

nelson college london Newsletter

Dream BIG

SEE PAGE 19



Teaching DAY 2025

SEE PAGE 12

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE



by Mary-Jo Appaqaq

Employability and Progression
Assistant Manager

The E&P Department was given a mandate in June of this year to develop a service akin to the Career Advisory Service, which we have named the Entrepreneurship Centre. This will be a place where our student and alumni entrepreneurs (and also aspiring entrepreneurs!) can come

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Royal Day Out to Buckingham Palace

At the beginning of this semester, our students had the unique opportunity to take part in a Royal Day Out — an unforgettable visit to Buckingham Palace, organised as part of our student engagement programme.

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WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

For Your Children at
Nelson College London

At Nelson College London, we understand the challenges of balancing education and family life. As part of our commitment to supporting our students, we are excited to offer work experience placements for your children, aged 14 to 18, right here at Nelson College London.

For the past three years, we have been providing work experience opportunities to local schools, helping young students gain valuable skills and knowledge for their future. Across our three campuses, we have successfully hosted over 100 students, equipping them with real-world experience in a professional environment.

What We Offer

We are extending our work experience programme to provide your children with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a professional and educational environment. This two-week placement is unpaid but designed to help students develop key workplace skills, build confidence, and explore potential career paths.

How to Apply

If your child is interested in this fantastic opportunity, we encourage you to get in touch! Speak to Samir at the Gants Hill campus or email sn.hussain@nelsoncollege.ac.uk for more information and to apply.

Give your child the chance to gain invaluable experience and take their first step towards their future career-right here at Nelson College London!

Why Choose Nelson College London for Your Child's Work Experience?

- Convenient location where your child can gain experience in a familiar and supportive setting.
- Practical exposure to real-world work environments within an academic institution.
- Development of essential workplace skills such as teamwork, communication, and time management.
- Mentorship and guidance from experienced professionals who are eager to support young learners.
- A valuable addition to their CV and future academic and career prospects.



Employability & Progression Department

WORKSHOPS UPDATE

The E&P Department is always working on expanding our workshop library and these past few months have been busy with workshop prep. A Job Search Technique workshop has been added to the titles, as well as the Ultimate Job Search Hacks. This second workshops features innumerable signposts to our various services and support on offer from the E&P Department, as well as providing practical advice for job seekers.

We are also developing a workshop on the topic of employment tribunals; what they are, how to initiate one, and who the key players are in this process. This workshop is a follow-up from our popular Statutory Employment Rights in the UK. The first being informative on what your rights are as an employee in the UK, the second being a "how-to" on what to do if you think your rights have been breached.

While we're on the subject...

A recent article in The Independent caught our eye. 491 companies including Holland and Barrett, Lidl, and British Gas were recently fined for historically paying some of their employees less than minimum wage. This came in the form of unpaid training, unpaid overtime, mandatory uniform purchases or deductions and unpaid shift prep for employees at distribution centres. It goes to show that not all companies will play by the rules, but most will eventually get found out.

These allegations spanned from 2015 to 2021, most notably running throughout the first and second lockdowns of the Covid-19 pandemic. Remember, if you are asked to complete unpaid training, unpaid shift preparations or asked to purchase your own uniform, you might be able to argue against these types of requirements.

Although it's true that the goal of a company is to make money,

many do not want to fall foul of our strong labour laws. Odds are, if you think that you've had your rights at work breached, you are likely not the only one, so don't be afraid to speak up for yourself and your colleagues!



E & P Poem

HOW TO GET THERE

by Leunig

Go to the end of the path until you get to the gate.

Go through the gate and head straight out towards the horizon.

Keep going towards the horizon.

Sit down and have a rest every now and again,

But keep on going, just keep on with it.

Keep on going as far as you can.

That's how you get there.

I love this poem because sometimes you just have to put one foot in front of the other, and keep going until you get there. With all the work we have been doing to develop the Entrepreneurship Centre, this poem feels apt both for the Centre, and for the work our students all do to continually improve their academic work, their skills and their lives. Just keep going!

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE

FROM FRONT PAGE

together, network, and seek tailored advice on their startup ventures. We have developed a logbook-style manual titled the Entrepreneurship Manual, which is a step-by-step guide of instructions dictating how to set up your business, sharpen your product ideas and market your services to your customer base. We have also developed a helpful visual aid in the Business Startup Flowchart, so look out for that around campus!



Business Insights from Swan Traits

Swan Traits

Entrepreneurial Insights

Swans build a substantial nest, ensuring it is sturdy, in a safe location and that they are fully guarded by the cob when it has the eggs in it.

Prepare thoroughly before launching. Build up your skills, resources, contacts and customer base before launching. You should also ensure that you choose the right location for your business. This can encompass aspects of local competition and the quality of the physical space. Once you have launched your business guard it ferociously, as though it is a defenceless baby in the wild.

Swans typically mate for life, but some change partners several times. The strongest pairings raise the strongest cygnets. Mate selection is therefore vital to the survival of the young.

Choose business partners wisely. The stronger the pairing with your business partner(s), the stronger your business will be. Carefully consider the character, dependability and values of the people you become involved with. If you do not know this information, then you need to find out before committing to that individual or signing over a percentage of your business.

