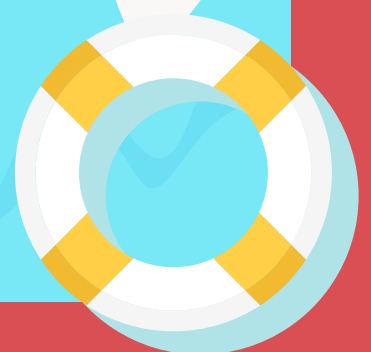




MDX SLA

**Student Learning Assistant
Newsletter Summer 2018**





Welcome

To the 2018 Summer Edition of Our SLA Newsletter

PAL Manager's Note

What a privilege to work with the current cohort of SLAs! It is amazing to read about how SLAs as committed and talented peer leaders work to improve the learning of others.

This edition focuses on the annual SLA Awards ceremony which is the university's way of saying "Thank You" to all SLAs for your contributions towards student success. Page 7 provides candid reflections by Tommy (Senior SLA) of leading on the SLA Awards event planning project and also contains delightful images of the night. We were treated to a video collage of SLA achievements (see excerpts on pages 5 and 6) in and out of the university which was duly acknowledged by all present. SLA Extraordinaire, Dhana received the long service PAL award for exceptionaland gives a roundup of her SLA role (page 8) which spans four years!

Chancellor of MDX university, Dame Janet Ritterman and Nick Bevan (Pro V-C and Director of LSS) represented the executives in honouring and celebrating all the SLAs at the SLA Awards night. I join them in gratitude for all your hard work and in wishing you the very best in your future endeavours. Congratulations to everyone!



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Editor's Note

Welcome to this vibrant and colourful addition of the SLA Newsletter.

This edition is an excellent way to end the year and to showcase a few of the activities SLAs have been involved in at the university and beyond. As SLAs we pride ourselves in being well rounded students and this is reflected in our achievements and efforts as shown inside this edition!!

The SLA branding and website has gone through some changes after a very much needed update which can also be found inside this edition as well as the amazing work we do at the Student Success Festival.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all SLAs the very best of luck with their future endeavours.

Enjoy!



Tahminaz Chowdhury

TC644@live.mdx.ac.uk | Senior SLA & SLA Criminal Law

Website Revamp Project

Towards the end of the year, the SLA presence on Unihub was finally updated! It has made many improvements towards the navigation of the website, where relative information for SLAs, Students and Staff have been sectioned into concise yet informative information.

Components in the 'Info For' sections include a news bulletin, which will be updated regularly throughout the year to notify users of upcoming events and procedures such as the Student Success Festivals, staff recommendations and SLA applications for the new term. Links to such forms and Info sessions have also been embedded to the pages.

We also introduced a section dedicated to our Senior SLAs. We believe that with all their hard work and effort they endure at the forefront and behind the scenes, that their say should be included on the SLA website. Their messages look to inspire Students and SLAs by showcasing their skills and goals achieved with the help of the SLA scheme.

And finally, the website makeover looks like the finished article with the images capturing our SLAs in action. Patrik Jinek (2nd Yr student & SLA) has done a fantastic job in taking these professional pictures. It has really helped the PAL team spread Visual awareness of the SLA scheme.



Mahdie Haque
PAL Assistant

Student Success Festival

WHAT IS THE SSF?

Student Learning Assistants (SLA) are committed to support, raise aspirations and help students to achieve their potential through learning by taking part in The Student Success Festival (SSF). It is a holistic grouping of a large array of services within Middlesex University to help students achieve their best! My experience forming a team of SLAs and getting them involved in the festival was truly remarkable

THE GOAL

- ✔ To help students engage with the MDX community
- ✔ To help students prepare for examinations and assessments
- ✔ To introduce students to study skills (reduce stress, relaxation techniques)
- ✔ To help raise awareness of the Universities services

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- ✔ Buzz wire challenge
- ✔ Charades
- ✔ Crossword giant puzzle
- ✔ Hanoi tower
- ✔ Design your own bookmark
- ✔ Himalayan singing bowl

THE AIM OF THE ACTIVITIES

The overall aim of the activities is to help students hone non-verbal communication, develop mental and mathematical skills and Reflection skills.

