



# THE STUDENT LEARNING ASSISTANT

## WELCOME

- Welcome to the 4th issue of the Student Learning Assistant Newsletter. The Newsletter is aimed at all Student Learning Assistants (SLAs) and the wider university community of academic and administrative staff who are involved in the SLA scheme. The idea is to create awareness regarding the SLA scheme and to provide a forum for discussions, suggestions and contributions by all currently involved and also those who have been involved in the past such as SLA Alumni and other members of staff.
- Thanks for all your feedback on the previous issues of the newsletter. All your comments and feedback are appreciated. Please email s.ajayi@mdx.ac.uk for any contributions and comments.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Revision</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Law - Legal Method</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>SLAs Giving Advice</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Awards Ceremony</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Alumni</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Plagiarism and Turnitin Training</i>	<b>4</b>

## SLAs ASSIST AT THE REVISION FAIR

On 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 at the ReWise stalls in the Quad I was representing LDU as a Student Learning Assistant helping students with exam revision and meeting coursework deadlines.

We organised a few games to make it fun which easily attracted students. Games including memory tests and Sudoku stimulated students memory. Students also had a go at the Rubik's cube which only one student managed to solve.

It was really a great experience for me as a student and a Student Learning Assistant. I helped students with their revision techniques by asking them how they study and revise and if the strategies worked for them.

The questions got them thinking about their techniques and other suitable techniques they could use.

It also helped me to know about other exam skills that we did not have on our list.

As a Student Learning Assistant I felt motivated and appreciated because I knew the students who came to the Learner Development Unit table needed our help, and fortunately I had the chance to help and share my experience.

One of the things I advised fellow students was to use the revision techniques that worked best for them as people may study and revise differently.

I also reminded them to check how many questions and how much time they had for their exams so that they would know what to expect.

As I kept repeating these exam revision skills, I realised, I was going to have to do the same thing (wake up call as others may call it). The experience gave me the opportunity to interact with other students.

Generally, I would say it was interesting and fun, had lots of students coming to play games and to get advice. OUR TABLE WAS ONE OF THE LIVELIEST AT THE STALLS. Sadly my shift ended too soon.

**Carolnye Kaliati**  
(Law & LDU SLA)



**“We think drop-in sessions are a very good idea. They help students in their assignments, and also allow SLAs to work together as a team and get to know each other and the students better.”**

### Famous Quote

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

Malcolm Forbes

### Contributions for the newsletter are received from

Celia Bautista  
 Carlyne Kaliati  
 Ashlea Smart  
 Silvia Modiga,  
 Neli Borisova  
 Myriam Boufersen  
 Diana Makinka  
 Jovita Lebednykaite  
 Ana Marinica  
 Mary L Abah  
 Rakhi Shah

## A CONVERSATION WITH LEGAL METHOD (LAW) SLAs

Working as an SLA this year was a great experience.

We had a lot of freedom and independence which permitted us to be creative and productive at the same time.

We had the chance to work with Immigration Judge Patricia Drummond Farrell, and that was a very pleasant experience. Along with being pleasant, we can definitely say that it was enriching, and very good for our memory to stay fresh, and focused on what we learned last year.

We felt that a lot of trust and responsibility was given to us and we hope that we used it to our best advantage.

Our SLA work ranged from arranging work session with students individually to planning group work, in the end it all came down to our decision and judgement.

Being an SLA is similar to a first job with a lot of responsibilities! After all, we were helping students with things we had only learnt last year?

Ultimately, although it was time consuming, and we must admit that sometimes, we wished we spent that time revising, there is nothing we did that we regret, and working for Joe was anything but boring.

Contributions from Ashlea Smart, Neli Borisova, Silvia Modiga and Myriam Boufersen



Silvia Modiga



Myriam Boufersen

## SLAs WORKING WITH STUDENTS

The SLA scheme has benefited the students significantly, as they have not only improved their knowledge of the different modules, it has also helped to reduce the pressure and fear, which some students encounter during their first year. This is because it is the role of the SLAs to assist the students to settle in well with their studies.

