



**Right now
there are 8,500
Jewish students.**

**What happens
to them is
up to you.**

“UJS and our students are proving over and over again that we are the future of not only the Jewish community but the global community.”

Esther Offenberg
UJS President 2019-20

**Leading.
Defending.
Enriching.**

2019-2020 in review

Looking back



“ And just like that, a year has passed. Getting to be UJS President and to serve and support Jewish students up and down the country is one of the most unique and humbling experience I will ever have. Whether through peer-led campaigns addressing men’s mental health or period poverty, a national urge to raise awareness of the Uyghur Muslim genocide or simply an inter-J-Soc quiz night over the first lockdown – Jewish students showed once again that our passion and activism is unparalleled and our voices will always be present in the mix.

With the COVID 19 pandemic taking hold in March, throwing everyone into uncharted territory, UJS has not only been able to adapt and overcome but thrive – with an online national J-Soc created within days, to continue the sense of community and support students wanted and needed everywhere, our first online Student Awards with the highest turnout ever or a weekly cooking show with thousands of views. Despite the difficult months behind us and still ahead of us, UJS and our students are proving over and over again that we are the future of not only the Jewish community but the global community, and we are not shirking away from that responsibility and opportunity. With UJS’ first centenary behind us, we can only muse what greatness the next one will bring.”

Esther Offenberg
UJS President 2019-20

Looking forward



“ Leading UJS into its second century, I am proud to lead UJS into the new, digital world that we find ourselves. By being a union FOR Jewish students, we are at a critical point time when supporting the over 8,500 Jewish students on campuses across the United Kingdom and Ireland could not be more important.

I am looking to the future of UJS. I am honoured that I am able to lead a union that incubates the next generation of communal leadership. Despite these unusual times, we are already doing so much to inspire leadership by students, for students. It is often said that young people are the future, and our union will be guided by this principle as a proudly peer led organisation. Building on this, we have already taken an active role in ensuring that Jewish students are safe and secure on campus. Ultimately, we will make UJS not just a union of Jewish students, but a union FOR Jewish students, tailoring the support that we give to all of our students across the country such that, as we have in the last century, the next 100 years will see “more Jewish students doing more Jewish things.”

James Harris
UJS President 2020-2021

Our mission

We are the voice of over 8,500 Jewish students, spanning more than 60 Jewish Societies (J-Socs) on campuses across the UK and Ireland. We are traditional, progressive, politically diverse, cultural and spiritual; we are unified, not uniform, and advocate the unity of our one Jewish people.

Guided by our core values, the priorities of our elected President and policy passed at UJS Conference, we create and deliver powerful campaigns: fighting prejudice that targets Jewish people and other minorities; advancing the inclusion of Jewish people within wider society and of marginalised groups within our Jewish community; and inspiring education and action on the issues that matter to us. Locally, nationally and internationally, we run diverse and dynamic programmes; facilitate access to kosher food and accommodation; offer career networking opportunities, proudly and passionately engage with Israel; initiate inspiring interfaith projects; and spearhead and support social action (tikkun olam).

For 100 years, we’ve been leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life across the UK and Ireland, inspiring generations of future leaders of the Jewish community, and we’re proud to be the voice of Jewish students.

Our core values

Cross-Communalism

UJS and J-Soc activities are open to all Jewish students regardless of political or religious affiliation or denomination. We strive to continually improve how we celebrate the diversity of Jewish students.

Israel Engagement

We passionately and proudly connect our students with over 3000 years of Jewish and Hebrew culture, offering opportunities to strengthen, celebrate and explore a personal relationship with Israel as part of an evolving expression of Jewish identity.

Peer-leadership

We are empowered and equipped to lead and direct our programming and campaigning with and for our peers.

Representation

As the voice of Jewish students we ensure Jewish students’ voices and views are heard locally and nationally. J-Soc committees and the UJS President are elected roles which consider the views of their members and represent these and our democratically decided policy to the student movement, the wider Jewish community, politicians and policy makers.



Our Year in numbers

From March 2020 activity on campuses started to slow down and then stopped entirely. During that time UJS pivoted effectively to become fully digital, delivering exciting, exceptional and engaging content to thousands of Jewish students.

