

**UJS** | THE VOICE  
OF JEWISH  
STUDENTS

100 YEARS 1919 - 2019



Annual Review 2018-2019

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**Leading**  
**Defending**  
**Enriching**

**“The true impact of our legacy is not only a source of pride, but a building block for the future of the community.”**

**Hannah Rose, UJS President 2018-19**

Looking back...

3

## Looking back...

**Hannah Rose, UJS President 2018-19**  
Serving the 8,500 Jewish students of the UK and Ireland is a job like no other. My proudest moments have been when I know that we have been standing up and speaking out.

Whether in a meeting with the Prime Minister, on stage at the European Commission, addressing the community rally after the Pittsburgh massacre, or in a ground breaking Black History Month video, we are changing the conversation and the community around us. We may not always all agree with the stance taken on every issue, but it cannot be denied that we at UJS lead, enrich, represent, and we stand tall. There is no other group that is uncompromisingly peer led, defiantly independent and fiercely grassroots. In the length and breadth of our work, there is more value to UJS than can be expressed here. As UJS reaches its 100th year, the true impact of our legacy is not only a source of pride, but a building block for the future of the community. It is up to current and future students to take on that challenge, and from my experiences on campus this year, I have no doubt that they will rise to it.



# ...and forward

**Esther Offenberg, UJS President 2019-20**

**UJS is about to enter its next centenary and I could not be more excited and honoured to be leading our incredible Union at this time, along with all the amazing students around the UK and Ireland who are the true heroes when it comes to UJS' success.**

Like so many of my predecessors, I look forward to continuing to deliver on what students need and want on campus, and provide them with the tools and skills to become the best leaders they can be. We are already starting strong with our first ever "Lead Up!" seminar, which will equip our students with all the information and future experience they need so they can tackle the year head on, and that is only the beginning of what is to come. Students need more regional and tailored support for their campuses to achieve their best results, which is the mindset that will guide us throughout the year. With a plethora of new initiatives, while also building on the existing successful events we run every year, this year promises to be one for the ages.



**“I could not be more excited and honoured to be leading our incredible Union at this time”**

**Esther Offenberg, UJS President 2019-20**

## Our mission

**We are the voice of over 8,500 Jewish students, spanning more than 60 Jewish Societies (J-Socs) on campuses across the UK and Ireland. We are traditional, progressive, politically diverse, cultural and spiritual; we are unified, not uniform, and advocate the unity of our one Jewish people.**

Guided by our core values, the priorities of our elected President and policy passed at UJS Conference, we create and deliver powerful campaigns: fighting prejudice that targets Jewish people and other minorities; advancing the inclusion of Jewish people within wider society and of marginalised groups within our Jewish community; and inspiring education and action on the issues that matter to us.

Locally, nationally and internationally, we run diverse and dynamic programmes; facilitate access to kosher food and accommodation; offer career networking opportunities, proudly and passionately engage with Israel; initiate inspiring interfaith projects; and spearhead and support social action (tikkun olam).

For 100 years, we've been leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life across the UK and Ireland, inspiring generations of future leaders of the Jewish community, and we're proud to be **the voice of Jewish students.**

## Our core values

### Cross-Communalism:

UJS and J-Soc activities are open to all Jewish students regardless of political or religious affiliation or denomination. We strive to continually improve how we celebrate the diversity of Jewish students.

### Peer-leadership:

We are empowered and equipped to lead and direct our programming and campaigning with and for our peers.