The cob plays a protective role in the rearing of the cygnets, while the pen plays a nurturing role.

Many people try to do it all alone, possibly because it can be hard to trust other people. But it is better to strengthen your decision-making process, and develop a good sense of character. While you may be able to launch a business alone, in order to grow and achieve any kind of expansion, you will need to include other people who will hold distinctive roles in the company. These roles should be clearly outlined and understood, with clear responsibilities and expectations.

Swans are devoted parents, diligently teaching their young how to fly and find food. This support is not permanent, however. Within a year, when the cygnets are fully grown, they are evicted from the nest. Cygnet independence is the goal.

Once you have established your business and it is functional, you need to trust your hires and managers to execute your orders. Trust the team and system to grow in your absence. If the business cannot function without you, then they have not hired the right people or implemented the right policies. This comes down to clear communication, ensuring everyone in the business understands the targets, KPIs and what constitutes success on a monthly basis.

Swans can live for up to 20 years; however, many cygnets die within the first year of life due to flying accidents.

So too, many businesses fail within the first year of opening. To give your business the best chance at survival plan towards a big future, and keep your risks low in the first year.

Cygnets look very different to adult swans. Cygnets have grey or brown feathers, with much shorter necks than when they reach adulthood.

Your business should, and will, evolve over its life cycle. Keep an open mind to change, and always be ready to adapt to a better way of operating. Just because something worked well in the first 6 months does not mean it will suit the business after 2 years.

Swans are the epitome of grace, but are just as powerful as they are beautiful.

Entrepreneurs should aspire to maintain an air of grace, in spite of obstacles and setbacks. This will go a long way to ensuring customer confidence and workplace morale within the staff.



Launch of NCL Entrepreneurs Networking Event



This inaugural event brought together a diverse group of entrepreneurs to share insights, build meaningful connections, and inspire entrepreneurial

thinking among our students. The morning began with a breakfast networking session, creating a relaxed environment for informal discussions and



introductions.

Following the networking session, attendees heard from two engaging guest speakers:

- Cyril Bekoe, Ilford BID Manager, who shared valuable perspectives on local business development and community engagement.
- Nazim Uddin, Director, Executive Member of the Board of Governance, and Head of Quality Assurance, who offered insights into leadership and quality in entrepreneurial ventures.

The primary aim of this event was to establish the foundation for an NCL Entrepreneur Networking Community. It marks the beginning of a series of initiatives aimed at supporting and fostering entrepreneurial engagement across the college.

No such thing as a dead-end job — excerpt from latest e&p blog post

We need only look at the LinkedIn page of the CEO of Pret-a-Manger UK, Pano Christou, to understand what a strong work ethic, a sense of personal responsibility and a positive attitude can do for your career.

Pano Christou started his career in fast food in 1995, working his way up the McDonald's ladder. By 1999, he was already a Store Manager, staying in that position for just over a year until early 2000. Later that year, he accepted a step down to Assistant Manager at the now ubiquitous Pret-A-Manger. You might think this was a setback, but it set him on the path to becoming the most successful employee of Pret-A-Manger UK. Over the next 19 years, Mr. Christou worked his way up through positions such as General Manager, Operations



by Mary-Jo Appaqaq

Employability and Progression
Assistant Manager

Manager, Head of Operations, before securing the position of CEO of the UK branch of Pret-A-Manger.

There's no denying that the current jobs market is tough. June of this year saw the most growth in vacancies since 2022, but it has still not recovered to pre-pandemic rates. Candidates report applying for hundreds of



jobs, before even getting to the interview stage. This is a daunting prospect for anyone in the application process right now, and we see it in the E&P department every week. We're not advocating for anyone to lower their standards. We're not saying that you should go for a job you don't want. But going to work with a progression-minded attitude and working in a company that has plenty of progression opportunities could land you with the ultimate promotion in the end!

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Maria Mouttou
HND Hospitality Student

I recently attended the Café Business Expo at ExCeL London, and I found the experience extremely useful for my Hospitality Management course. The event gave me the opportunity to explore the latest trends, innovations, and business ideas in the food and beverage industry, which has helped me gain valuable insights into the practical side of hospitality.

I am very thankful to Nelson College London for providing us with this opportunity, as it has broadened my knowledge, inspired new ideas, and allowed me to better understand the current market and future developments in the sector. Also, thanks to Farah and Daniela for bringing us and supporting us throughout the visit. Their guidance made the experience even more valuable.

Café Expo Visit

On 29th September, a group of entrepreneurial students attended the Café Expo as part of our enrichment and employability programme. The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to immerse themselves in a dynamic business environment, explore innovative ideas, and engage with industry professionals. Throughout the day, students

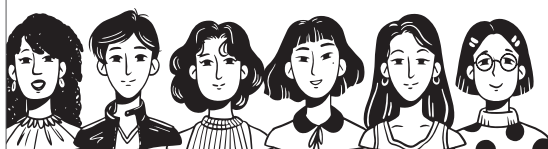
gained valuable insights into emerging trends within the café and hospitality sector. They also developed key skills such as networking, market analysis, and idea generation that will support both their academic development and future business aspirations. The visit was well received, with students expressing enthusiasm about the experience and its relevance to their entrepreneurial journey.