500+

Events run on 67 campuses across the UK and Ireland. Events included Shabbat and Festive Dinners, social action initiatives, Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, campaigns and much more.

400+

Jewish Student volunteers led their Jewish Societies, student activities, events, educational activities and student engagement.

6000+

Students, university staff and local members, including Jewish people and those of other faiths, cultures and backgrounds across more than 40 cities, engaged in Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations.

100+

Students attended the annual UJS Student Awards - the UK's first online awards ceremony for the Jewish community, celebrating the contributions of Jewish students across the country.

180+

Jewish student activists took part in leadership training and development opportunities including Summit, Campaigns Weekend, international Jewish Student conferences and Summer U.

COVID lockdown in numbers (107 Days)

18

Live digital events exclusively for Jewish students including quizzes, educational talks, celebrity appearances, and awards.

45,000+

Engagements and reach for our social media channels across more than 200 posts.

5

New Jewish societies established and re-established in Salford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Huddersfield and Dublin, making 2019-20 the year with the largest number of Jewish societies in 100 years.

30+

Student unions engaged in counter-antisemitism training, giving them the tools to support their Jewish students on campus.

12,551

Friday Night Dinners and festive meals served to students in 67 Jewish societies. Creating a home away from home, students celebrated Shabbat and Jewish festivals at events directly supported by UJS.

5000+

Students from a variety of backgrounds engaged with UJS and peer led Israel related programmes on campus. Yom Ha'atzmaut, Birthright, Incubator.

1,500

New J-Soc sign ups facilitated by the UJS website.

15

Weekly Divrei Torah, launching UJS' year long weekly Dvar Torah series

1,800+

Current students joined the first ever Digital Jewish Society – Chicken Soup – on Facebook

Developing & strengthening our relationship & engagement with Israel

Aim

Strengthening Jewish students' connections with Israel through a variety of programmes covering politics, culture, religion, society, and more.

Action

From bringing Israeli speakers on campus, leading conversations on Zionism and Israel's democracy, educating about the elections engaging students in art programmes, organising student trips to Israel, celebrating Israel's national dates such as Yom Haatzmaut and the Israeli elections, local and national events on campuses covered a wide range of topics and shaped students' connections and understanding of Israel in positive ways.

Result

Over 6,000 students from a variety of faiths and backgrounds engaged with UJS supported Israel programmes in 2019-20. With the majority of Israel trips cancelled due to the worldwide pandemic, UJS used other methods and educational activity to engage Jewish students and students of other and no faith on Israel education.

Holocaust Remembrance

Aim

To develop and extend our reach and remembrance surrounding the Holocaust, building each year on previous success and developing new methods of engagement.

Action

Our continued partnership with the Holocaust Education Trust and took Holocaust survivors to more than 30 events around the country. Leading the learning from our history, Jewish students continue to play a vital part in the fight against racism and prejudice. We facilitated lunch and learn sessions on campuses across the UK which provided Jewish Students with the opportunity to discuss and learn about their Jewish heritage and identity.

Result

More than 50 Holocaust Memorial Day events were hosted on campuses reaching over 6,000 students and staff from a range of backgrounds.

Cross-Communalism and Inclusivity

Aim

To celebrate students from all affiliations and empower them to lead Jewish life on campus.

Action

UJS events have showcased a wide range of educators and leading communal figures from different denominations. Students have been empowered and supported in leading cross communal educational initiatives on their campus.

Result

UJS is one of the leading communal organisations, creating cross-communal spaces where all students can celebrate their own type of Judaism while being part of a wider Jewish community. Rabbis from various denominations spoke to students on campus and at events; Liberation Conference ran for the sixth year with more than triple the number of participants from last year, which created a space for students and allies to hear from inspiring speakers and empower them to stand up; Friday night dinners were introduced; Projects including No Barriers in Leeds were launched to raise awareness of mental health and encouraged students to speak out.

The Engine for Future Jewish Leadership

Aim

To support and equip Jewish students with the tools to stand up and represent their community both on campus and nationally, developing the leaders of tomorrow and supporting the students of today.

