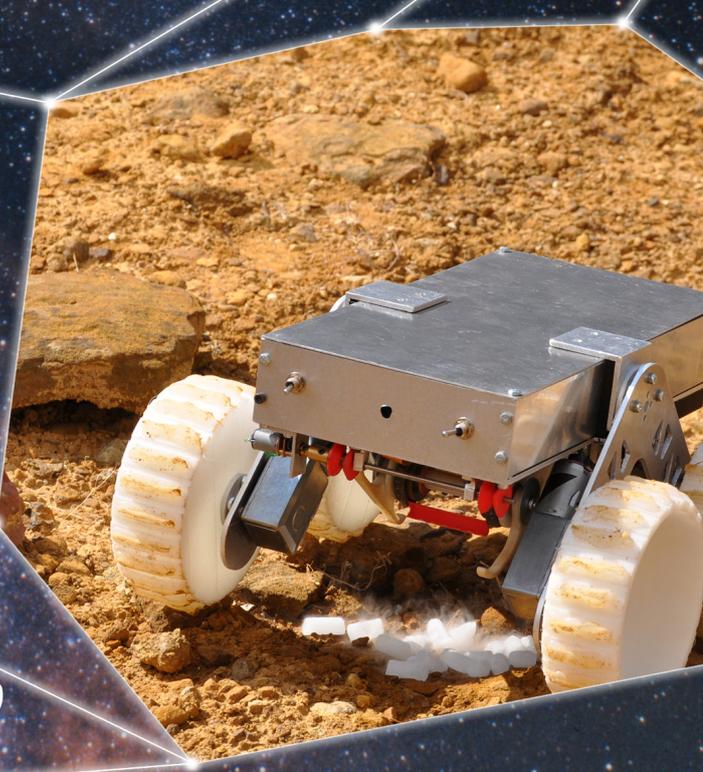




UKSEDS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



MARCH 2019

2018/19 has been a fantastic year for UKSEDS, with more and better events than ever before and the team working together to produce great results.

This year, we have made diversity and inclusion (D&I) a core part of our work. We held our inaugural Diversity in Space Careers event in October, partnering with the Royal Astronomical Society to raise awareness of issues in the sector and to talk about solutions. We also created a toolkit to help our branches run inclusive events and have recently created a D&I team to make sure we are doing everything we can to make UKSEDS and the wider space sector welcoming to everyone.

SpaceCareers.uk has had a very successful year, with more views and a more diverse range of content than ever. We have received more than 75,000 visitors in the last year, ranging from school students to professionals looking to change careers. We are committed to making the site the best resource for careers in the space sector.

For the first time, we employed a summer placement student through the SPIN programme, with generous support from the UK Space Agency and the Open University. Emma Collier spent her summer developing fantastic content for SpaceCareers.uk and has now become a valuable member of the careers team.

I am proud that we're holding our annual conference in Scotland for the first time this year, at the University of Edinburgh. We've broken the records for sponsorship and ticket sales, selling out with over 400 people attending. We are also collaborating with ESA, the University of Leicester and the National Space Academy to host the 3rd Symposium on Space Educational Activities in September.

UKSEDS couldn't function without the help of very generous sponsors, supporters and friends. Our volunteers are key too – it's fantastic to have such a large and passionate team of dedicated young people looking to improve what we do. Several have been recognised for their exceptional work: in October, former Vice Chair Robert Garner won a Sir Arthur Clarke award; and last month, former Treasurer Heidi Thiemann was named as a finalist for the University of Leicester's Future Leader Award and has been invited to the Queen's Garden Party.

My time as Chair of UKSEDS has certainly been busy and not without its challenges, but it's been an extremely rewarding experience as I've seen us plan fantastic events, advocate for students (including on national radio) and expand our reach to bring the excitement of the space sector to more people across the country. The Executive Committee have been a fantastic group of people to work with, and I look forward to seeing how next year's Exec improve UKSEDS further still.



William Easdown
Chair





**THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS.
DOZENS OF UNIVERSITIES.
ONE VISION.**

WE ARE UKSEDS.

Our mission is to engage young people with the space sector.