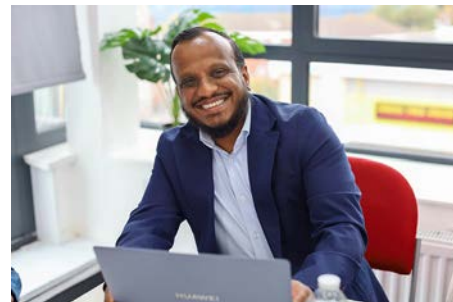
EMPLOYABILITY
& PROGRESSION
Department

6 KEY TRANSFERABLE SKILLS TO EXCEL IN YOUR GRADUATE CAREER

- 01 COMMUNICATION**
The ability to express yourself effectively, listen actively and convey information clearly and concisely
- 02 LEADERSHIP**
The ability to lead and motivate others, delegate tasks, and manage teams.
- 03 TIME MANAGEMENT**
The ability to manage time effectively and prioritise tasks.
- 04 PROBLEM-SOLVING**
The ability to work to identify problems, analyse information and develop effective solutions.
- 05 COLLABORATION**
The ability to work effectively with others, share ideas, and support team goals.
- 06 EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE**
The ability to understand and manage your own emotions, as well as recognise and empathise with others' emotions.



Redbridge Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Nelson College London



On 8th October 2025, Nelson College London proudly hosted the Redbridge Chamber of Commerce meeting for the very first time — a collaborative effort between the Employability & Progression Team and the Marketing & Recruitment Department.

The event, held at our Gants Hill campus, brought together local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and students for a morning of networking and professional insight.

We were delighted to welcome Simon, our inspiring external speaker, who delivered a thought-provoking session on “Finding the Perfect Client.” His insights provided valuable guidance for our student entrepreneurs looking to build strong business connections and client relationships.

A special highlight of the morning was the official launch of the Employment and Progression Handbook, presented by our Director,

Mr Nazim Uddin — a key resource designed to support students on their career development journeys.

CHRIS P. DAVIES AWARD FOR PROGRESSION 2025 — UPDATE

The Employability & Progression (E&P) Department has successfully coordinated the Chris P. Davies Award 2025, aimed at recognising outstanding student achievement and personal growth.

Panel Interview & Media Collaboration.

The final panel interview took place on 22nd October 2025, with panel members Athiqul Islam, Roger, and Margaret.

The session was supported by Subhan from the Design & Media team, who captured key moments for promotional use. These visuals, along with self-recorded student

videos, will be featured during the upcoming graduation ceremony to celebrate the award and its finalists. Award Timeline & Key Dates

- Applications Opened: 1st July 2025
- Application Deadline: 1st October 2025
- Stage Two – Video Submission Deadline: 8th October 2025
- Stage Three – Final Interviews: 22nd October 2025

The panel was given two weeks to review video submissions before conducting face-to-face interviews with shortlisted candidates.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must have completed at least one course with NCL.
- Withdrawn students and previous winners were not eligible to apply.

Award Prizes

- 1st Prize: £1,500 + Certificate
- 2nd Prize: £750 + Certificate
- 3rd Prize: £250 + Certificate
- Runners-up: Certificate only

Outcome

Out of five shortlisted applicants, the panel selected three winners and two runners-up. The official announcement will be made during the graduation ceremony on 27th November 2025.

Reading Books

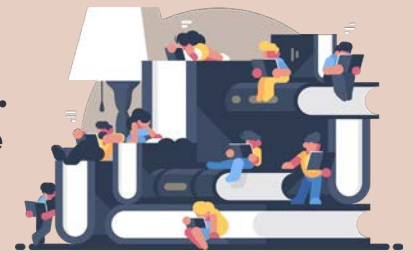
FOR REFERENCE

Reading books for reference offers numerous benefits for you as a student. Have a look below at some of the advantages of visiting our libraries and borrowing a book for your studies



Many reference books are written by experts. This ensures the information that you have researched is reliable and credible.

You gain a deeper understanding of specific topics with detailed information and wide-ranging insights. There are a number of references that include case studies and provide examples of real-life scenarios.



Using different books provides a variety of viewpoints and perspectives which could enrich your understanding of the topic.

Reference books develop critical thinking, research, and comprehension skills and expand your vocabulary.



You may also be inspired to explore further research!



Library & Learning Resources Centre

Student Spotlight Interview

Roxana Bosescu

Wick & Flame Group

1. What inspired you to start a business in this field?

We started researching the transportation business in 2021, so it's been quite a few years in the making. At that time, we were poised to start a business with another person as a partner. However, this person eventually admitted that in fact they didn't have the funds to start a business! It was a real setback in our plans and we lost a lot of time and research when that partnership fell through. Fast forward to the spring 2024, and we were having a difficult time financially – he (Cristian) was commuting to central London – 3 hours each way and at a significant cost. We wanted to make things a bit easier, but also wanted to make the money. So, we revisited the transport business and just put everything into it. We said that either we will succeed, or we will go down in flames! I think that was a very good boost – being pushed to actually have to succeed.