Action

We have supported Jewish students with activist training at UJS Summit and our Campaigns Weekend, a weekend exclusively dedicated for Jewish students who want to engage with their students' union. We have offered further support for Jewish students running in local and national student elections. Our work engaging directly with student unions has increased significantly, with the continuation and growth of our antisemitism awareness training, and the support we gave to local Jewish student activists.

Result

Through successful election campaigns, Jewish students continue to have representation on the NUS National Executive Council (NEC) and its Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC). This year's NUS conference was forced to move online and away from its former prestige and grandeur.

Championing Social Action

Aim

To develop our social action platform to allow more students to contribute and tend to others less fortunate.

Action

Alongside support from the team, we continued the role of a J-Soc Sabbatical officer who was tasked with the responsibility of leading and developing our social initiatives and events throughout the year.

Result

From Mental Health initiatives, to continuing the partnership with the Period Poverty Campaign, to supporting the plight of the Chinese Uyghur Muslims, UJS has been at the forefront of social action campaigns and engagement within and outside of the Jewish community. Partnerships with Mitzvah Day, Rene Cassin, Tzedek and more have led to creating countless opportunities for Jewish students to take part in social action across the country.

Creating and strengthening relationships through Interfaith

Aim

To build on the existing interfaith foundations and develop programmes and initiatives which enables students of all faith backgrounds to understand and connect with each other's heritage and culture.

Action

Provided J-Socs with the skills to be able to network with other faith societies on campus as well as external organisations. We encouraged J-Socs to create interfaith events which weren't just for interfaith week, but at different points throughout the year. A unique Interfaith handbook was created to support J-Socs on these initiatives.

Result

Friday night dinners for all faiths and interfaith lunches were held at a number of campus across the UK and Ireland. UJS has been at the forefront of national efforts to build stronger ties with our fellow faith societies. J-Socs have led local initiatives to engage with societies on issues such as access to specialised food, timetabling requirements and racism, as well as leading discussions on Israel and the region to find shared goals and understanding.

The Voice of Jewish Students

In the 2019/20 academic year the team at UJS made the voice of Jewish students heard at the heart of Government, with Vice Chancellors and university leadership, and within student unions and NUS. Through this work we secured widespread support for our efforts to counter antisemitism on campus, provide Kosher food for those students who need it, and support Jewish life on campus in whatever way our students choose to practice.

Leading Jewish life on campus

UJS is an engine of future leadership with talented and hard working members and volunteers throughout our community and across the country. Our Leadership Development work includes training for current leaders, nurturing future leaders and encouraging every Jewish student to become the courageous campus leaders and exceptional leaders of our community and wider society. Highlights include our student leadership Summit, UJS Conference, our Sabbatical team opportunities and the annual campaign to elect a President.

Defending Jewish life on campus

Standing up for Jewish students in their time of need is at the very core of our work. That work is enhanced by our campaigns, breaking down stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudice towards Jewish students. This is why almost 65% of our budget is dedicated to direct student provision and engagement, with 30% being spent on communications, training facilities and staffing, and 5% being spent on fundraising. This allows UJS to truly bring the face of Jewish students to campus leadership and the wider campus community. Our work combating antisemitism and anti-Zionism includes a huge amount of positive, proactive events and campaigns, running training sessions, trips to Israel and Europe when possible, and producing excellent written material as a guide to all those interacting with Jewish students of any denomination and none.

Enriching Jewish life on campus

In the 19/20 academic year we continued to work hard to offer diverse and dynamic programming. UJS facilitated access to all forms of Jewish practice as well as providing spaces and in many cases accommodation for Jewish students and Jewish societies. This creates an environment on campus where Jewish students can be proud of their Judaism and engage fully in their campus life. Highlights include providing and facilitating Friday night and festival meals and activities, student-led education sessions and our flagship Art Incubator programme giving small grants and educational sessions and resources for students to create artwork expressing their relationship with Judaism and Israel. UJS is inspiring students to be more involved, more engaged and stand up proudly for who they are and what they believe.

