

STUDENT LIFE



SUMMER 2025

CONTENTS

4	A LOOK BACK ON A FANTASTIC YEAR	16	MY JOURNEY FROM PAKISTAN TO LONDON
8	REPRESENTING THE SOUTH EASTERN ENGLAND STUDENT COMMUNITY	18	MY BPP JOURNEY
10	FROM LAW STUDENT TO STUDENT PRESIDENT TO QWE TRAINEE SOLICITOR	20	HOME AWAY FROM HOME
12	FROM LAB TO LAW	22	CHASING DREAMS ACROSS CONTINENTS
14	OPPORTUNITIES AT BPP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	23	BPP ARBITRATION SOCIETY SHINES AT FRANKFURT MOOT

HELLO SUMMER! A LOOK BACK ON A FANTASTIC YEAR WITH BPP STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

As the academic year winds down and the sun begins to shine a little brighter, we're reflecting on what has been an exciting and action-packed year for the BPP Students' Association.



From celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week and Pride Month to supporting our students through Graduation, our Student Voice, Independent Advice, and Engagement teams have been working tirelessly to support, represent, and empower you every step of the way.

We're also proud to share some amazing news: **BPP has been ranked the number one university in London on StudentCrowd, and the Students' Association received a fantastic 4.58/5 rating!**

You can read more about it [here](#).



A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated team and the incredible students who collaborate with us. Whether it's through advocacy, advice, events, or representation – everything we do is **student-focused** and **student-led**.

There are always opportunities to get involved with us, whether you're looking to boost your CV, make new connections, or create positive change within the student community. Head to BPPStudents.com to find out how you can take part.

Here's to a well-deserved summer break – we can't wait to see what the next year brings!

With gratitude and excitement,
BPP Students' Association





REPRESENTING THE SOUTH EASTERN ENGLAND STUDENT COMMUNITY

AMIVET EKPO
ADULT NURSE, MENTAL HEALTH NURSING STUDENT,
AND PROUD STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER



invaluable insights into the experiences and challenges faced by nursing students, which I intend to bring to the Student Council.

What motivated me to apply for this position was a strong desire to be a voice for my fellow students. Having navigated the ups and downs of student life myself, I understand the importance of having a platform to address the concerns and needs of the student community. As a member of the Council, I hope to work towards enhancing the overall student experience, whether it's through improving access to support services, facilitating more engaging social events, or advocating for better resources and facilities.

The council's mission—to empower students through representation, innovation, and collaboration—resonates deeply with me. Its focus on regional engagement, from lobbying for affordable housing to promoting sustainability on campuses, aligns with my vision of advocacy that touches every facet of student life.

As a recent addition to the South Eastern England Student Council, I am excited to have the opportunity to represent the diverse student community in our region. My name is Amivet Ekpo, and I am an adult nurse working with Basingstoke Hospital while also pursuing a degree in Mental Health Nursing with BPP University.

My journey to this position has been an interesting one. I started my nursing career in Nigeria before migrating to the UK in 2022. I then went on to obtain my Nursing degree from the University of Suffolk in 2024, graduating with a Second Class Upper. Currently, I am completing my first mental health placement at Elmleigh Hospital, an acute mental health facility.

At Basingstoke Hospital, I wear two important hats – that of a Student Link Nurse on my ward, as well as a Practice Supervisor. These roles have given me



To my fellow students: I may wear scrubs most days, but my commitment to this role is unwavering. Whether I'm calming an anxious patient or drafting a proposal for the council, my approach remains the same—listen intently, act thoughtfully, and lead with heart. This position isn't just a title; it's a promise. A promise to advocate for your needs, celebrate your wins, and ensure that no student feels invisible. After all, in nursing and in leadership, the greatest gift we can offer is the assurance that someone truly sees you.

I am honoured to be part of this dynamic team and look forward to collaborating with my fellow council members to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students across South Eastern England. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant student community that empowers and supports one another through the highs and lows of university life.

Here's to the work ahead—and to building a student community where everyone thrives.