2. What was your first delivery?

I don't even know what we were carrying, to be honest. The first delivery we ever made with this business was on the 1st of July 2024. It wasn't a big job, only £120! I guess, you remember what you



got paid, but not what it was.

3. What is the most challenging aspect of the business right now? Are you able to do anything to make it easier?

The most challenging aspect right now is finding the right drivers. There are a lot of drivers who have experience. But it's not just about driving, it's about being proactive, communicating with the customers politely and communicating with the dispatcher if they have a problem that is going to delay them. They also need decent IT skills to take, store and send good pictures. It's a lot about character too, because I'm always thinking that they

represent the company. Just one bad review from a client could damage our sales.

Most of the delivery or haulage companies that fail is because the owner or anyone close to them has never worked on the road as a driver, so they didn't know the challenges. Sometimes you have a pick-up or delivery for somewhere that doesn't have an address, or maybe the address isn't clear. When that happens, you might lose an hour trying to find the place, which would mean you miss the window to pick up the next delivery.

What's your recruitment process like?

Usually we post ads,

and then we interview. Cris would be the main contact for drivers, in terms of driving skills and in terms of knowing the regulations and having relevant language skills – he would be the first one to evaluate any candidate. He'll filter and shortlist any candidates that he thinks has potential to do well in our business, and for our business. Then when it comes to my requirements, it's a lot to do with being open minded and adaptable. I know it's a little unorthodox, but most of the time I tend to do something or say something to annoy the person. Not as a mistake, but on purpose. Just to see how they would

Student Spotlight Interview

react. I might say something that would offend them. I will apologise afterwards, but I need to know how they will react. This is because on some occasions, they can be doing a drop off at someone's house and the customer will expect them to unload 80 or 90 boxes. Now, that can be annoying (I've had it happen), and they don't have to do it if the customer hasn't paid for this service. However, they need to be able to keep their composure and transmit that message. If they start cursing, or having a bad reaction, then they're not for this company.

4. Can you outline your plan for expansion?

We get all our jobs from courier exchange platform – B2B. We started with 1 van in 2024 July, then we bought 2 more in Jan 2025. I think we've moved up quite fast. We've managed to reach £100,000 in revenue in under a year of trading! That's the result of over 500 deliveries in 10 months. However, when we started, we weren't starting from scratch, but from -£2000! We managed to build up a bit of revenue and make a bit of profit. I've created an expansion plan where I determined that the right thing to do is to invest in 2 vans at a time. We put those vans on the road, and stabilise our company's revenue. Usually, it takes a month to start making money on those vans. Then wait 2 full months until we invest again because that would offer us at least a bit of revenue to be able to juggle. Invest, stabilise and then reinvest. We have experienced some delays recently, though. We bought 2 vans in January - one early in the month and one late in the month. One of them we got it on the road in mid-February. The other one, we got the MOT done and a few hundred feet after leaving the garage the transmission failed! So that second van only went on the road in mid-March. Then, went away for 2 weeks in June, so the expansion plan will continue after that.

6. How many people are employed by your company now?

We are not a big team. It's only

5 people. 3 drivers, myself and the dispatcher. Cris is a manager, but he still works, he's still on the road with the other drivers. I've talked with a lot of drivers - and, by the way, a word to the wise for anyone driving – the driver's world is not that big! They all know each other! 90% of the drivers we end up employing, even if they're not the best fit for us will end up recommending other drivers for us. They do courier to haulage from company to company.

7. What sort of safeguarding checks do you need to do to make sure that the material being transported is safe?

Every driver has procedures to follow. They have to ensure the load is secured, they have a lot of brackets, a lot of check points, they also have to make sure that the load is equilibrated well in the van. Most of their checks relate to safety while driving like tires, brakes, or oil checks. They do have to wear protective equipment when they load and unload. High vis equipment, goggles etc... 50% of the time though they're not actually the ones loading the van. Usually that's up to warehouse staff. Their job is make sure that when others do load the van that the merchandise is not being damaged. They do have to take pictures, as we are liable once the goods are in the van. Mostly it's about keeping the load safe and the van safe during transit.

8. How do you generate repeat business?

The thing is, we're on this haulage platform. This means that we don't have to look for our clients. We do have 2 direct contracts where we have first refusal before they put it on the platform. We won those contracts by building a good reputation. Everything is about good reputation! When you start, especially work on your reviews. Especially when you're new, because it's very easy to go down especially at the beginning. You need 100% perfect scores on all your first jobs. You can't afford to drop down even to 90%. We made sure we went out of our way to help

the customer, and communicate efficiently with the customer. Mistakes happen, but it's about how you deal with them. We now have over 200 positive reviews! No negative reviews yet.

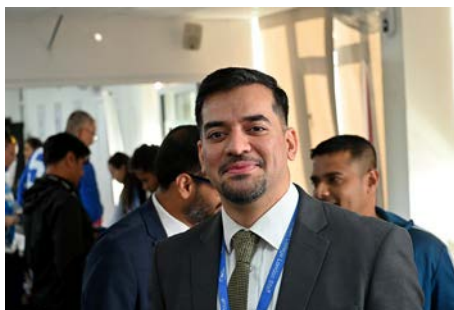
9. What piece of advice would you give to anyone starting a new business?