Apart from the benefit to the students, the scheme has also improved the SLA's professional development. By working with other students, SLAs become aware of the varied skills that they did not realise they possess. As a result, they have not only developed their communication skills, they have also learned to be more patient and tolerant, especially when working with students of different abilities.

**Mary Lucy Abah (LDU SLA)**



Jovita Lebednykaite having a 1-2-1 session with a student.



Ana Marinica providing tips to a student at the Learning Lounge.



Diana Makinka working with a student

# SLA AWARDS CEREMONY



**The SLA team would like to thank all Student Learning Assistants for all their hard work this year!!!**  
More pictures at [Sla.middlesex](http://Sla.middlesex) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). Join us.



## Middlesex University

Middlesex University  
The Burroughs  
Hendon  
London  
NW4 4BT

Student Learning Assistants (SLAs) are Middlesex University students who have been identified by their academic tutors as being highly motivated and capable individuals.

SLAs work collaboratively with academics in lectures, labs, seminars, workshops and small group sessions to support other students in their learning.

To find out more about SLAs, visit <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/ldu/SLA/index.aspx>

**Reminder to SLAs: Kindly complete the questionnaire, if you have not done so**

**Join us on Facebook at [Sla.middlesex](https://www.facebook.com/Sla.middlesex)**

**Lest we forget...**

- SLAs facilitate and do not teach
- SLAs are not counsellors—when in doubt refer to Academics, PAL Manager, or to the counselling service on [unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/counselling/index.aspx](http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/counselling/index.aspx)
- SLAs are students and should keep on top of own workload
- SLAs work collaboratively with Academics
- SLAs are the best. Let this reflect in all aspects of our education.

**ALUMNI news**

**Rakhi V Shah**  
Graduate, MA Marketing Management

*“The more extensive a man’s knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do”*

**Benjamin Disraeli**

Transiting to student life and resuming studies after ten years of considerable work experience was a challenge and there was a lot to take in, very quickly. My objective for taking up a Masters in Marketing Management was to learn and develop accurate and definite knowledge in marketing and its process, mentored by the expert professors.

To embark on this, I was privileged to receive a full sponsorship from Middlesex Regional Office in India. I am grateful for the opportunity as it was my desire to study abroad in order to enhance my career growth.

While on my course, I was attached to one of the employment schemes at the University to develop transferable skills, which added

value to my study and work. I got selected as a “Student Learning Assistant (SLA)” facilitating first year students to settle down faster in their academic life. This experience created a friendly atmosphere between students and the lecturers. On a personal level, I have evolved into an individual with great amount of self-esteem and confidence.

The two main services I have utilised which are provided by the University are the Library and the Learning Development Unit (LDU). In my opinion, the Sheppard Library is the utmost important learning resource. If used properly, it is the ladder to high grades. This is followed by the LDU department which shaped me to improve in areas such as Academic writing, referencing, phases of writing literature review

required for my course and dissertation with valid feedback by the LDU Tutors.

Being an international student, one requires courage to stay away from families and friends in our home countries. I am proud that I have managed very well on my own in such a safe and learning friendly University. The university provided me with a network to weather all storms. These factors were extremely important to accomplish my aim to finish my MA Marketing course.

Studying at Middlesex was a once in a life time opportunity, which helped me connect with people from different countries. I am genuinely thankful for the experience Middlesex has provided me in the one year of my studies and the memories will guide me forever.

## PLAGIARISM AND TURNITIN TRAINING

We recently had some training with regards to helping students who had queries about plagiarism and using Turnitin.

The training session was geared towards Frequently Asked Questions that students generally asked LDU and MUSU members of staff. Furthermore, it highlighted some of the issues that students came across when preparing their coursework, which I personally hadn't even considered.

Following the training, we went on to work on the plagiarism stall in the Quad which brought me in contact with some pretty interesting students whose opinions on what plagiarism was and

whether it was a huge problem or not, left me with a new outlook on plagiarism.

Lastly, from interacting with the students, I realised how helpful the training was, as most of the queries that came up were what was discussed in the training.

All in all, it was a really good experience and I am glad I got to be a part of it.

**Diana Makinka**