How UJS responded to the impact of Coronavirus

Activities

During the pandemic, UJS events, speakers and social activities had to stop. Like so many organisations we faced a choice – Stop all our activity, hibernate, and hopefully come back in the new year. Or pivot into a digital force to be reckoned with. As was clear, this wasn't really a choice and UJS' digital footprint skyrocketed. From establishing the world's largest online J-Soc – Chicken Soup – to hosting weekly Divrei Torah, to webinars with world renowned speakers, UJS was at the forefront of student provision, drawing crowds both live and on pre-recorded activity. During this period UJS and J-Socs partnered with countless communal partners, produced unique content and engaged 10s of thousands of students.

Financial Decisions

The entire economy took a hit during the pandemic. The Charity sector and UJS included were facing reduced income, perceived diminishing contact with participants and the very real challenges of fundraising that came alongside that. During this time UJS senior staff and trustees took difficult decisions in order to protect the organisation now and into the future. UJS made £200,000 of cuts, engaging in the Government furlough scheme, reducing staff hours and with senior staff taking voluntary pay cuts. UJS made difficult decisions in reviewing our working practices, moved offices to further reduce our fixed costs, and radically changed the budget for 2020-2021. Throughout this time, UJS had two clear aims - Be there for the students of TODAY, and ensure we are there for the students of TOMORROW.

Message from the UJS CEO

When I took on the role of CEO at UJS almost 2 years ago, I of course could not imagine the challenges that this pandemic would create. None of us could. Across the charitable sector, and the wider commercial sector too, difficult decisions have had to be made, and will continue to be made for an unforeseeable amount of time in the future. You can see here how some of those decisions were made, what their initial impact was and what their projected impact will be.

I am proud to have been part of an organisation that was not afraid to make tough decisions, ensured that it was our students who were at the centre of all of those decisions, and took those decisions in a timely fashion to ensure that we could mitigate as far as possible the impact on the 8,500+ Jewish students we serve.

The decisions we have taken were made with three core principles in mind – 1) to provide for Jewish Students in the immediate short term. 2) to provide for Jewish students returning to campus for the 2020/21 academic year. And 3) to ensure that UJS can ride this out and be there long into the future to provide for our future Jewish leaders now and for many years to come.

I am proud to say that so far we have done all of that and so much more, truly leading, defending and enriching Jewish student life.

The team around me at UJS are exceptional. It is thanks to them all that we were able to continue our direct student support and engagement and I want to use this opportunity to pay tribute to the 19/20 and the 20/21 teams. They really are the core and heart of the organisation.

I finally want to thank all of you, our supporters and friends for continuing to stand by us and provide exceptional leadership in these difficult times. This is no doubt a difficult time for everyone, but if we tackle it together we will ensure that we are able to burst out the other side with vigour.

- Arieh Miller

100 Years of UJS: A century of Jewish students' activism 1919-2019

“ My own experiences of UJS as Chair of Manchester University J-Soc in 1985 – were among the happiest and most energetic of my life. Like generations of Jewish students before and since, we lived the values of the organisation – learning by organising for ourselves literally dozens of events per term that celebrated Jewish life together, independent of ‘denomination’, and advocating for Jewish Students and for Israel in the Union.”

Maurice Helfgott
Former Chair of Trustees, BBHF

“ I am proud of my ongoing connection with UJS. We have so many amazing students participating in Jewish life on campus and then taking on significant roles in community leadership. We have produced some of the most talented young people I have had the privilege of meeting and it is so gratifying to realise that UJS has been a part of encouraging their community involvement”

Sir Victor Blank
Chair, UJS Advisory Council

“ You can see the remarkable activism of Jewish students, generation after generation, keeping, guarding and passing on our heritage with a love of Judaism and a bit of chutzpah. We are sure that UJS will continue to inspire future Jewish leaders for generations to come as it has done for so many already.”