Do your research. I think it's one of the most crucial things when you start a business. And as complicated as this might sound – sketch a business plan. I know I've calculated to the last penny everything that we had to invest to start the company and I still ended up investing £10,000 more because... things happen. For example, in this business it's not enough to buy a van and pay a platform and fuel it, but when you're out on the road something will break. Something will happen! To be honest the reason we have managed to do all the things we did so far is because we have done a ton of research.

10. How did your education prepare you for opening a business? Was there anything that was particularly valuable to you?

There are a lot of things that I picked up – the professional language comes to mind first. I had experience with bookkeeping and accounting, but not in English! I knew these things in Romanian but not in English! I was really curious about assets, and the difference between liability and expenses. I have picked up a lot of things and included them with all my past experience. Also, when it came to HR. I've had previous experience of interviewing people, but I've never looked into the psychology of what you can learn from someone in an interview! Skills can be taught but attitude can't be taught! I look at CVs mainly to see hobbies, to have an idea of what they've done in the last year or so, but other than that I'm not very curious. So far, it's served me well. I've filtered out a lot of people who came to us with the right experience, the right skills but the wrong attitude.

September Induction 2025



NELSON COLLEGE LONDON

Teaching

DAY 2025







#studentengagement

Student Engagement & Alumni

DEPARTMENT

Student Academic achievements

We highly value the academic achievements of our students and take pride in recognising their hard work, dedication, and strong results. It's important to us to celebrate those who have gone above and beyond in their studies, particularly students who have earned Merit or Distinction grades in their assignments. These accomplishments reflect not only individual commitment but also the supportive learning environment we strive to create at Nelson



College London. We look forward to continuing to acknowledge and celebrate student success as an essential part of their academic journey.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT DEPT

At Nelson College London, what we enjoy most is the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the student experience while working with a diverse and vibrant student body. We place great value on the student voice and shape our work around their feedback. Our goal is to create inclusive events that bring together students from all three campuses and diverse backgrounds to share the same experiences and adventures. We look



by Alina Stoian

Student Engagement & Alumni Manager

forward to continuing this journey and making the most of every opportunity to strengthen the NCL community.

Royal Day Out to Buckingham Palace

In addition to touring the State Rooms, students were treated to a private tour of the Royal Gardens, offering an exclusive glimpse into the beautifully maintained grounds that are typically closed to the public. This rare experience



by Alina Stoian

Student Engagement & Alumni Manager

allowed students to learn about the rich history and heritage of the British monarchy while exploring one of the most iconic royal residences in the world. Beyond its educational value, the day also provided a fantastic opportunity for students from all campuses to connect, relax, and create lasting memories — a truly regal start to the semester!



Student Association / Student Representatives

We are pleased to announce that student representatives have been successfully nominated across all cohorts and campuses at Nelson College London. These students play a vital



by Kanwal Rizwan

Student Engagement Officer

role in voicing the concerns, ideas, and feedback of their peers, helping to shape a better learning experience for everyone. The nomination process encouraged students to step forward as leaders, committed to representing their fellow classmates in academic and non-academic meetings. We look forward to working closely with our new student reps as they contribute to positive change and foster stronger communication between students and staff.

HESA GRADUATE OUTCOME SURVEY

The HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey is conducted 15 months after students complete their programmes, providing valuable insights into their career progression, further study, and overall outcomes post-graduation. This survey helps us understand how well Nelson College London prepares students for the next steps in their lives and careers. We actively encourage our graduates to participate, and I'm proud to say that we are making strong improvements in our response rates. This success is the result of tremendous efforts to build and maintain lasting communication with our alumni through regular engagement, personalised



by Alina Madalina Antoniu (Mady)

Student Engagement Ambassador

outreach, and ongoing support. By nurturing these relationships, we ensure our graduates remain connected and motivated to share their experiences, helping us continually enhance the student journey at Nelson College London.

This semester, Nelson College London turned up the heat — or rather, the sweetness — with our exciting student dessert competition, cleverly named Sweet Battle. Fourteen talented students from



by Alina Stoian

Student Engagement & Alumni Manager

across London campuses put their culinary skills to the test, competing to create the ultimate NCL dessert. From creative presentations to delicious flavours, each entry showcased originality, passion, and a love for dessert-making. The competition not only highlighted our students' diverse talents beyond the classroom but also brought everyone together for a fun, friendly, and flavourful experience. Congratulations to all the participants for making it a truly memorable (and tasty!) event!

NCL Dessert Competition Sweet Battle



100% ATTENDANCE AWARD



by Alina Madalina Antoniu
(Mady)

Student Engagement Ambassador

achieved the 100% Attendance Award last semester. This award goes beyond simply being present; it highlights our students' commitment to their education, their passion for learning, and their consistent engagement in every class. Achieving an outstanding milestone attendance reflects not only dedication, but also resilience and a strong sense of personal responsibility. We praise these students for setting such a positive example and contributing to the spirit of excellence at Nelson College London.