### Representation:

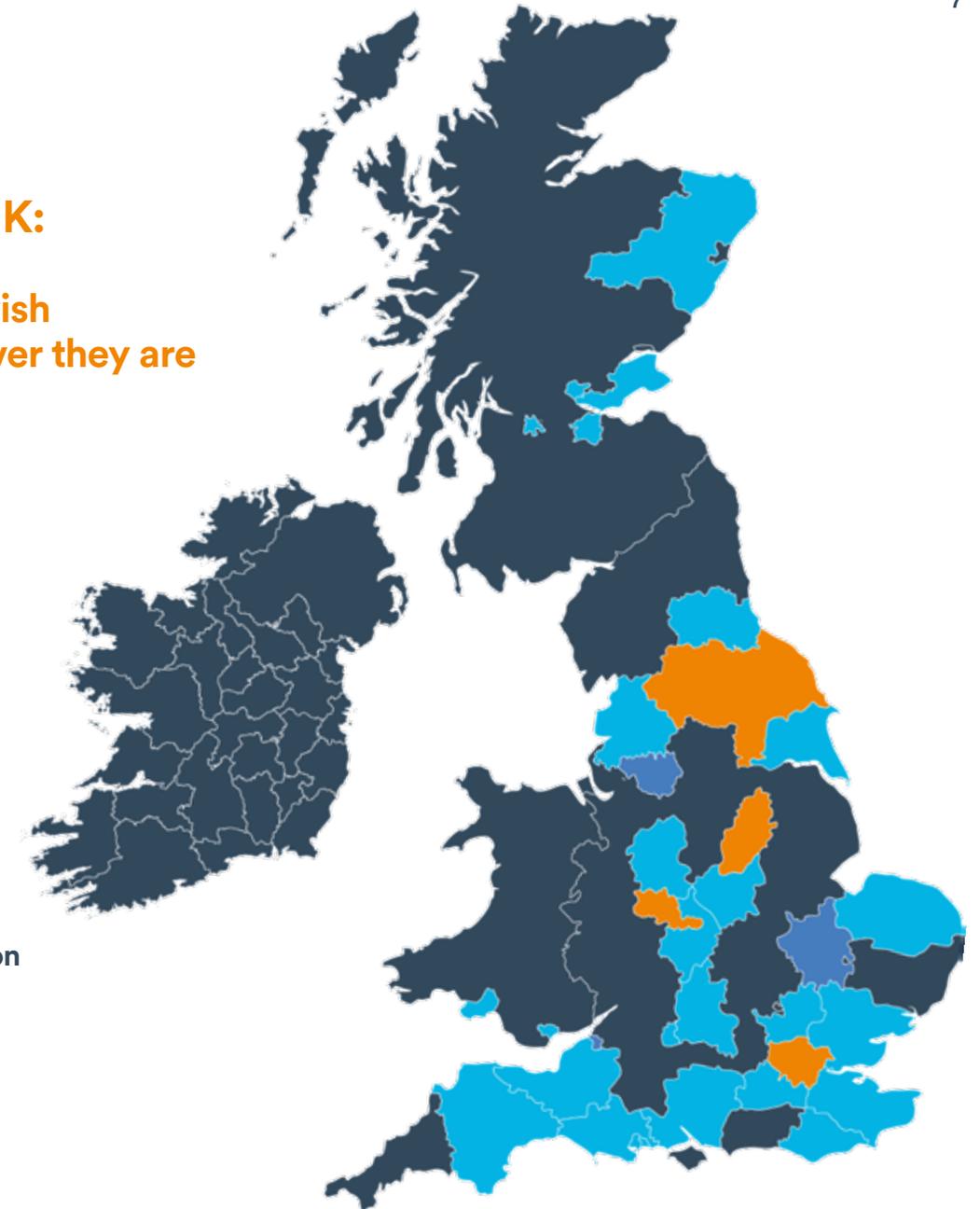
As the voice of Jewish students we ensure Jewish students' voices and views are heard locally and nationally. J-Soc committees and the UJS President are elected roles which consider the views of their members and represent these and our democratically decided policy to the student movement, the wider Jewish community, politicians and policy makers.

### Israel Engagement:

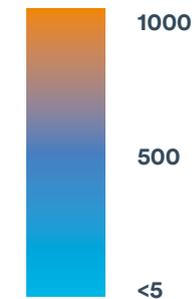
We passionately and proudly connect our students with over 3000 years of Jewish and Hebrew culture, offering opportunities to strengthen, celebrate and explore a personal relationship with Israel as part of an evolving expression of Jewish identity.

**More than 60 J-Socs in the UK:**

**serving ALL Jewish Students wherever they are**



**Number of Jewish Students in each region**



## Our year in numbers

**500+**

Events run across more than 60 campuses across the UK and Ireland. Events included Shabbat and Festive Dinners, Social Action initiatives, Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, Campaigns and much more.

**6,000+**

Students, university staff and local members, including Jewish people and those of other faiths, cultures and backgrounds across more than 40 cities, engaged in Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations.

