

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

The SLA Newsletter
Winter Edition

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Written by Charlotte Johnston

What have we been up to?

As Winter ends, we start off this new year reminiscing on the achievements we have done so far.

In this newsletter we are going to discuss the fun events that we have held and the exciting upcoming events to look forward to in the new year. We are excited to welcome the new SLAs that have joined us in the first term and we are looking forward to more SLAs joining us in this next term.

The photo on the right was taken from a reflective activity that we did, an SLA wanted to explain collaborative learning and teamwork through this art form. This is a key term we used in SLA training and one we encourage you to continue to work on.

If there are any suggestions or any SLAs interested in working on the newsletter, just drop an email at SLA@mdx.ac.uk

If you haven't followed our Instagram page, please give it a follow to keep up to date with what we are up to.

[@mdxslahendon](https://www.instagram.com/mdxslahendon)



You're not alone
Collaborative learning is key!



Let's start back at the beginning...

In August, training started for our new Senior SLAs, it was the first time meeting everyone and they were all excited but a bit nervous.

The training discussed several different aspects of the Senior SLA role such as Leadership, Time Management, Multitasking, Project Co-ordination and Problem Solving. As a team the Senior SLAs were trained upon what different events they would be supporting with together and the daily tasks they would face.

The overall preface for training was to prepare and excite the new Senior SLAs, each Senior SLA has their own cohort of SLAs this is a big undertaking but a rewarding role.

A huge thank you to all our amazing Senior SLAs for all the hard work they have done and continue to do.



“Working as a Senior SLA has been a refreshing experience. Working with like minded people who strive to positively impact the next generations of SLAs has been beautiful to watch. I have learned the importance of team work and showing up for one another.”

Peace, Senior SLA



Then the SLA training began...

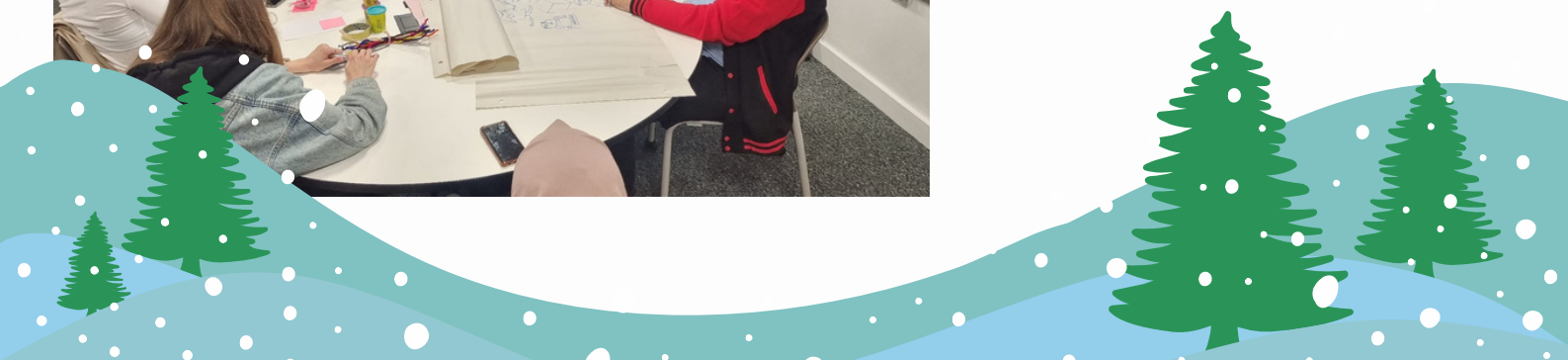
Then we moved on to training new SLAs, the first training seminars and workshops began in September and then led on to October and November training. There was so many academics who were desperate for SLA support. This is amazing that there are so many SLAs able to provide support to other students at Middlesex University.

Some of the activities we did during training was an ice breaker game called the, 'Spaghetti and Marshmallow Challenge' which you can see a few SLA's attempting to make the tallest tower.

There was also, scenario videos, role play activities and reflective sessions which was all to encourage all the SLAs to utilise this in their sessions, now officially working as SLAs.



“The SLA training gave me insight on the leader I strive to become one day, but most importantly how to be a valuable team player. The sessions have encouraged me to become more reflective and confident which has positively translated in how I conduct myself as an SLA.”
Zita, SLA



Time to Reflect...

The Reflective Café is our recurring meeting event which will take place every month of the academic year. You are able to meet other SLAs as an opportunity to network and also learn the various ways of reflective practice which is a vital aspect to your role as an SLA. These photos were taken from the first reflective cafe that we held in October with Senior SLAs and SLAs from a variety of different courses and cohorts.

Join us at the next Reflective Cafe on ...



We did a variety of different activities, we began with a fun, creative introduction where we asked the SLAs to tell us something about them whether that be a hobby, their studies, something more spiritual or symbolic but show us using different art supplies such as play-dough, pipe cleaners etc. Then we had a lecturer from the LET (Learning-Enhancement-Team) to hold a reflective session and develop our analytical skills in a reflective practice. The Senior SLAs also, ran a session which tested the SLAs skills on reflecting back to the keywords discussed in the training. We created a post-it note wall, sticking post it notes of key words about what makes a good SLA? Some of the key terms were, Confidence, Patience, Compassion and Knowledgeable. Then we finished the reflective cafe writing the OU Blogs and reflecting on what we had learnt from this session.