This term, we are proud to recognise within our college community — 24 students who



Student representatives Day Away Oxford and Cotswold Trip

After memorable trips to Edinburgh and Cambridge, our latest Student Representative Day Away took us to Oxford City and the picturesque Cotswolds. This trip was organised to strengthen the sense of community and teamwork among our student representatives, active students, lecturers, and staff. While exploring the historic city and beautiful countryside, the group also had the opportunity to visit the University of Oxford, where they shared ideas, exchanged opinions, and gained inspiration from one of the world's most prestigious academic institutions. The day was a perfect blend of learning and fun, helping to build stronger connections within the NCL community.



by Kanwal Rizwan

Student Engagement Officer



Dream BIG

On the 7th of October, 2025, the Student Welfare Team hosted a Dream Big workshop for our new intake of students. The session introduced the concept of Six Alchemy, where students created their own vision boards and practised breathing exercises for stress relief.

A heartfelt thank you to Becky for leading this engaging and thoughtful session, helping students start their journey with focus and calm.

Workshops like this remind us that education isn't just about academic growth; it's about nurturing the whole person.



Student Welfare Department



Stress and wellbeing peer support group with Tola!

On the 1st of October, 2025, the Student Welfare Team organised a support group session with our counsellor, Tola, where students shared their experiences on the topic. NCL Peer Support Groups create a safe, counsellor-guided space where participants can connect, share their experiences, and build mutual understanding through supportive discussion. The sessions are open to all NCL students and are designed to promote empathy and resilience through shared stories and mutual



by Lucia Ismail

Student Welfare Officer

encouragement. Contact the Student Welfare Team to find out more or to join the next session.

Hello autumn

Reflect. Release. Reconnect.

The Student Welfare Team recently presented a mindful workshop designed to help students pause, reflect, and set new intentions. Each student created their own dream catcher, with all materials beautifully prepared by Becky, setting the scene for a calm and creative activity. This was followed by meditation and breathing exercises. The session concluded with a Fire Pit Ceremony, where students wrote down thoughts or feelings that no longer served them, and released them into the flames while listening to gentle meditation music on the balcony. It was an inspiring afternoon of mindfulness, creativity, and renewal, helping students reconnect with themselves and focus on positive aspirations ahead.



NELSON COLLEGE LONDON

TIKTOK

SCAN ME



New team member
Doreen Shepherd

Student Welfare Officer

Dear students

I am excited to introduce myself as your new Student Welfare Officer at the college. My name is Doreen Shepherd, and my role is to support your well-being during your time here. Whether you need help navigating personal challenges, accessing resources, or just someone to talk to, I am here for you. College life can be both exhilarating and challenging, often bringing its own pressures. My mission is to assist you throughout your educational journey. This includes helping with personal matters, directing

you to useful resources, ensuring your voice is heard, and providing a listening ear when things feel overwhelming. We aim to empower students to thrive both academically and personally. We are committed to promoting mental health inclusion and fostering a strong sense of community.

"Wellness encompasses a healthy body, a sound mind and a tranquil spirit. Enjoy the journey as you strive."
Laurette Gagnon Beaulieu
Wishing you a great learning experience.

UWL Programmes – New Courses at Broadstairs

We're pleased to announce that two new University of West London (UWL) courses have been approved for the Broadstairs Campus, starting in September 2025:

- BA (Hons) Business (Top-up)
- FdA Business

These programmes have been developed to meet growing student demand and provide clear progression routes for learners. They focus on practical learning experiences and strong career pathways, ensuring students

are well-prepared for future opportunities. To support the launch of these new courses, three new lecturers have joined our team. Their industry expertise and academic experience will be a great asset to both students and staff.

New team members

We're delighted to welcome three new lecturers to the Broadstairs Campus this month. Each brings a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives to support our expanding academic provision. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome as they settle into their new roles:

- Dr Saqib Shamim
- Muhammad Waqas Khokhar
- Nizam Uddin Sheikh

We look forward to the valuable contributions they will bring to our students and the wider academic community.

Why Nelson College London Is Applying for New Degree Awarding Powers

As many of you know, Nelson College London (NCL) has applied for **New Degree Awarding Powers (NDAP)**. But what does this mean, and why is it important?

In short, this means NCL is seeking permission to **award its own degrees** — initially in **Business and Entrepreneurship** and **Hospitality and Hotel Management**. Our existing courses, such as HNDs and those validated by the University of West London, will continue, and we expect to develop new subjects over time. So, why apply now? Here's what we're telling the Office for Students (OfS):

1. We're Ready

NCL has strong systems for managing academic quality, regular reviews, student feedback, and experienced leadership. We're well-prepared to take on the responsibilities of awarding our own degrees.

2. More Independence

With NDAP, NCL can design courses that better meet student and employer needs, respond quickly to changes in the job market, and stay true to our mission of providing inclusive, career-focused education.

3. Stronger Reputation

Gaining degree-awarding powers would raise NCL's profile, confirming our quality and stability. It would help us compete with traditional universities and attract more students seeking practical, employment-focused study.

4. Better for Students

Students would graduate with degrees from the same institution where they study. This strengthens pride and trust, and allows NCL to update and improve courses more quickly.