FROM LAW STUDENT TO STUDENT PRESIDENT TO QWE TRAINEE SOLICITOR

DANIEL SCRASE
QWE TRAINEE SOLICITOR.



I grew up in North Wales, where my dad is a member of Tyddyn Teg, a cooperative farm, and my mum is a research nurse. Before applying to BPP, I worked in the charity sector, managing and developing services to help people.

I found job satisfaction in making a difference in people's lives, but realised systemic issues perpetuate inequality. While helping one person is rewarding, many others face similar challenges due to societal problems like the climate crisis and rising cost of living. I wanted to work in a field that tested my intellect and allowed me to address these broader issues and create meaningful change.

As a career-changer, I sought a university that would take me from non-law graduate to lawyer quickly. This meant opportunities for relevant volunteer work and a classroom experience reflecting the work I'd be doing in practice.

I studied an LLM in Law and Legal Practice,



starting with the Graduate Diploma in Law and finishing with SQE1. Studying part-time allowed me to take on numerous volunteer opportunities. I served as Student Director and Adviser for the Enterprise and Environmental Legal Clinics, volunteered with StreetLaw, and was a Student Voice Representative. These experiences were fulfilling and provided a wide range of skills for legal roles and interviews.

Prior to my current role, I served as Student President at BPP Students' Association. My role involved ensuring the student voice was heard and that staff understood the student experience. I sat on committees, organised focus groups, and supported Student Volunteers. I am proud of the work I did in co-producing initiatives with students to improve Student Voice's efforts. I also worked on projects such as Sustainability Ambassadors, Community Ambassadors, and the SpeakEasy English Club.

I am thrilled to now be working as Trainee Solicitor with the Social Impact team. This



12-month contract means I am halfway through completing my qualifying work experience to become a solicitor. In the future, I aspire to work in environmental law, helping transform our relationship with the planet to ensure humanity is recognised as part of nature.

To new students, I recommend doing as much volunteer work as you can—it helps apply classroom skills in real-life situations. Look after your wellbeing and be compassionate towards yourself. If it weren't for the support from Safeguarding and Learning Support, I might not have finished my Master's. Maintain a structured daily routine that includes self-care. I read for pleasure, meditate, and lift weights to keep balanced.

One of my favourite quotes is...
"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us." – Gandalf.
Studying law in the aftermath of Brexit, witnessing the rise of the far-right, and during a cost of living, climate, and biodiversity crisis can feel overwhelming. However, it is inspiring to know that we have the skills to make a genuine difference at this crucial point in humanity's history.

FROM LAB TO LAW

EMILY PARKINSON
LAW STUDENT, RECENTLY COMPLETED THE PGDL, NOW PREPARING TO BEGIN THE LLM SQE 1 & 2 IN SEPTEMBER



me pivot to law, but rather a growing awareness that science, while essential, often needed the support of legal frameworks to create real change. I began to read more about environmental law in my own time, and what began as a side interest gradually became a central focus.

The transition from science to law has been both exciting and, at times, daunting – particularly for a recently diagnosed dyslexic. Moving from data sets and field samples to case law and legal reasoning required a shift not only in my academic approach but also in how I thought. In STEM, precision and objectivity are everything—there’s usually a clear right or wrong. Law, however, thrives in nuance and interpretation, and that was a challenge I had to embrace.

If you had asked me a few years ago where I saw myself today, I’m not sure I would’ve said “on the path to becoming a solicitor.”

Growing up both my parents were scientists, and I was sure I would be one someday too. For A Levels I chose Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths and went on to do a master’s degree in chemistry. I love finding out how the world works, and learning this through equations, formulas and chemical reactions just seemed to make sense to me.

After graduating I worked various jobs in ecology for a few years. Working with the Forestry Commission and an environmental consultancy gave me real-world experience in environmental science and conservation. I loved the scientific research involved in that work, but over time, I found myself increasingly fascinated by the systems that governed it—the policies, the regulation, the law. There wasn’t one single moment that made



Despite this, I’ve found my STEM background to be an asset. It’s trained me to approach problems logically, to analyse complex information methodically, and to communicate clearly—skills that translate remarkably well to legal study. I’ve also found that my slightly more complex journey into law has given me an authentic and (hopefully) convincing answer to those “why law” questions in interviews, and the challenges I’ve had to overcome adapting the way I work show I’m motivated to make it happen.