“Attending the Reflective Cafe helped to bring clarity to my narrative essay”
Francesca, SLA



Student Success Fair

Then in November we had the Student Success Fair (SSF) which had lots of stands from different support services and was focusing on the theme of Curiosity. This was a well-attended event and had the SLA stand had a lot of fun games and prizes.

On the SLA stand there was a spin-the-wheel game, a buzz wire game, crossword puzzle and a space for creative design surrounding the theme of Curiosity.

Prizes were won for the best at these games and lots of fun was shared, this was a successful event which we hoped lots of people enjoyed!

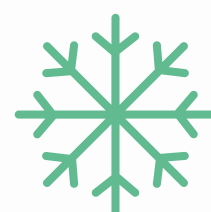
One of the other games we held was a Treasure Hunt, where there was 10 rhyming clues leading to lots of stalls in the quad at the SSF. Each clue led to a support service until you got all 10 in the correct order, it was a lot of fun to create and put together. We hope that this helped students find out about a variety of support students that we have at Middlesex University.

In the end we had around 75 students participated in the hunt and there was 25 successful students who correctly completed the Treasure Hunt. A huge well done to the winner selected at random who won an amazon voucher, we hope you all thoroughly enjoyed it!



“ I found the student success fair such a great experience to be involved in, connecting with other students and engaging with them about how they are finding university life and explaining about my role and how in various ways an SLA could support them. The student success fair created a place for people to connect and network with each other and share their own experiences of university well feeling safe and welcomed. ”

Curtis, SLA



Time to let loose...

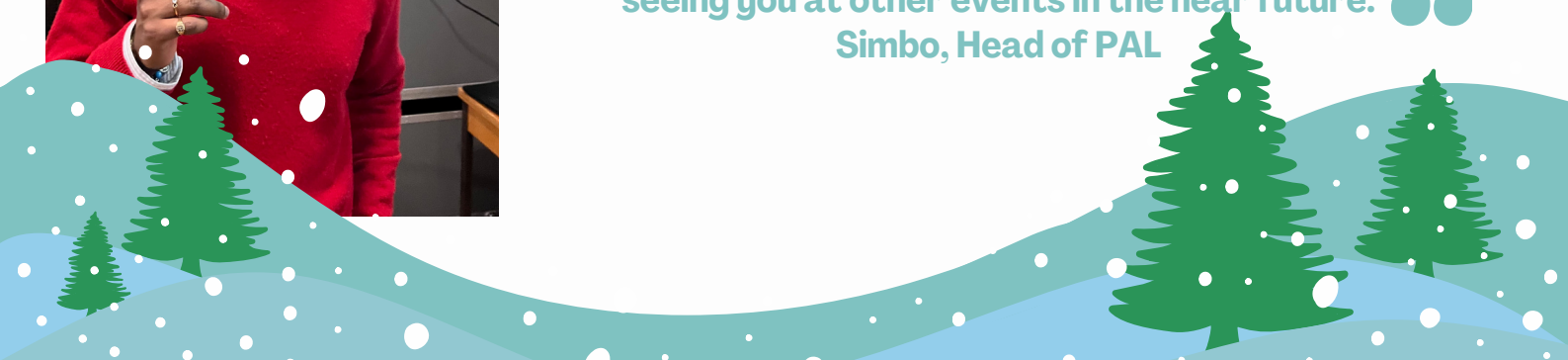
Then the final event of the first term in December we held the SLA Christmas Party. This was an exciting and fun event that was to celebrate the amazing work that the Senior SLAs and the SLAs have completed in the first term. We had a variety of games and fun prizes to be won such as, a festive bingo, just dance, sip n' paint, pin the tail on the reindeer, musical chairs and limbo.

We had a lot of fun playing these games and the SLAs had a great time, we were able to socialise and get to know each other more, there was some yummy party food and music to serenade us. This was a great event to let loose and to celebrate all of the accomplishments we have done as SLAs. We hope you all had as much fun as we did and we hope to see you at the next event.



“ I was thrilled to meet up with so many SLAs outside the “teaching and learning” setting. It was a great opportunity to say thank you for the excellent work you have been doing in supporting your peers. I personally had fun with all the networking activities and the dance moves, and I hope you did too! Look forward to seeing you at other events in the near future. ”

Simbo, Head of PAL



Things to look out for...

COMING — Soon —



We have some exciting events coming up so keep your eyes peeled and look out for email invitations, we hope to see lots of SLAs attend and grow our networking events.

Face-to-Face events:

Reflective Cafe/ Writing Retreat - January 23rd 10:30am-1:30pm.

CPD/ Follow Up Training - February 9th 12:00pm-1:00pm.

CPD/ Follow Up Training - February 23rd 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Student Success Fair (SSF) - February 28th in the Quad.

SLA Awards Ceremony - April 12th

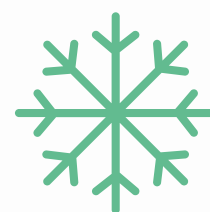
SLA Yearbook - TBD

Online events:

CPD/ Follow Up Training - January 11th 3:30pm-4:30pm.

CPD/ Follow Up Training - January 31st 3:30pm-4:30pm.

A huge thank you from all of us for all your hard work and dedication to the SLA scheme, we hope this next term will be even better than the last. Thank you!



Thank You