5. Supporting the Community

NCL already helps widen access to higher education and supports local growth. With NDAP, we could expand this work through new partnerships and tailored, real-world programmes.

6. Securing Our Future

Awarding our own degrees would make NCL more sustainable and independent, giving us greater control over our programmes, reputation, and future development.

Achieving New Degree Awarding Powers will be a big step forward for NCL. Everyone will have a part to play, and we'll be holding meetings and discussions throughout the process. It will take effort — but it will be worth it.

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KNOW WHAT
RESEARCH
RESOURCES
ARE
AVAILABLE
AT NCL FOR
STUDENTS?

For your chance to win a prize, send an email to:

ncclibrary@nelsoncollege.ac.uk with a list of all resources available and accessible to students at NCL

Nelson College London RESEARCH —CENTRE—

Introduction

Two MA students from Nelson College London, guided by the Research Centre, recently took their research beyond the classroom by collaborating with Reymini LTD, a mortgage and insurance advisory firm. Supported by the NCL Research Centre, the students worked on a real-world business challenge aimed at helping to provide recommendations to Reymini to strengthen its growth strategy and market presence.

The project, which began in September 2024 and ran through June 2025, offered valuable hands-on experience in applying research skills to a live business context, demonstrating how academic learning can create meaningful industry impact.

How the Project Unfolded

The project team, comprising two MA students and the RC Manager, collected primary data through meetings and interviews with Reymini's management, gaining insights into its operations, clients, and strategic objectives. Additional information was obtained via an analysis of Reymini's digital presence and marketing materials. Secondary data from industry sources and reports supported an understanding of the current challenges and opportunities in the external



by Husam Helmi

Research Centre Manager
/ Module Leader MA
International Business
Management / Hospitality

environment.

Recommendations & impact

The project team recommended that Reymini strengthen its personalised referral model, enhance digital marketing, and explore new markets online. Additional strategies recommended include offering multilingual services, expanding the team, and adopting new technologies to boost growth and efficiency. These recommendations aim to help Reymini build stronger client relationships, streamline operations, and find new growth opportunities. Ultimately, Reymini will decide which strategies to pursue based on its priorities and vision. Students had the opportunity to translate academic knowledge into practical recommendations that could directly enhance a company's operations. The insights offered in the recommendations report were not just theoretical; they offered Reymini realistic and actionable

MA Students Turning Research into Action

strategies.

Beyond the impact on Reymini, this project also presented a valuable opportunity for the students involved in the project to develop their research skills. The collaboration enabled the team to apply academic research methods in a business context, enhancing their ability to conduct market analysis, identify challenges, and propose evidence-based recommendations. This successful approach can be replicated in future research collaborations, offering students and staff the chance to engage in practical, industry-driven projects.

Get involved with the NCL's Research Centre

Whether you are a student eager to apply your learning or a staff member looking to expand your research portfolio, the NCL Research Centre can support you. This project demonstrates how meaningful collaboration between students and staff can drive innovative business solutions in practice. The Research Centre welcomes your involvement in future industry-based research. Whether you have a project idea, an interest in partnership work, or simply want to gain hands-on experience, there are multiple ways to get involved:

- Share your research ideas by initiating contact with the Research Centre via email.
- Attend our monthly Open-Door Surgeries to explore research opportunities and future business

collaborations.

- If you have a business or work for an employer that could benefit from research collaboration, the Research Centre welcomes the opportunity to explore potential partnerships.
- Book a one-to-one consultation with the Research Centre to discuss your research interests and project ideas.

The Research Centre invites students and staff to take the next step. You could be part of our next business research collaboration!. By engaging with the Research Centre, you will have the opportunity to gain hands-on research experience and contribute to impactful industry-driven projects.

Acknowledgements

The Research Centre thanks Reymini for its collaboration and the NCL Research Centre team for their hard work.

Stay connected for more updates on how the NCL Research Centre continues to drive industry-relevant research and meaningful business collaborations. Stay tuned for our next project - you could be part of it!.

Get in Touch

For more information or to discuss potential research collaborations, please get in touch with the NCL Research Centre at:
Email: researchcentre@ncl.ac.uk

Contact Person: Research Centre Manager, Dr Husam Helmi

We look forward to hearing from you and exploring future research opportunities together!

Librarian's Perspective

A BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL

In October, we observed Black History Month. Students across all campuses engaged in a time of knowledge-sharing and entertainment. What is the significance of Black History Month? What does it mean to you as a student or faculty? Black History Month (BHM), celebrated annually in February in the United States and October in the United Kingdom, is a dedicated period for recognising the achievements, contributions, histories, and cultural impact of people of African and Caribbean descent. Beyond commemoration, BHM provides a framework for deep reflection on social justice, representation, and resilience. Within higher education, library services play a central role in supporting this reflective process, offering curated resources that promote inclusive learning. For students studying business and hospitality, BHM is not only historically important but also profoundly relevant to their academic development and future professional practice.



by Yvonne Alexander-Taylor

Library and Learning
Resources Manager

Why is Black History Month Significant?

