2020-21, a different model for the Buddy Scheme will be trialled.

Volunteering at Medway was showcased during Student Volunteering Week in Term 2 in which a series of volunteering activities were run in conjunction with Student Groups and stakeholders alongside a successful social media campaign. The highlight was the Medway Eco Team who ran a project with the Drill Hall Library to donate and decorate tote bags to encourage library users to utilise sustainable reusable bags. They also contacted the Living River Foundation to attend a Maritime Litter Pick as a part of their Litter Free Medway Project.

Additionally, to boost engagement with volunteering, opportunities were scheduled which slotted into awareness days and wider campaigns GKSU were highlighting or running. A large percentage of these were craftivism projects such as producing cards to send to children through Post Pals, writing cards to members of the LGBTQ+ community through the Rainbow Card Scheme, and making wellbeing trinket boxes and mindful colouring for World Mental Health Day. The most popular single community volunteering opportunity was the annual Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal in the lead up to Christmas.

2.6 Other Student Activities Initiatives

2.6.1 Networking Night

In order to develop effective academic communities and work towards parity of experience for students engaging in activities across the Medway campus, a joint Networking night was organised which included Academic Representatives as well as Sports and Society Student Group leaders for the first time. It was a successful way to integrate these students with over 65 students attending for networking, a meal, and chocolate fountain.

2.6.2. Worldfest

GKSU engaged with Worldfest again this year running a series of different events and activities to celebrate and showcase different cultures in March. Some of the favourites included an all-day musical event which included bhangra dancing, a professional bhangra dance workshop and the Medway Arab Society performing their traditional cultural dance, the dabke. Some new activities trialled this year included a Mexican Streetfood Workshop, an Aboriginal Dot Painting activity, a student led Fashion Show and art exhibition and a KPOP Dance taster.

The Deep End ran a different special each day of the week to support the programme, provided traditional margaritas and nachos at a mini Mexican Fiesta which included piñata smashing which was a huge success.

2.6.3 GKSU Awards

In seeking to create a unified experience for students engaging in activities across the Medway campus, a decision was made to combine the Sports, Societies, and Volunteering Awards into one central, larger Awards Ceremony. Due to lockdown restrictions, the physical event had to be cancelled but students were still shortlisted and awarded seventeen separate awards for individuals and student groups. In order to ensure student volunteers received recognition for their hard work, a video was produced which was livestreamed on the GKSU YouTube channel. This enabled students to interact and engage remotely and as such received a record number of TikTok videos from students showing how they were preparing for the night. The GKSU Awards 2020 can be found here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdyzE8dzH0o>.

3.0 Student Voice

This year GKSU changed the process of enrolment as Academic Reps from an elected position to a nomination process. This was done to reduce the barriers in becoming an Academic Rep. More collaborative work is required with the Faculties and Schools to ensure this recruitment process is consistently run so that the Reps programme is uniform and easy to administer.

After research, it was discovered that there is a huge disparity in the numbers of students studying different courses; with the smallest course consisting of 5 compared with 126 at Kent, whilst a variation of 1 student on some courses compared to 113 for the largest course at Greenwich. It has been problematic to recruit reps for small programmes and could be attributed to the fact that tutees and tutors often have a close and interactive relationship which makes the Rep role redundant. By the end of the year, we had 158 students volunteering as Academic Reps, 96 Greenwich Reps out of 110 positions and 62 Kent out of 65. However, as we had not limited recruitment of Reps, this meant some programmes had multiple Reps and others lacked reps for that programme.

The Leadership Elections were facilitated on the Medway Campus using a shared Medway Votes branding and the GKSU team worked closely with the Home Unions to ensure Medway students engaged with the democratic process. A successful 'Donut Forget to Vote' in which voters got a donut upon voting was successful for Greenwich Students Union Leadership Elections in which 581 students voted. This was a 60% increase from last year's 363 voter turnout. For the Kent Union election, the number of votes cast was 191 down from 232 the previous year. However, it is important to note that there were lower student numbers than the previous year, and also the Elections were scheduled during SSPSSR's Reading Week so there were fewer Kent students on campus.

Work to establish a student parent network had begun and an event for Student Parents in collaboration with the three Universities had been organised for the Easter Half Term but had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.

4.0 Advice Centre

The GKSU Advice Centre provides free, confidential and impartial advice to all University of Greenwich and University of Kent students studying at the Medway Campus.

Professional Advice has been offered in a range of areas including academic, finance, student funding, immigration, and housing. Throughout the academic year, students have been able to access services via booked appointments, drop-in sessions, a dedicated telephone advice line and via email. The Advice Centre had 988 cases in this academic year and, continuing the trend as in previous years, these were predominantly finance and academic cases.

The Advice Centre utilised the Welcome Back Fair in January 2020 and used this to promote 'Money Week' and in particular 'Spend Healthy, Live Healthy' which tied in with the National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA) promotions in conjunction with Blackbullion.

The Advice Centre responded efficiently and moved their service provision online as soon as the Medway Campus went into Lockdown ensuring students still had sufficient access to Advice Services. Naturally, the amount of email correspondence to the Advice Centre spiked during this time and the Advice Centre assisted a significant number of students who were in financial hardship secure financial assistance due to the impact of covid-19.

The Advice Centre had some significant successes this year. One specific case included helping a student successfully challenge their degree classification result enabling them to be awarded a First due to Covid-19 procedures not being correctly assessed by the Progression and Award Board. Another case involved assisting a group of students successfully challenge their landlord to negotiate and reduce an electricity bill, thus saving the household hundreds of pounds. Another big achievement was working collaboratively with the University of Kent to re-write their Non-Academic Discipline regulations to comply with OIA best practice. This resulted in the removal of financial fines which has a significant positive impact on students at Medway.