We have a vision of a thriving UK space sector in which young people play an active role.

We want to be an organisation that is an integral part of the UK's space sector, and that is recognised and engaged with as such by industry, government, and academia.

For students, we want to be the go to place for space careers information, and provide a wide range of opportunities to gain new skills and engage with the sector.

For the sector, we want to be the organisation that others come to when they are looking to recruit and engage with students.

Our strategy to achieve this focuses on four key areas:

Education

Advancing our members' knowledge, skills, and experience

Outreach

Promoting space to the public and school students

Advocacy

Representing and advocating the role of students within the space sector

Operations

Working 'behind the scenes' to enable our other activities

Education

Our education programme aims to advance university students' knowledge, skills, and experience so that they are equipped to be active members of the UK's space sector.

The core parts of this programme are our careers website and our events, competitions, and projects, which provide opportunities to gain new skills and experience, both 'soft' and technical.

A key objective for the year was to increase the range of topics and locations of our events, to demonstrate the breadth of the sector and enable as many students as possible to learn.

SpaceCareers.uk

Our careers site, SpaceCareers.uk, continues to go from strength to strength. Last year our site had almost 400,000 views and our fantastic team of volunteers uploaded more than 300 jobs, as well as several new advice pages, interviews, and news articles. We now also deliver the latest jobs weekly right into the inboxes of our subscribers.

We also launched womenin.space – a website showcasing the work of women in the space sector – and acquired diversityin.space, which will host our diversity and inclusion resources in the year to come.

For the first time, thanks to a generous grant from the UK Space Agency and the support of the Open University, we were able to hire an intern, through the Space Placements in Industry (SPIN) scheme. We were delighted to have Emma Collier, a Physics undergraduate from the University of Southampton, join our team for 8 weeks over the summer, creating lots of new articles for the site and a fabulous space careers advice booklet for school students. Emma also went to events such as Farnborough Airshow on our behalf.



Events Programme

Diversity in Space Careers

October 2018 | London | 60 attendees

Our first Diversity in Space Careers (DISC) event took place in World Space Week at the Royal Astronomical Society, which was a celebration of the range of individuals that make up the space sector. This was reflected in the mix of attendees of the event, which included people aged 19 to 50, from a variety of career stages, with over 70% identifying as women or non-binary.

Attendees were given the opportunity to hear from speakers from many areas of the space sector, learning about how these speakers overcame barriers to their career progression or education. They also participated in workshops on how to make workplaces more inclusive environments. DISC was the debut for our new inclusive initiatives, including pronoun stickers, a code of conduct, and colour communication stickers.

Careers Launch at Reinventing Space

October 2018 | London | 60+ attendees

In October we ran our annual careers day at the Reinventing Space Conference, selling our for the first time. Students and graduates heard talks from the likes of Airbus, the UK Space Agency and Astroscale. Women in Aerospace UK also ran a workshop on unconscious bias. We are hugely grateful to the BIS for hosting the event, and to all our speakers and speed mentors for giving up their time to speak to delegates.

National Student Space Conference

March 2019 | Edinburgh | 360+ delegates

Our annual conference is the premier student space event in the UK, bringing together students, academics, and professionals from across the world.

This year, the conference is being held in Scotland for the first time, at the University of Edinburgh, and includes panels on science communication, spaceports, space policy and startups.

For the fourth year running we are collaborating with Airbus Defence and Space to bring their student presentation competition to the conference. We also welcome several new sponsors including Raytheon, Skyrora, and Lockheed Martin.