Black History Month originated from the work of African American historian Carter G. Woodson, who initiated "Negro History Week" in 1926 to counter the systematic exclusion of Black achievements from mainstream historical narratives (Woodson, 1933). Over time, this commemoration evolved into Black History Month - an opportunity to acknowledge the cultural, scientific, political, and economic impact of Black individuals and communities. The month also serves as an educational intervention, challenging dominant narratives, and helping institutions



Library & Learning Resources Centre

address gaps in representation, cultural understanding, and equity. It provides spaces for dialogue around racism, colonial legacies, diasporic experiences, and contributions to modern society (Rogers, 2020).

BHM In Business

Black History Month gives insights into how diversity, inclusion and representation shapes the business environment.



Understanding Market Diversity

Modern markets are multicultural. A knowledge of Black history and culture enhances students' ability to understand consumer behaviour, develop inclusive marketing strategies, and engage ethically with diverse audiences. Case studies of Black entrepreneurs - such as Madam C.J. Walker or modern innovators like Daymond John - provide critical examples of overcoming systemic challenges to achieve business success.

Leadership and Inclusive Management

Effective leaders must understand organisational diversity, unconscious bias, and strategies for equitable management. BHM provides a historical lens for understanding how inequality can manifest in the workplace, while also showcasing leaders who have driven positive change. Concepts like inclusive leadership, equity-driven HR practices, and corporate social responsibility are strengthened through an understanding of historical context.

Innovation and Resilience

Many Black innovators have transformed industries despite barriers. Learning about their contributions encourages business students to examine how adversity can drive innovation and inspire entrepreneurial thinking.

BHM In Hospitality

The hospitality sector is inherently multicultural, global, and people focused. Understanding Black history enhances cultural awareness and service quality.

Enhancing Cultural Competence

Hospitality students must be able to engage respectfully and effectively with guests from diverse backgrounds. BHM supports the development of intercultural communication skills and awareness of cultural traditions, cuisines, and histories, enriching culturally responsive service.

Understanding Equity in Tourism and Hospitality Labour

Historically, Black workers have shaped sectors such as tourism, culinary arts, transport, and accommodation services. Yet their contributions often remain underrepresented. Learning this history helps students understand contemporary workforce dynamics, equity issues, and the importance of fair labour practices (Tucker & Boonabaana, 2012).

Inclusive Hospitality Management

Future hospitality managers must foster inclusive environments for staff and guests. BHM provides a foundation for understanding systemic inequalities, helping students design policies that promote diversity, prevent discrimination, and create inclusive guest experiences.

Conclusion

Black History Month is more than a commemorative event - it is an educational opportunity to strengthen cultural awareness, challenge inequalities, and enrich academic and professional development. From a librarian's perspective, it represents a commitment to inclusive knowledge, accessible learning, and diverse representation in academic resources. For business and hospitality students, it deepens professional competencies in leadership, cultural competence, consumer engagement, and ethical practice. By understanding and engaging with Black history, students gain insight that prepares them to work thoughtfully and effectively within a global, diverse world.

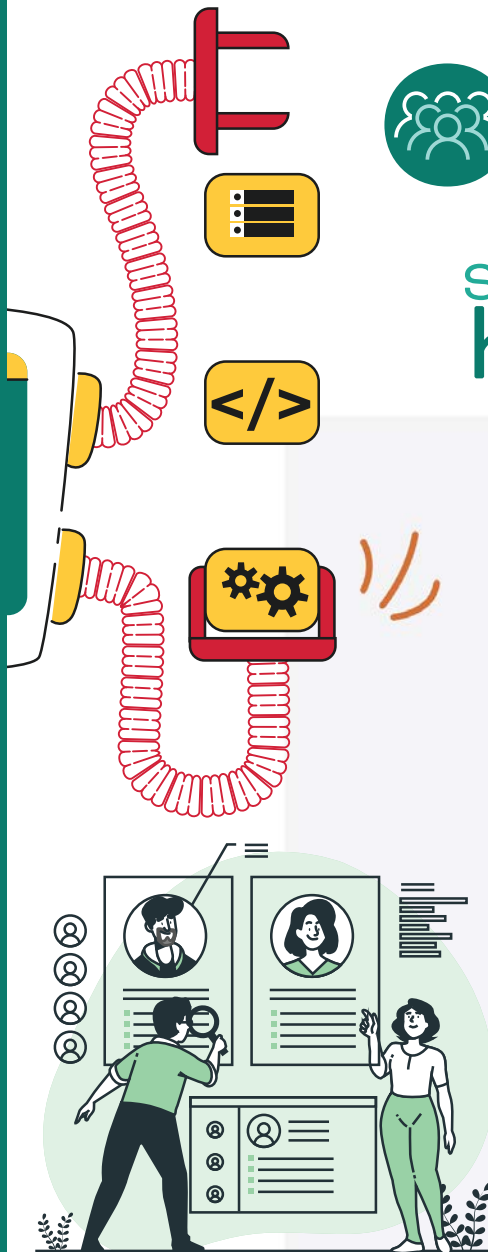


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NELSON COLLEGE LONDON

Student PRESIDENT ELECTION



STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT
& ALUMNI
Department

2025/2026

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