Now, as a law conversion/SQE student, I’ve not only made peace with the transition—I’ve embraced it fully. I’ve been lucky enough to have secured a training contract, which has been a huge milestone and an incredible confidence boost. It’s given me a sense of direction and reassurance that this leap of faith was worth it.

But more than that, I’ve come to appreciate the importance of representation and support for others making similar transitions. That’s

why I and my fellow students have recently started Lab to Law, a student-led society at BPP designed to support those from STEM backgrounds who are now exploring legal careers. It’s early days but have already been so rewarding to create a space where we can share experiences, demystify the legal profession, and show that there’s no “one-size-fits-all” route into law.

Looking ahead, I’m still working towards overcoming some of the challenges; I know I have skills gaps to address and I’m still yet to find a way of keeping on top of the vast amounts of reading there is in Law. But I’m excited to continue the journey and hopefully build a community for other students in similar positions through the Lab to Law Society.

In sharing this, I hope it reassures others that career paths aren’t always linear—and that’s not a weakness, it’s a strength. What matters most is not where you started, but the conviction with which you pursue where you’re going.

OPPORTUNITIES AT BPP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SYED ZEESHAN ABID
PRESIDENT, BPP PAKISTAN'S STUDENTS SOCIETY



I am currently studying LLM International Business and Commercial Law at BPP Waterloo Campus in London. The course is designed for lawyers aiming to further their careers in International Commercial Law. BPP has highly committed and professional tutors with real-world experience who bring practical insight into the classroom.

I was elected as Class Representative through voting. This role has taught me a lot, especially about communication and coordination between classmates and university administration. I've had the opportunity to raise student concerns and work closely with university staff.

With encouragement from peers, I created the **BPP Pakistan's Students Society**. Where I currently serve as President. The society is thriving, with over ninety active members and a growing presence on campus. One of its standout achievements includes hosting a vibrant celebration for **Pakistan Independence Day**—

the first time an ambassador from the Pakistan Embassy has visited BPP for such an occasion. H.E. Ambassador Shafiq Ahmad Shahzad was our chief guest and engaged directly with students. The event featured traditional food and music and was a major milestone for our society.

BPP supports student societies from various communities – including Bangladeshi, Nigerian, Indian, Gujarati, and Telugu groups – offering funding and space for cultural events and student support.

As a law student, I've also taken part in **BPP's pro bono law clinic (Social Impact)** as a **Student Director**, working alongside a solicitor to manage client appointments and interviews. This role gave me valuable insight into practical legal work, including interview techniques and team coordination.

In addition, I serve as a **Diversity Ambassador** and **Wellbeing Ambassador**. BPP provides training and support for these roles, enabling students to play an active part in fostering inclusion and supporting peer wellbeing.

Overall, my experience at BPP has been amazing. I've made friends from across the world and visited other BPP campuses for society promotion. The opportunities here are truly meaningful for students aiming to grow personally and professionally.



MY JOURNEY FROM PAKISTAN TO LONDON: A MASTER'S STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT BPP UNIVERSITY AND THE ROLE OF DIVERSITY AMBASSADOR

TRANA
BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENT,
STUDYING MSC MANAGEMENT



system, adapting to different teaching styles, and managing daily life in a foreign country required resilience and determination.



Academic and Professional Growth
Studying at BPP University has been a transformative experience. The practical approach to learning, industry-focused curriculum, and exposure to real-world case studies have deepened my understanding of project management. Engaging with peers from different backgrounds has broadened my perspective, making me more adaptable in an increasingly globalized world.

Stepping into a New Chapter
Leaving one's home country for higher education is a leap of faith, filled with excitement, challenges, and new beginnings. My journey from Pakistan to the UK was not just about pursuing an MSc in Management with Project Management at BPP University, but also about personal and professional growth.