Future Events

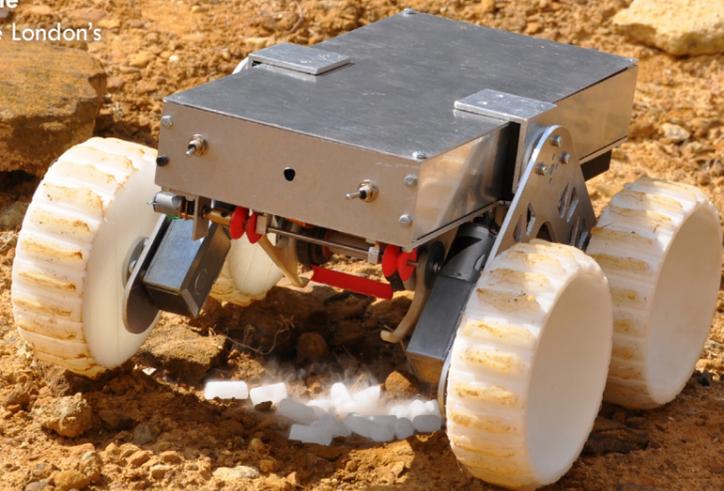
We already have several events planned for the rest of the year, including a second edition of our Student Propulsion Forum and the Diversity in Space Careers events, as well as the 3rd Symposium of Space Educational Activities in collaboration with ESA, the University of Leicester and the National Space Academy in September.

We implemented a number of inclusivity initiatives at DISC to make the event as accessible as possible. These included pronoun stickers and aids for those who find communication difficult. These worked so well that we will be implementing them at all our events going forwards.



“the rover competition has been an amazing and insightful experience throughout the year!”

Morgan Nightingale
Leader of Imperial College London's winning team



Competitions

National Rocketry Championships

22 teams

Our sixth National Rocketry Competition (NRC) has seen another jump in entrants from 14 teams last year to 22 this year. The challenge for the teams is to design and build a mid-power amateur rocket with the goal of reaching the greatest apogee. The NRC continues to be a platform for branches to introduce students to their activities and projects.

The fifth NRC saw 14 teams compete with the winning team, from the University of West England, reaching an altitude of 539 metres.

Satellite Design Competition

8 teams

Our second Satellite Design Competition in collaboration with SSPI has seen an increase in teams participating, going from four entrants to eight. This year teams are challenged to design a CubeSat or CubeSat constellation to fulfil a scientific mission in the field of astronomy. This competition is set to finish in July with SSPI sponsored awards to be handed out at our 2020 conference.

Going forward into next year's competition we look to additionally collaborate with Open Cosmos to make the competition more relevant to today's space industry.

Lunar Rover Competition & Olympus Rover Trials

15 teams

Our third rover competition, in partnership with GMV and supported by Thales Alenia Space, RAL Space and Oxford Space Systems, is currently in progress. It has been rebranded from the Lunar Rover Competition to the Olympus Rover Trials, as we have moved the setting from the Moon to Mars.

The competition challenges teams to design, build, and test small rovers with the objective of driving across a 'Martian' surface to collect canister samples and return them to a lander. 11 teams are now working on their design towards the Critical Design Review (CDR) which will be conducted by industry experts over the next few months.

Last year's competition concluded in July 2018, with 8 out of 15 teams passing their CDR and competing at RAL Space's Mars Yard. Imperial College London's team came out on top, winning the competition and the award for the best CDR. The University of Sheffield team won the prize for the best innovation for their advanced scoop mechanism used for sample retrieval, and the University of Manchester team were recognised for their rover-related outreach programme which encouraged more young people to study STEM at school.

Advocacy

Our advocacy programme aims to promote the views and concerns of students and young people within the space sector. In particular we campaign for greater support of students, the involvement of students and diversity in the development of strategy and policy.