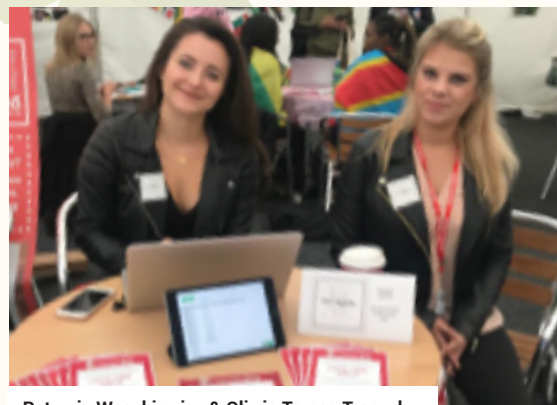
Overall, it was an amazing experience working in collaboration with 15-20 SLAs who received superb feedback! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our SLAs for the success of the event, their hard work and commitment which contributed to the overwhelming success of the event.



Dhana Letchmanan
PAL Assistant

SLA Spotlight

Welcome to the SLA Spotlight section. Over the next two pages we will be showcasing some of the exceptional awards and achievements of our SLAs.



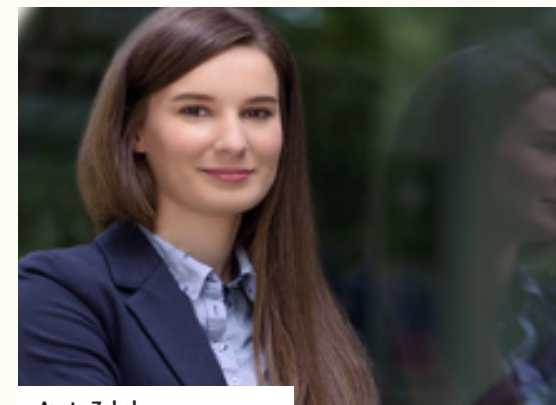
Patrycja Waszkiewicz & Oliwia Teresa Traczyk
Proud Presidents of TECHgirls

Patrycja and Oliwia successfully organised a free 8-week coding courses for women at Middlesex University in collaboration with Codefirst:Girls!



Artur Graczyk
SLA Science & Technology

Arthur & Aneta founded the society together to inspire like minded people with a passion for technology to explore their dreams...



Aneta Zabek,
SLA Science & Technology

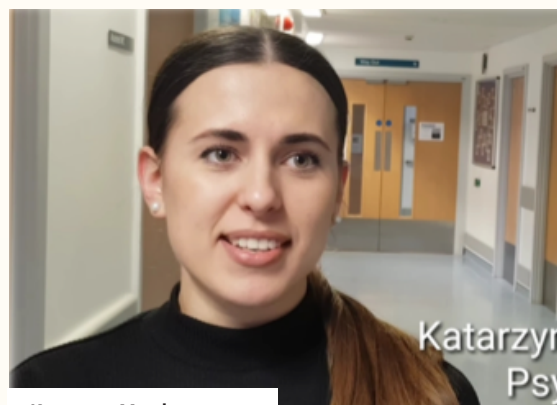
Arthur & Aneta founded the society together to inspire like minded people with a passion for technology to explore their dreams...



Tahminaz Chowdhury
Senior SLA & SLA Criminal Law

Tahminaz has taken steps to explore the legal world beyond the university and has been awarded with a variety of exciting legal opportunities.

- Glaxo Smith Kline Legal intern
- Salvation Army Legal Summer internship
- Mini Pupillage at 1 High Pavement Chambers
- Middlesex University Legal Advice Clinic Volunteer



Katarzyna Marek
SLA Science & Technology

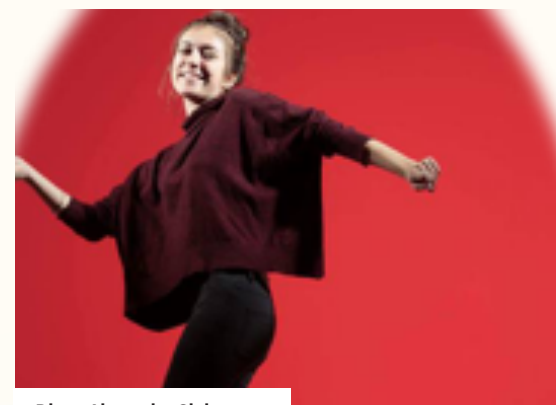
New Assistant Psychologist at NHS (Neurosciences) St George University Hospitals.