My mother has been my greatest support throughout my academic journey. As a teacher, she knows the importance of education, and her belief in me and constant motivation have given me strength, inspiring me to pursue my dreams with determination and resilience.

As I stepped into the vibrant city of London, I was met with diversity, a fast-paced life, and endless opportunities. The transition was not always easy—navigating a new education



Embracing Diversity and Leadership as a Diversity Ambassador
As a Diversity Ambassador, I have had the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural events, advocate for student voices, and create an inclusive environment for all. London is a city that thrives on multiculturalism, and BPP University reflects that spirit. Representing diversity is not just a role for me—it is a mission to help students feel valued, included, and empowered.



Gratitude and Reflection
I am deeply grateful to Allah for guiding me on this journey, giving me the strength to overcome challenges, and blessing me with opportunities for growth.

A heartfelt thank you to the Students' Association team for their incredible support. Special thanks to Dan and Sabiya for their unwavering dedication, patience, and guidance—they have truly made a difference in my journey.



Looking Ahead
My journey is still unfolding, and every challenge has been a stepping stone toward growth. From managing studies and work to embracing leadership opportunities, I am constantly evolving. This experience has not only strengthened my academic and professional foundation but has also shaped me into a more resilient and determined individual.



MY BPP JOURNEY

SURAKSHYA KANDEL
PRESIDENT, NEPALESE SOCIETY



My name is Surakshya Kandel, and I come from the vibrant and culturally rich country of Nepal. In October 2022, I embarked on an exciting new journey by arriving in the United Kingdom to pursue a BSc in Accounting & Finance at BPP University. Choosing to study Accounting & Finance was a decision driven by passion and purpose. My time at BPP University has been defined not just by academic pursuits but also by my active involvement in various leadership roles that have allowed me to make a difference on campus.

President of the Nepali Society

I'm honoured to have served as President of Nepali Society at BPP University. Leading this society was a fulfilling way to celebrate my Nepali heritage whilst also creating a supportive network for students from Nepal and other backgrounds.. In this role I organised cultural events, networking sessions and social gatherings that helped bridge the gap between our diverse cultures. It was a position that not only fostered community spirit but also empowered me to be an ambassador of my roots in a foreign land.

Student Voice Representative

One of my earliest opportunities was serving as a Student Voice Representative. This role enabled me to advocate for my fellow students and ensure that our collective opinions and concerns were heard by the university administration. Through this experience, I learned the importance of effective communication, empathy, and the value of being a proactive member of the community. One of the most memorable experiences was attending two events at Wembley Stadium, where I played a key role in helping draft the Student-Written Submissions. Standing in one of the most iconic venues in the world, I felt an overwhelming sense of pride and responsibility.

My time at BPP University has been a journey of self-discovery, leadership, and cultural integration. From the moment I arrived in the UK, to becoming a leader and advocate for my peers, every step has been filled with valuable lessons and unforgettable memories. I am grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to grow academically, socially, and personally. As I continue on my path in the field of Accounting & Finance, I carry with me not just the knowledge and skills from my studies, but also the rich experiences that have shaped who I am today. Thank you for joining me on this journey. May my story inspire others to embrace new challenges, celebrate their heritage, and lead with passion and purpose.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME: FINDING BELONGING BEYOND BORDERS

At BPP University, we understand that studying in a new country can be both exciting and overwhelming. The thrill of new opportunities is often accompanied by moments of loneliness, cultural adjustment, and longing for familiarity. That's why we created Home Away From Home — a space where students from all over the world can come together, connect, and feel seen.

What is Home Away From Home?

Home Away From Home is more than just an event — it's a movement of compassion, culture, and community. It's a wellbeing initiative to help international students (and anyone feeling isolated) build meaningful friendships and feel at home within our university family.