**220+**

Jewish student activists took part in leadership training and development opportunities including Summit, Campaigns weekend and Summer U.

**6,000**

Students from a variety of backgrounds engaged with UJS and peer led Israel related programmes on campus. Yom Hatzmout, Birthright, Incubator.

**120+**

Student Unions sabbatical officers and senior university leaders took part in our Lessons from Auschwitz trip in partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

**11,477**

Students from a variety of faiths and backgrounds engaged with UJS supported Israel programmes in 2018-2019.

**220**

Student Labour Club members were trained on how to identify and combat antisemitism.

\*only accounts for one half of the year after training was indefinitely postponed in early 2019 after JLM's decision.

**30+**

Students ran in local and national elections for the second year running. This included full and/or part time leadership roles within their student unions and the National Union of Students (NUS).

**10,751**

Friday Night Dinners and festive meals served to students at over 200 events on campus. Creating a home away from home, students celebrated Shabbat and Jewish festivals at events directly supported by UJS.

**45,000+**

People engaged across three bespoke campaign videos created by UJS supporting Black History Month, International Women's Day and Dialogue Not Division.

**71,000+**

Visits to the UJS website. The modern and user-friendly website provides resources, purchasing of tickets for events, information on J-Socs, support and much, much more! Come take a look – [www.ujs.org.uk](http://www.ujs.org.uk)

**1,613**

New J-Soc sign ups facilitated by the UJS website.

## Jewishly and Digitally

# Developing & strengthening our relationship & engagement with Israel

Eliana Friend – City and Cass J-Soc

“We wanted to portray Israel in a positive way on campus through Israeli culture, society and politics. With the support of UJS, we held many events in order to show students that Israel is a wonderful place to live and visit. Some of these events included high profiled speakers such as the Israeli

Ambassador to the UK, Mark Regev, inviting Israeli students to speak on campus about their experiences in Israel and promoting Israeli foods and products. By creating dialogue on campus, it allows for people to be educated and learn new things about Israel.”

**Aim:** Strengthening Jewish students’ connections with Israel through a variety of programmes covering politics, culture, religion, society, and more.

**Action:** We supported over 100 Israel related events at 36 campuses across the UK. From bringing Israeli speakers on campus, leading conversations on Zionism and Israel’s democracy, engaging students in art programmes, organising student trips to Israel, celebrating Israel’s national dates such as Yom Haatzmaut and the Israeli elections, local and national events on campuses covered a wide range of topics and shaped students’ connections and understanding of Israel in positive ways.

**Result:** In total, over 11,477 students from a variety of faiths and backgrounds engaged with UJS supported Israel programmes in 2018-2019. Over 300 students from different cultures and campuses took part in Israel trips such as The Real Deal, Freshers Trip, Birthright and other campus specific delegations. Additionally, for this year particularly, over 1700 were directly engaged through Eurovision Israel themed events organised on local campuses.





# Holocaust Remembrance

Tory Selwyn – University of East Anglia J-Soc President

**“I proudly took on the role of J-Soc president last September and I’m so pleased a memorable year saw the first ever UEA J-Soc Friday night dinner at a local Shul, a Yom Ha’azmaut BBQ in the beautiful university grounds, and our premier event of a Holocaust survivor speaker and vigil. The response received from the staff and**

**student community was outstanding, with the event selling out the largest lecture theatre on campus of nearly 300 people. I’m thrilled to be sitting on the committee again next academic year, to continue enhancing the Jewish lives of our student community and help plan next year’s Holocaust Memorial Day events.”**

**Aim:** To develop and extend our reach and remembrance surrounding the Holocaust. Building on the incredible 40 events last year, we planned to engage even more students and generate further awareness.

**Action:** Our continued partnership with the Holocaust Education Trust and NUS saw the expansion of ‘Our Living Memory’. Leading the learning from our history, Jewish students continue to play a vital part in the fight against racism and prejudice. We facilitated lunch and learn sessions on campuses across the UK which provided Jewish Students with the opportunity to discuss and learn about their Jewish heritage and identity.

**Result:** 40 Holocaust Memorial Day events were hosted on 29 campuses reaching over 6,000 students and staff from a range of backgrounds.