Yaffa Judah and Talia Masin
Curators of the UJS 100 History project



1929-1930:
Inter-University Jewish Federation,
Summer School, Harrogate

1965-1966:
The Campaign
for Soviet Jewry

1980s:
Soviet Jewry campaigning
across the UK

1982:
Liverpool
Jewish Society

1993:
Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
visits Birmingham Hillel House

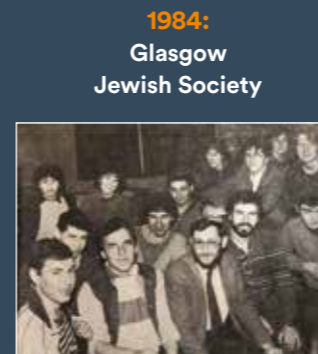
2003:
Shimon Peres addresses UJS
Fringe at NUS Conference



1959:
I.U.J.F. Summer School



1970:
UJS's Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascism
Campaigning begins



1984:
Glasgow
Jewish Society



1996-1997:
UJS Office incoming team in party
mood at London Hillel House



2019:
Congratulations from
Reuven Rivlin, The President
of the State of Israel

Financial Review

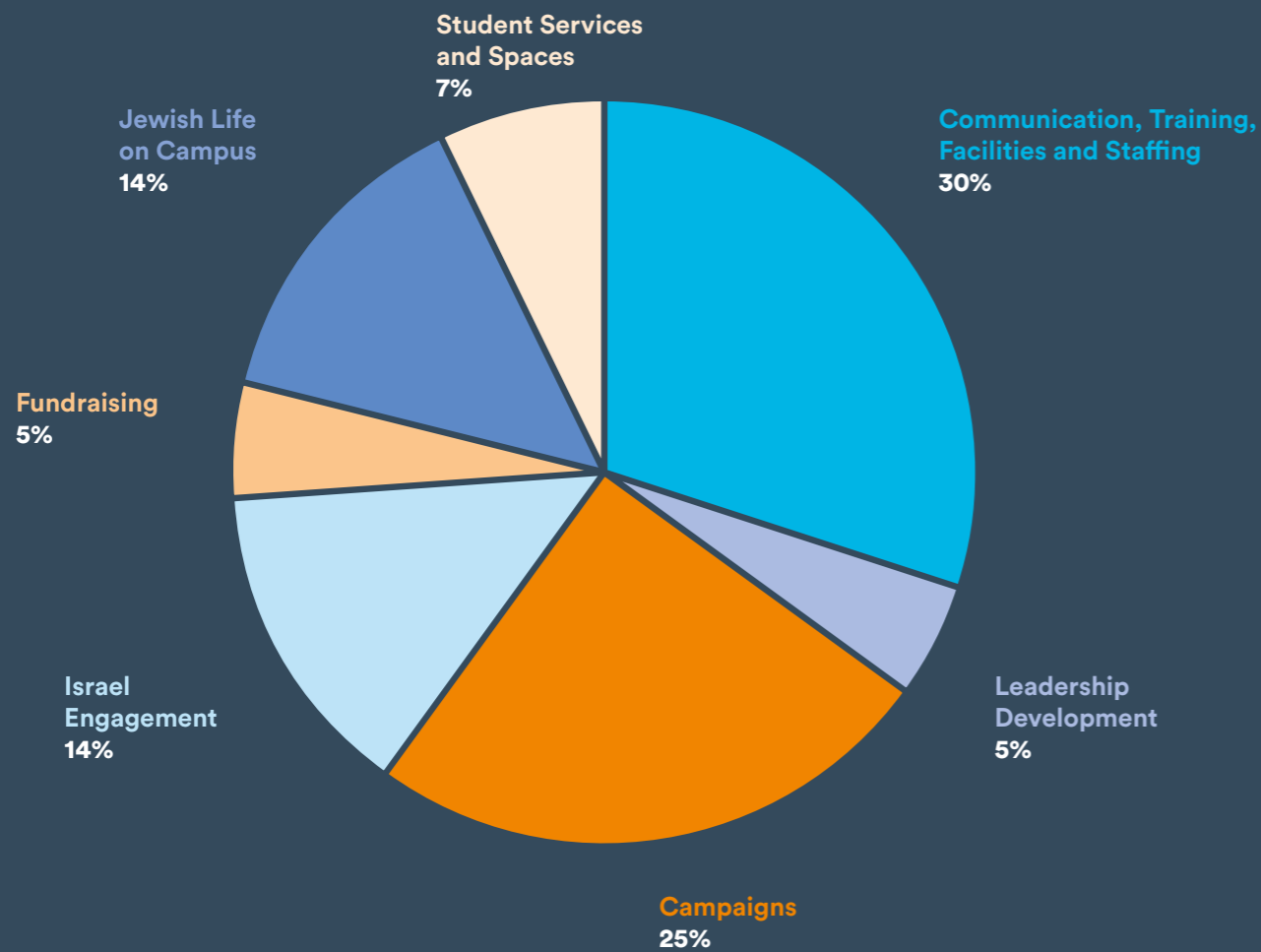
UJS invests almost £1,000,000 per year in partnership with almost 70 Jewish Societies, representing more than 8,500 students - leading, defending and enriching Jewish life on campus.