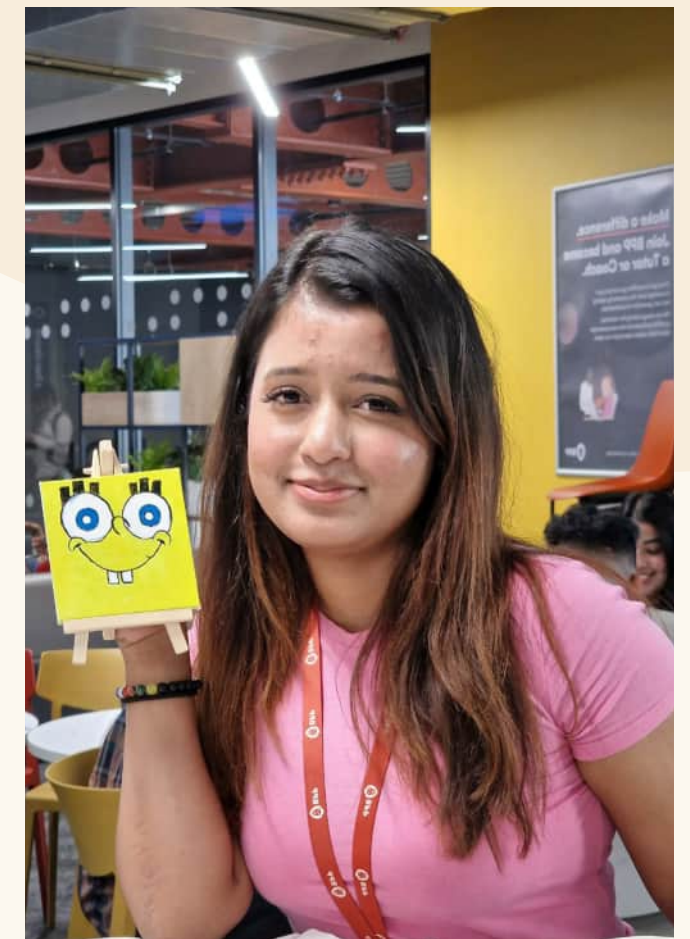
Through creative activities like art, food sharing, storytelling, and language exchange, we create an atmosphere where strangers become companions and different cultures become bridges, not barriers.

How Did It Start?

The initiative was inspired by a strong and meaningful need to combat loneliness within our diverse student community.

We wanted to create a welcoming space where students could share pieces of their heritage, express themselves freely, and feel supported in their journey — emotionally, socially, and culturally.

With the help of the Wellbeing Team, Independent Education & Welfare Advice Team and the Events & Engagement team, Home Away From Home became a pivotal event that now sits at the heart of our wellbeing calendar.



What Students Are Saying

The response has been incredible, and one student reflects:

“When did you last feel completely alone in a foreign country? Today changed everything. Our Home Away From Home event wasn’t just another gathering—it was magic unfolding in real time.”

Mehrin Ruaid

Other students shared similar experiences:

“I felt like I couldn’t find anyone similar to me in class, but managed to make a new friend when I came to this event.”

Harpreet Kaur

“The friends I made at the event during my first term have become close friends now in my third term.”

Syed Ali



CHASING DREAMS ACROSS CONTINENTS: MY EXPERIENCE AT BPP UNIVERSITY

USWA IRFAN
BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENT, CURRENTLY STUDYING FOR A BSC IN APPLIED MANAGEMENT



We formed teams, created business ideas, and pitched them to a panel. We didn't win, but the energy in that room—the spark, the nerves, the drive—felt like a preview of the life waiting for us here.

Adjusting to the UK's education style and culture was a challenge. Learning to study differently, live differently, even think differently, took time. But I came with the mindset to embrace every shift, no matter how unfamiliar. I love attending lectures, staying engaged with university life, and seeing new cohorts walk through the doors each month, wide-eyed and unsure, just like I was. It reminds me how much I've grown since that first day.

A few years ago, if someone had told me I'd be balancing lectures and part-time work while navigating life in one of the busiest cities in the world, I wouldn't have believed them. But here I am—building a life I once only dreamed about, one step, one coffee, one lesson at a time.