Emmanuel Keboh
SLA Science & Technology

"I have successfully completed a one year placement as a Technology Analyst with Goldman Sachs and have been offered a job as a Technology Analyst (Software Engineer)"

Working in collaboration with MDX Employability to attract more students to explore placement jobs and help them with their dream career path.



Diana Alexandra Ciobotaru
SLA Business

Brand Ambassador
NCS The Challenge



Zainab Jivraj
SLA

Zainab is soon to be Assistant Director of Explore Learning.

SLA Spotlight



Agnieszka Jucht
SLA Science & Technology

"Thanks to my role as an SLA, I managed to secure a postgraduate placement at UCL, Msc in Cancer"



Michael Chmielinski
SLA Banking & Finance

"I've spent my second year on a study exchange in New York. I completed summer internship in Asset Management with Siemens Financial Services and year-long placement with Airbus in Financial Planning and Reporting as part of my degree"

Next Step – International business development intern at Bettzeit GmbH, in Germany and a one year MA in Business Management in Hong Kong.



Yash Bhatti
SLA Economics

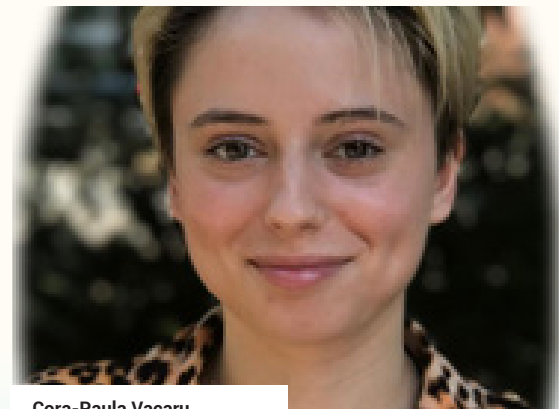
- Member of Democracy and Involvement Committee for 2yrs
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal Award (achieved height of 5300m of Stok Kangri in the Himalayas)
- Member of the Rotary Club in India & co-organised projects:
- Thalassaemia and Blood Donation Camp
- Service for Mother Teresa Orphanage
- India's polio-free campaign.



Ines Filipa Taboleiros Tomazinho
SLA Child Nursing

"My achievements started when I moved to the UK 5 years ago and decided to work towards my goals"

"I have worked really hard to achieve the top grades and also did loads of volunteering in my school and community, and ended up being recognised for it locally"



Cora-Paula Vacaru
SLA Translation

Next Destination – Localisation studies Aspiration – Joining Apple

Awards Ceremony

Planning and delivering the 2018 SLA awards ceremony was one of the most challenging projects I have undertaken at Middlesex University. Completing this whilst doing my finals also meant that I was incredibly stressed during the last 6 weeks.

Probably the most challenging element for me personally was delegating important responsibilities to different teams to share the work load. This required a high level of trust in those teams and for me to relinquish this responsibility increased my stress levels even more! Thankfully though every single person involved in the

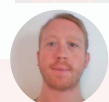
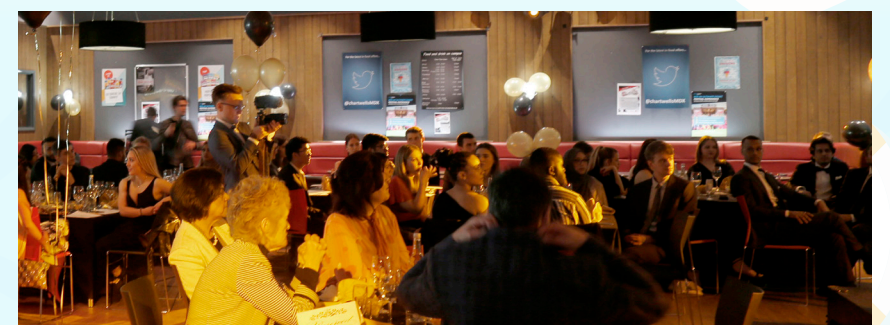
helped me overcome every single challenge and was so sorely missed on the night.