This year could not have been more different from the way we planned it to pan out. With the world facing the medical, psychological and of course economic impact of the global pandemic, the entire charity sector was impacted in some way or another. UJS of course did not escape this impact and as you have read we had to adapt to cope with that.

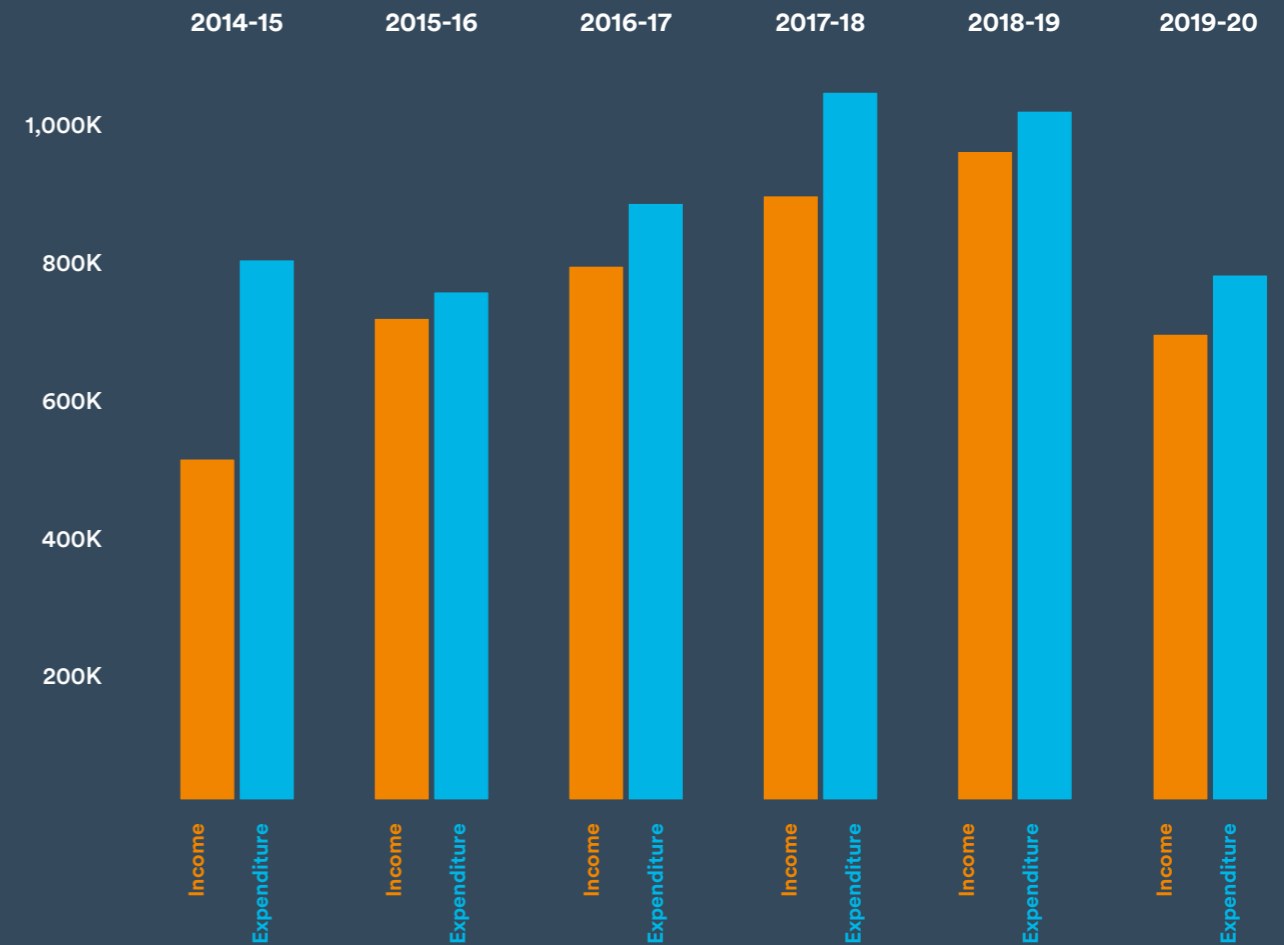
Even with these challenges continued to engage thousands of students in our diverse and dynamic programmes and campaigns. We are excited to take this organisation into its second centenary, presenting a remarkable opportunity to re-engage with the thousands of Alumni and looking to secure significant new support to sustain UJS as we continue leading, defending and enriching Jewish life on campus.