Events

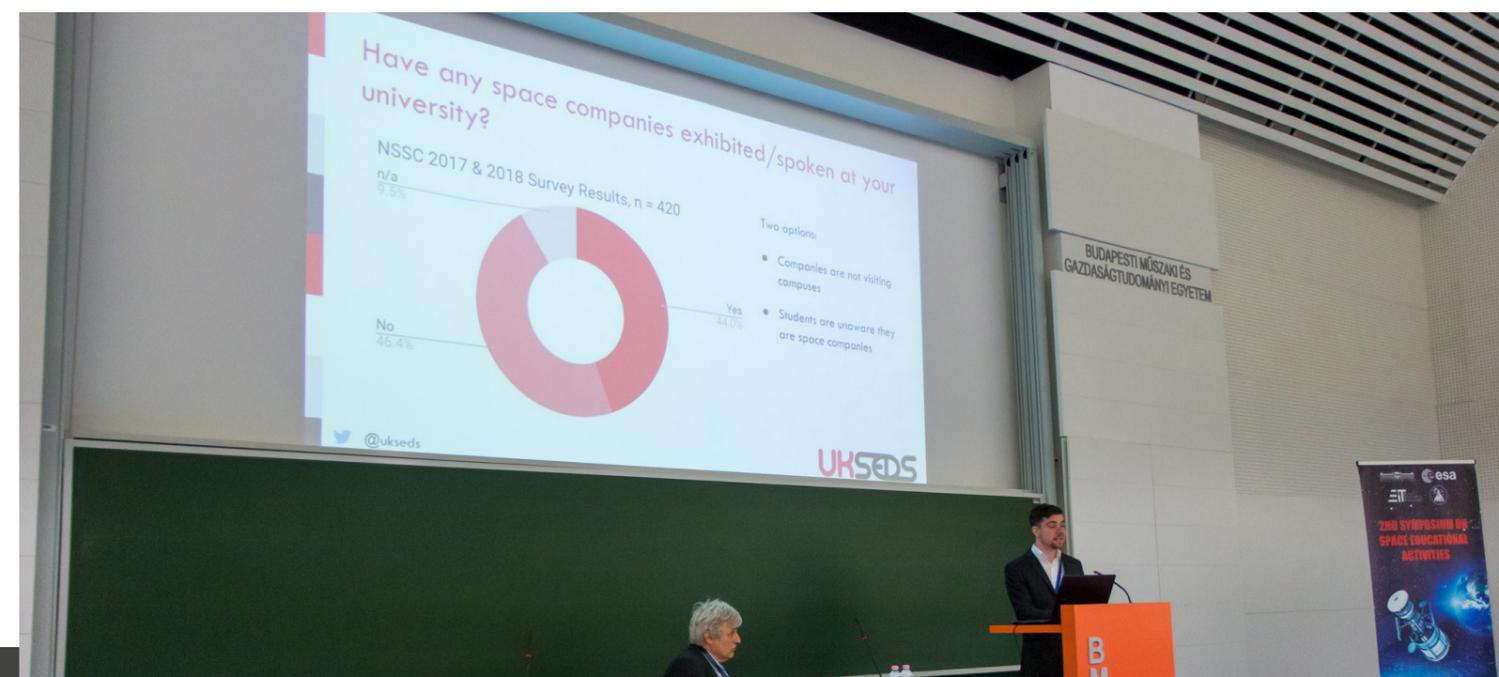
Our Secretary, Áine O'Brien was invited to sit on a panel discussion called Space: The not so obvious choice, at the Next Generation Space Leaders Day at the Global Aerospace Summit in Abu Dhabi. Áine spoke about her experiences as a planetary geologist and our careers work in the UK.

Several members of our Executive Committee have attended Westminster Business Forum events, networking with other attendees from government, industry and academia and raising issues such as diversity and the skills pipeline.

Papers

At the 2nd Symposium for Space Educational Activities in Budapest in April, we presented a paper titled *Removing roadblocks from the UK space skills pipeline: A student and young professional perspective*. In the paper, we use primary data collected mostly from SpaceCareers.uk and our pre-event surveys to identify problems in the sector's skills pipeline and propose some ways of tackling them.

We have also submitted an abstract to the 50th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference this summer for a poster on *Diversity in student space activities in the United Kingdom*. Áine has received a travel grant from the WeMartians podcast, and will be representing us at the conference.



Outreach

Our outreach programme is focused on promoting space to the public, including primary, secondary, and parts of further education. We believe a good public understanding of space and its importance to life on Earth is vital to the growth of our space sector.

This year we attended a multitude of outreach events, some regular, such as the Farnborough Air Show and at the Royal Institution, and some new and unusual such as the Museum of the Moon on its tour around the country. Other new events include Norwich Science Festival, one of the largest science festivals of the year.

We also secured £1000 funding from the Royal Astronomical Society, half of which will be used to fund outreach workshops later this year. The other half will go towards maintaining our stockpile of equipment and accessories, including t-shirts, meteorite kits, and space 4D cards.