In our own words

# Cross-Communalism and Inclusivity

Gabe Milne – Sheffield J-Soc President  
Emmett Stone – York J-Soc

**Aim:** To celebrate students from all affiliations and empower them to lead Jewish life on campus.

**Action:** UJS events have showcased a wide range of educators and leading communal figures from different denominations. Students have been empowered and supported in leading cross communal educational initiatives on their campus.

**Result:** UJS is one of the leading communal organisations, creating cross-communal spaces where all students can celebrate their own type of Judaism while being part of a wider Jewish community. Rabbis from various denominations spoke to students on campus and at events; Liberation conference ran for the fifth year which created a space for students and allies to hear from inspiring speakers and empower them to stand up; Friday night dinners were introduced; Projects including No Barriers in Leeds were launched to raise awareness of mental health and encouraged students to speak out.



**Gabe:** “Being co-president of a small J-Soc, we’ve needed UJS to provide extra support to make sure we’re able to run the events we need to make our J-Soc a place for everyone. Our J-Soc’s sabbatical officer enthusiastically supported every initiative and idea we put together, and was a massive contributor to their success. The support UJS gives means even small J-Socs can provide for people of every background in our community.”

**Emmett:** “Over my two years as Social Secretary in my university’s Jewish Society, UJS has always given us the tools to best create and display the sort of communal activity that helps bring us, and the wider community around us, together. From helping us get great speakers to our campus for fascinating open lectures, to aiding with workshops, cultural events, and holidays, UJS helped us bring something of interest to anyone looking to connect, and stay connected, regardless of denomination or politics.”

# Standing up nationally/ nurturing tomorrow's leaders

Amy-Julie Fogiel – Essex J-Soc President

“I am incredibly grateful to the UJS and I’ll forever be impressed by the work they are doing. They were our first source of support day and night during the difficult time of the creation of the Jewish society at the University of Essex. My experience in fighting against antisemitism has strengthened my Jewish identity even more, and this would have never have happened without UJS. UJS gathers and definitely empowers

every Jewish student that crosses their path and they accept them no matter their denomination and differences in identity. I am extremely happy and proud to be engaged with the Jewish society, with the support of UJS. I feel like it was what I was meant to do this year, and it is our job we, the young generations to fight against antisemitism, and to educate about Judaism, Israel and our culture.”

**Aim:** : To support and equip Jewish students with the tools to stand up and represent their community both on campus and nationally, and work to root out antisemitism from our campuses.

**Action:** We have supported Jewish students with activist training at UJS Summit and our Campaigns Weekend, a weekend exclusively dedicated for Jewish students who want to engage with their students’ union. We have offered further support for Jewish students running in local and national elections. Our work engaging directly with students’ unions has increased significantly, with the launch of our new SU antisemitism awareness training alongside our unique Lessons from Auschwitz Universities Project, in partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

**Result:** Through successful election campaigns, Jewish students continue to have representation on the NUS National Executive Council (NEC) and its Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC). We took over 125 student union sabbatical officers and senior university leaders to Auschwitz to learn about the Holocaust and antisemitism and have built a core network of sabbatical officers and student union staff who work with us to tackle antisemitism on their campuses.



# Championing Social Action

Sara Felberg – Leeds J-Soc

“The social action project I ran was to help end period poverty. From the very beginning, UJS was there. It was the President who encouraged me to pass a motion at conference, and the sabbatical team who helped me organise not only a social action day for Leeds University, but contacted other university J-Socs to encourage them to run their own action days too.

The sanitary products we collected went to a local Leeds charity and when we handed over the products she told us what a real difference it would make. UJS always are, and always will be there to support students and I cannot express in words how truly grateful I am for that. I wouldn't have been able to run the project on my own, but UJS made it possible.”

**Aim:** To develop our social action platform to allow more students to contribute and tend to others less fortunate.

**Action:** Alongside support from the team, we had a dedicated J-Soc Sabbatical officer who was tasked with the responsibility of leading and developing our social initiatives and events throughout the year.

**Result:** Students led, supported and participated in social action events across the country. From vigils for the atrocious Pittsburgh massacre, through to contributions at foodbanks and homeless shelters on Mitzvah Day, the support and impact Jewish students have made through social action initiatives was inspiring. Leeds J-Soc organised a Refugee Donation Drive in partnership with PAFREAS as well as collecting almost 2000 sanitary products to fight period poverty.