Winning Best Senior SLA was one of the highlights of my time at Middlesex and I would like to wish all of those who are applying to be a Senior SLA next year all the very best of luck.



planning committee did a fantastic job and the event was an enormous success.

I'd like to thank every single person that helped plan and deliver such a magnificent event. I want to say a special thank you to Magda, who



Thomas McLennan
Senior SLA Science & Tech

SLA Milestone

Dhana's SLA milestone 2014 - 2018

"Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision, and gives us the right stuff to turn our dream into reality"

- James Womack -

Every journey of a thousand mile begins with one step. I have been privileged to study at Middlesex University where as an International student it has never crossed my mind that I will be less supported compared to home students. During my foundation year, I received support from SLAs in the embedded sessions (seminar and lab). I found their involvement in my learning as peers to be very inspiring. Thanks to the SLA scheme. I never expected to run into such a worthy programme specifically created to make life in the university so easy. The programme was stimulating, the SLAs understood what the scheme was all about and their relationship with students who try to pave their way into academic life especially in the first year. Speaking from my own perspective as an international student.



Studying at Middlesex University has opened a realm of opportunities for me and I can't think of anywhere else I would rather be for my Postgraduate. My experience in learning here assured me that all I need to be able to excel or succeed is to be in an environment where diversity and inclusion are key to the establishment. I personally take pride in being able to call myself an alumni of MDX.



ReWise event 2014 - 2015

As I progressed to my first year of Psychology and Human Resource Management undergraduate degree, I explored the SLA scheme which has done a whole loads of good for me. I have used my experience as a student and being supported by SLAs to reciprocate the same back into the scheme. This is because, I felt the need to give back. It is a programme that has a game changer effect in many students life and that includes me.

My experience as an SLA has also helped me make my mark in different areas of studies. Because, I interacted with students from all walks of life. Being a Science and Technology student, in year one I was supporting the Foundation year students and in year two I was more actively involved in activities and projects such as Student Success Festival, SLA promotional events, facilitated the StudyHub together with Learning Enhancement



Dhana receiving Study Hub Award 2015 - 2016

Team and worked in collaboration with many other staff partnership within the university.

What I have gotten out of my learning, partnership and collaboration experience is the aspiration to pursue a placement to be open to more opportunities related to my area of study. I yearn for more success stories in my career as I embark on a quest to undertake a placement role to broaden my horizon and to have a good repertoire of skills. The latter is a gateway to greater achievement as I believe in lifelong learning and giving back to a community of learners, academics staffs that believes in success stories, leadership and achievement.



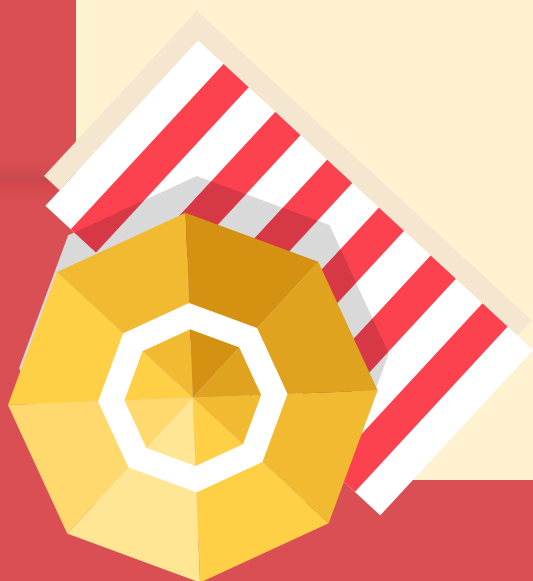
Dhana with Senior SLAs 2016 - 2017



Dhana with PAL Manager Simbo (left) and Chancellor Dame Ritterman (far right) 2018



Dhana Letchmanan
PAL Assistant



MDX
SLA



MDXSLAs



sla@mdx.ac.uk

Student Learning Assistant
Newsletter Summer 2017/18



DO NOT FORGET!

- Use your Mahara reflections
- Use effective communication skills
- Refer students to other student support services
- SLAs facilitate and do not teach
- SLAs are not counsellors
- SLAs are students and should keep on top of their workload
- SLAs work collaboratively with academics
- SLAs are the best!