At the point at which the world changed, UJS was on track for a balanced budget. In order to continue to provide for Jewish students who needed us we were not able to simply shut down. Therefore, UJS and the Trustees took the decision to approve an emergency budget, saving significant costs but ending the year with a deficit of just over £20,000.

This pie chart reflects the breakdown of our expenditure, with over 72% dedicated to student programming and services.



The charts below show our income and expenditure from 2014-15 to 2019-20



* excludes Hyman legacy, see page 36

* excludes Hyman legacy, see page 36

Thank You

Thank you to everybody who made this year possible and such a success. We would be unable to achieve what we have without such strong support from the community.

Guardians and Patrons

Keith Black, Sir Victor and Lady Blank, Leon and Cara Blitz, Richard Bolchover and Jo Rosenfelder, Paul and Peggy Brett, David and Nili Chinn, Sir Trevor and Lady Chinn, Simon Corney, Sir Mick Davis, Graham Edwards, The Exilarch's Foundation, Robert Gibber, David Goldberg QC, Jonny Goldstein, Marc Gordon and Caroline Marcus, Maurice and Danielle Helfgott, Alan and Louise Jacobs, Nick Leslau, The Catherine Lewis Foundation, Lord Jon and Nicola Mendelsohn, Richard Mintz z"l, The Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust, Rachel Charitable Trust, Roy and Nina Sandler, Sir Harry and Lady Solomon, Hilda Worth

Friends, Trusts & Foundations

Mark Astaire, Mark Barnett, Hannah Brown, Sue Charles, Dr Vivienne Cohen, The Craps Charitable Trust, Simon Fine, Joe and Rosa Frenkel Charitable Trust, Richard and Eliana Green, Francis and Anne Greibach, Ann Goldstein, Richard Goldstein, Ronnie Goldstein, Antony Grossman, Henry Grunwald OBE, Mandy and Tim Isaacs, Jewish Memorial Council, Jusaca Charitable Trust, Daniel Kay, Paul Koopman, Stephen and Sharon Lewis, Steven and Alicia Lewis, Alison Mendel, Marc Nohr, JE Posnansky Charitable Trust, Shelley Robinson, Alison Sonn, Ron and Julie Tabbouche, David Uri Memorial Trust and Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, Ruth Berkowitz Charitable Trust, John Black Memorial Trust, Sybil Shine Memorial Trust, Sybil Shine Memorial Trust

UJS Advisory Council

Sir Victor Blank (Chair), Baroness Ros Altman, Luciana Berger MP, Tony Bloom, David Dangoor, Sir Mick Davis, Baroness Ruth Deech, Sir Lloyd Dorfman, Jonathan Goldstein, Henry Grunwald OBE, Lord Daniel Finklestein, Sir Brian Leveson, Laura Marks OBE, Lord Jon Mendelsohn, Sir Trevor Pears, Lady Elaine Sacks and Hilda Worth

Gifts in Kind

Jonathan Golden

Legacy Donation

A generous legacy was left to UJS by the estate of Alan Hyman z"l. UJS would like to recognise this gift, and extend thanks to his family for this support.