# Creating and strengthening relationships through Interfaith

Iz Tarsh – Durham J-Soc

“What UJS really facilitates is a nationwide network of students who can help each other grow and this allows one J-Soc to be an example for others. Seeing the Interfaith work done in 2017/18 was what inspired me to go on and work to put on ‘bring-a-friend’ Friday Night Dinners,

for which we won a UJS award. Being able to educate other students about Judaism in a place where many individuals have never met a Jewish person is an amazing opportunity and really wouldn’t be able without the work and support of UJS.”

**Aim:** To build on the existing interfaith foundations and develop programmes and initiatives which enables students of all faith backgrounds to understand and connect with each other’s heritage and culture.

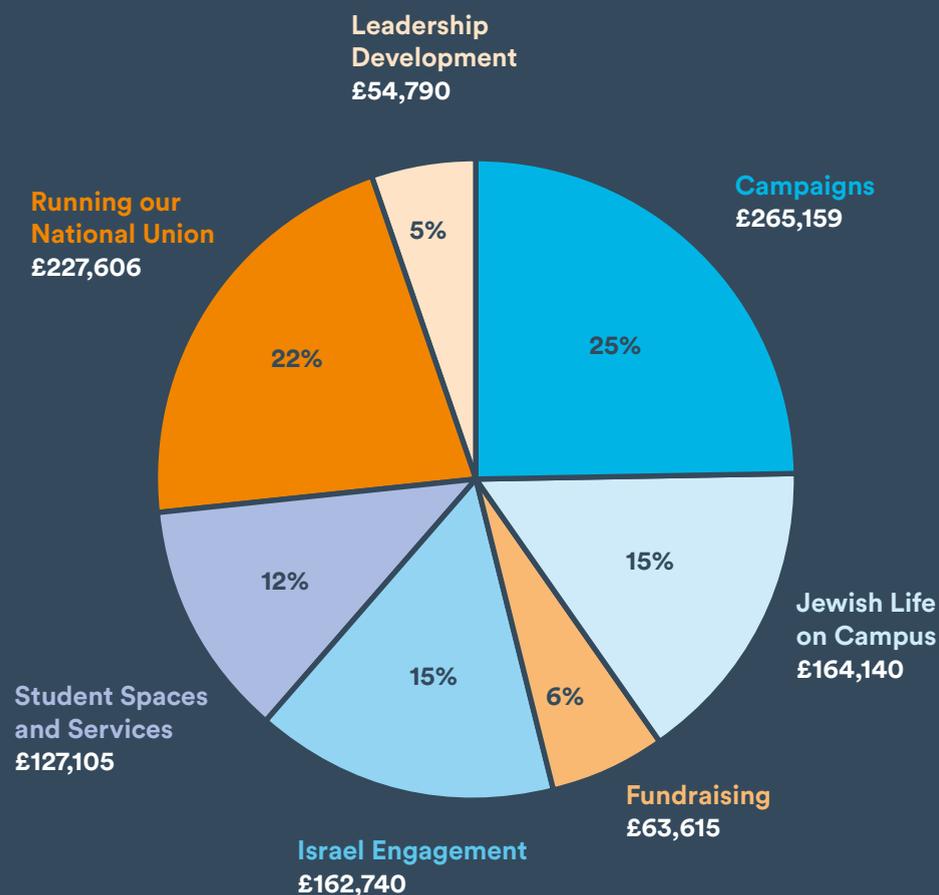
**Action:** Provided J-Socs with the skills to be able to network with other faith societies on campus as well as external organisations. Encouraged J-Socs to create Interfaith events which weren’t just for interfaith week, but at different points throughout the year. A unique Interfaith handbook was created to support J-Socs on these initiatives.

**Result:** Speed faithing, Friday night dinners for all faiths and interfaith lunches were held at a number of campus across the UK and Ireland. Particular highlights included Manchester J-Soc’s impressive interfaith bake sale which was run for charity and saw over 100 attendees. Durham joined together with other societies for a highly successful World Interfaith Harmony Week, and Hertfordshire J-Soc saw more than 200 people attend an interfaith Purim and Holi street party in partnership with the Hindu society and student union.