I come from Sialkot—a city of stories stitched into every corner, where resilience runs deep and dreams often outgrow the borders. After completing my HSC with 89%, I stepped into the real world by managing a branch at OPTP. It wasn't just a job, it was the beginning of something meaningful. That experience opened my eyes to leadership, responsibility, and what it means to manage people and pressure. It led me to pursue Applied Management, where I could blend practical experience with deeper understanding.

Choosing BPP felt natural. I wanted a place that didn't just offer a degree, but a journey and BPP gave me exactly that. One of the most memorable experiences early on was the Pitch Perfect session during induction.

London has been many things to me. On good days, it feels like home. On tough ones, it feels like a city that demands everything. But that contrast has shaped me. Some days I feel grateful to be here, other days I wrestle with doubt but through it all, I keep moving forward.

This city, this journey, this experience—it's more than just education. It's transformation. And as I look ahead, toward dreams that now feel possible, I carry a piece of home with me... while letting this new place shape the rest.



BPP ARBITRATION SOCIETY SHINES AT FRANKFURT MOOT



In June, the Arbitration Society sent two members to Frankfurt to compete in the 17th annual Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot. Credit for this achievement goes to their two exceptional speakers, Leandre Stevens and Jimena Almudena Izquierdo Rodriguez, who represented BPP during the oral phase of the competition and led our team to be the only UK Law School to make it to the oral rounds of the competition. Credit also goes to the coaches from the law school, Blerina Xheraj and Rishad Stylianou as well as the members of the team who completed the written submissions previously, Leandre Stevens, Ryan Hollreiser and Hamza Sohail. We asked everyone who competed to share their experiences.

"As a coach, I am grateful that I shared this journey with my colleague Rishad Stylianou. This is the 4th team we coached together at BPP in the past six months, and this may be an unbeatable record. On a side note, our team was the only UK Law School to make it to the oral rounds of the competition GB. This was all due to the strong team spirit we built in these weeks, and the support and trust we received from the BPP Students Association and the Law School."

Blerina Xheraj Ph.d., Law School tutor, professional arbitrator and competition coach

"I had the incredible opportunity to step in last minute and compete in the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot. With limited time to prepare, it was an intense challenge for me, but also one of the most rewarding experiences I've had so far. I'm proud to share that our team placed third overall. Beyond the advocacy and legal analysis, what made the week truly special was the people."

Jimena Izquierdo Rodriguez, competition speaker and Arbitration Society President

Competing at the FIAM 2025 was an amazing experience. Having to plead and argue complex legal (and factual) issues, including some unsettled points of law before experienced investment arbitration practitioners was as challenging as it was rewarding; many arbitrators congratulated us and gave us helpful feedback and advice after the hearings.

Leandre A. Stevens, competition speaker and researcher

“Being part of the FIAM 2025 Moot was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my academic journey. I learned so much, not just about legal research, but also about advocacy skills, the norms of mooting, and how to think strategically as a team. It pushed me out of my comfort zone in the best way possible. I’m especially grateful to Rishad and Blerina for their steady guidance and encouragement throughout. I’m proud of what we achieved.

Hamza Sohail, competition researcher



This was the first moot team I’ve been a part of, and I learned an enormous amount preparing the written submissions and developing oral arguments. International investment law isn’t covered on the BPP PGDL course, and it was exciting to have the opportunity to explore and engage with a new area of law that I otherwise wouldn’t have encountered. The skills I developed were invaluable. I was incredibly fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated and talented team, and the support we received from BPP staff was outstanding. The experience deepened my interest in international arbitration and has definitely shaped how I think about the kind of legal work I’d like to pursue going forward.

Ryan Hollreiser, competition researcher



If you’re interested in honing your advocacy, exploring international law, or being part of a supportive and ambitious community, the Arbitration Society is the perfect place to push your limits and expand your horizons. Ready to take your legal skills to the next level? Apply to join the Arbitration Society today! For further information, check out BPPStudents.com or email Engage@bpp.com.

The background of the entire page consists of five concentric circles. From the center outwards, the colors are: light pink, light blue, yellow, grey-blue, and light pink.

Interested in setting up a Club or Society?

We will help you every step of the way

Email us at
engage@bpp.com