Communal supporters and partners



Jewish Leadership Council, Shores Charitable Trust, Pears Foundation, Rothschild Foundation,

UJS Team 2019/2020

Arieh Miller, Natacha Woodcock, Louise Cohen, Nick Sunshine, Georgie Levine, Esther Offenberg, Daniel Kosky, Bradley Langer, Shiri Wolff, Lauren Lethbridge, Georgia Boroda, Mor Sofer, Aaron Benderski, Carine Levy, Hansha Khetani, Melanie Wolfson

UJS Trustees 2019/2020

Maurice Helfgott (Chair), Mark Barnett, Carolyn Bogush, Hannah Brown, Spencer Debson, Paul Koopman, Adam Rose, Ella Rose, Nina Sandler and Mitchell Simmons



Havdallah, J-Soc Training Summit 2019

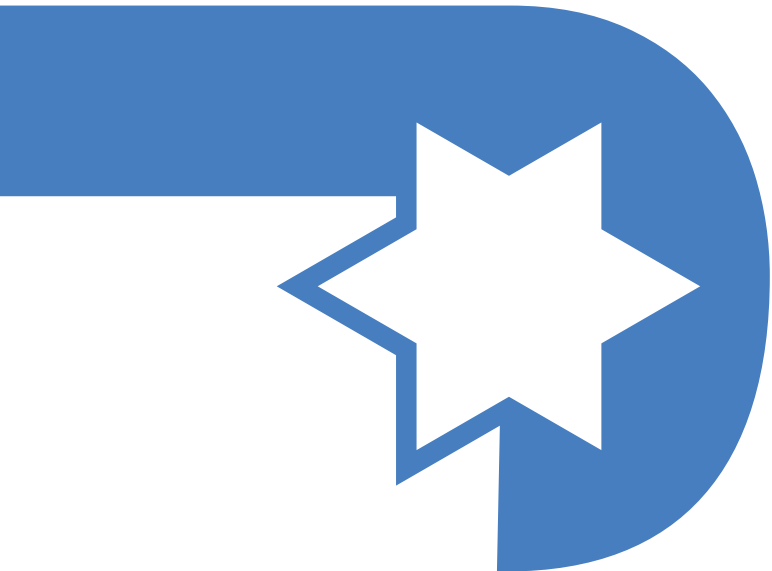
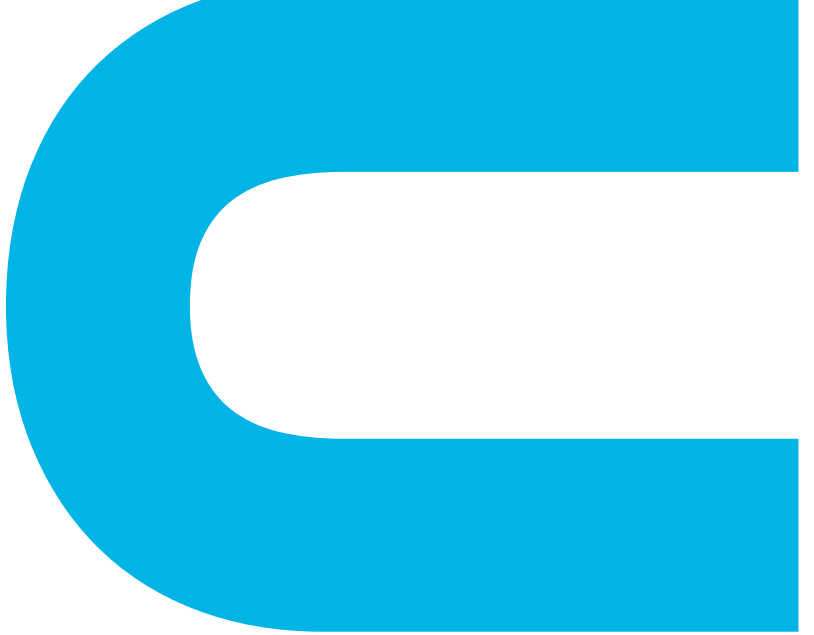
ujs.org.uk

1 Torriano Mews
London, NW5 2RZ

info@ujs.org.uk

020 7424 3288

   @UJS_UK



Registered charity number 313503 (Bnai Brith Hillel Foundation)

Design by Graphical: www.graphicalagency.com