## Financial review

UJS invests more than £1,000,000 per year in partnership with over 60 Jewish Societies, representing more than 8,500 students - leading, defending and enriching Jewish life on campus.

**This Pie chart reflects the breakdown of our expenditure, with over 72% dedicated to student programming and services.**



## Voice of Jewish Students

In the 2018/19 academic year the team at UJS made the voice of Jewish students heard at the heart of Government, with Vice Chancellors and university leadership, and within Student Unions and NUS. Through this work we secured **widespread support** for our efforts to counter antisemitism on campus, provide Kosher food for those students who need it, and support Jewish life on campus in whatever way our students choose to practice.

### Leading Jewish life of campus

UJS is an engine of future leadership with talented and hard working members and volunteers throughout our community and across the country. Our **Leadership Development** work includes training for current leaders, nurturing future leaders and encouraging every Jewish student to become the courageous campus leaders and exceptional leaders of our community and wider society. Highlights include our student leadership Summit, UJS Conference, our Sabbatical team opportunities and the annual campaign to elect a President.

### Defending Jewish life on campus

Standing up for Jewish students in their time of need is at the very core of our work. That work is only enhanced by our campaigns, breaking down stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudice towards Jewish students. This is why more than 40% of our 18/19 budget was spent on proactive campaigns, bringing the true face of Jewish students to campus leadership and the wider campus community. Our work combating antisemitism and anti-Zionism includes a huge amount of positive, proactive events and campaigns, running training sessions, trips to Israel and Europe, and producing excellent written material as a guide to all those interacting with Jewish students of any denomination and none.

### Enriching Jewish life on campus

In the 18/19 academic year we continued to work hard to offer diverse and dynamic programming. UJS facilitated access to all forms of Jewish practice as well as providing spaces and in many cases accommodation for Jewish students and Jewish societies. This creates an environment on campus where Jewish students can be proud of their Judaism and engage fully in their campus life. Highlights include providing and facilitating Friday night and festival meals and activities, student-led education sessions and our flagship Art Incubator programme giving small grants and educational sessions and resources for students to create artwork expressing their relationship with Judaism and Israel. UJS is inspiring students to be more involved, more engaged and stand up proudly for who they are and what they believe.

## Financial review

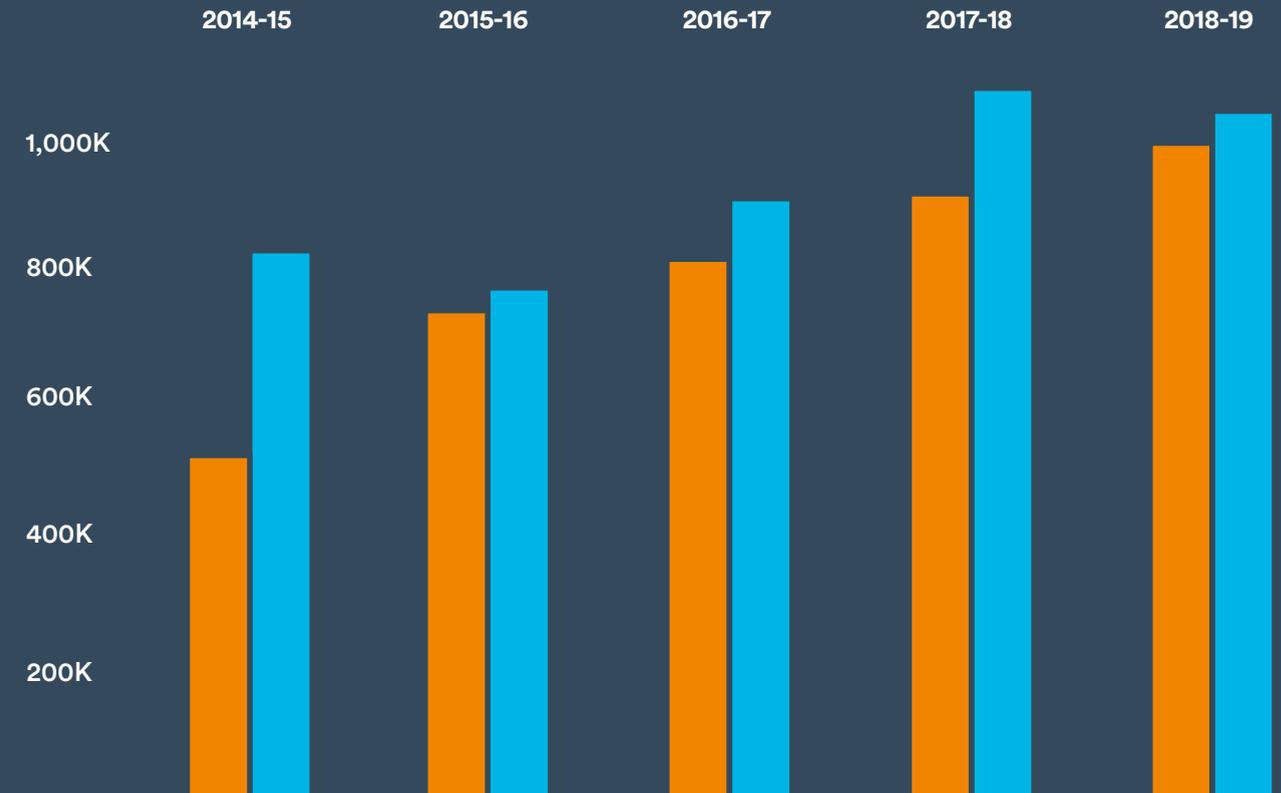
**UJS ended the year close to achieving its long term goal of running a balanced budget; not continuing to rely on historical reserves.**

**In our Centenary year the commitment we need from our generous supporters is more important now than ever before.**

**As the Voice of Jewish Students for over 100 years, UJS remains the student-led, cross-communal organisation, covering more campuses than any other in the UK and Ireland.**

We continue to engage thousands of students in our diverse and dynamic programmes and campaigns. We are excited to take this organisation into its Centenary, presenting a remarkable opportunity to re-engage with the thousands of Alumni in celebrating this milestone and looking to secure significant new support to sustain UJS as we continue leading, defending and enriching Jewish life on campus.

The charts below show our **income** and **expenditure** from 2014-15 to 2018-19



**Thank you to everybody who made this year possible and such a success.**

**We would be unable to achieve what we have without such strong support from the community.**

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**Communal supporters and partners**



Jewish Leadership Council  
Shoresh Charitable Trust  
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**UJS Team 2018-19**

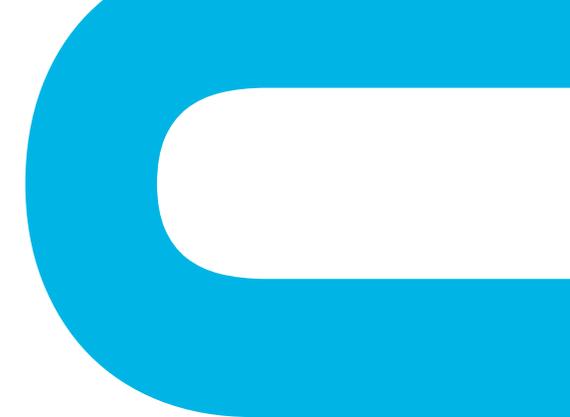
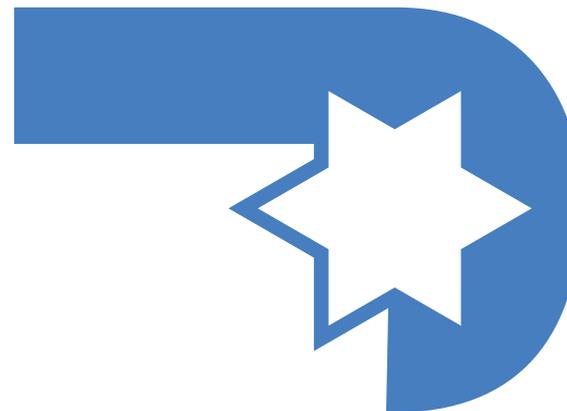
Arieh Miller, Emanuele Boccia, David Davidi-Brown, Louise Cohen, Sam Hillel, Rebecca Lewis, Daniel Kosky, Hannah Rose, Nick Sunshine, Dana Winter, Grace Diamond, Mor Sofer, Aaron Benderski, Noah Levy and Natacha Woodcock

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