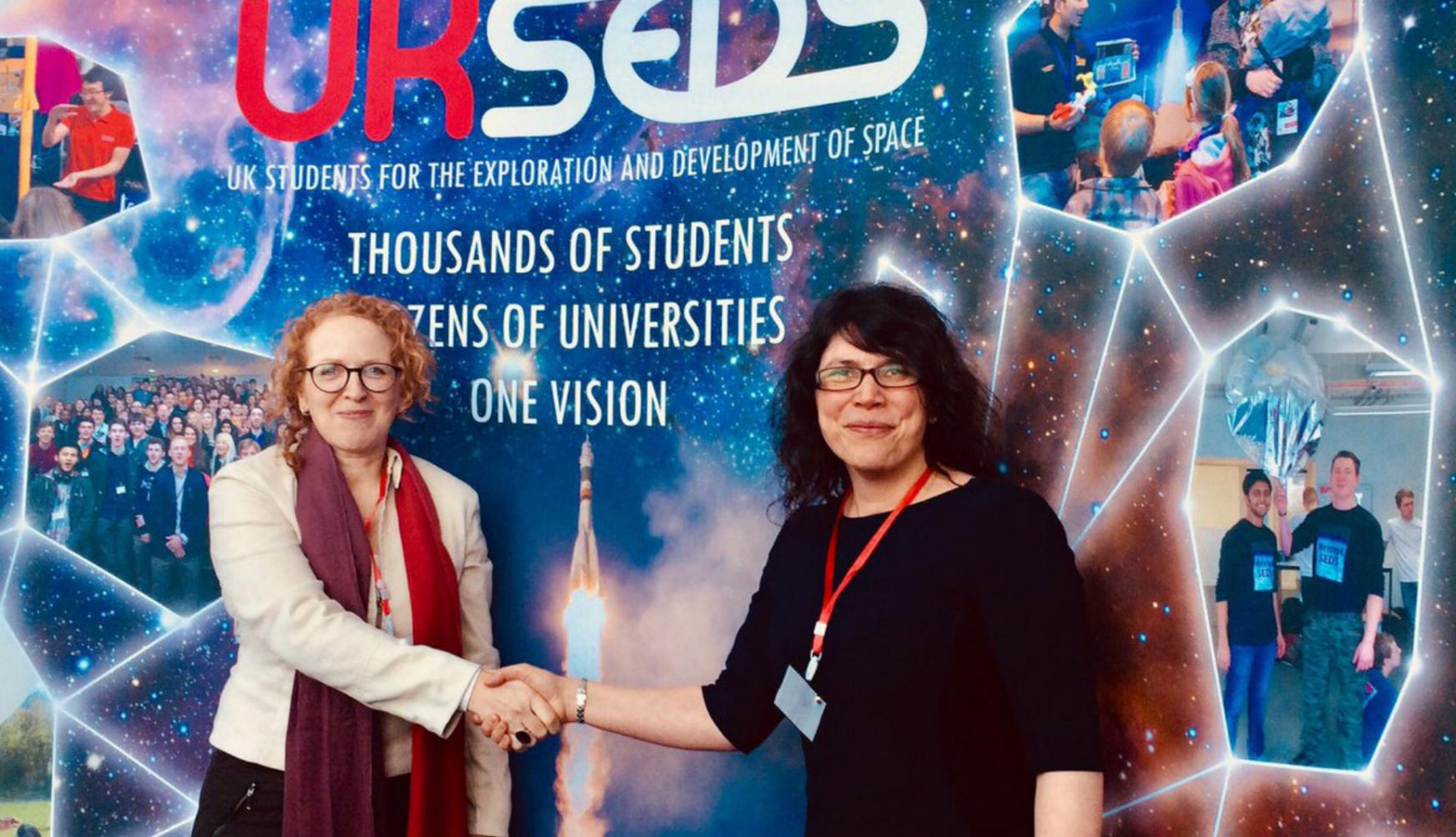
Primary School Astronaut Scheme

In December we received a request through SpaceCareers.uk from a primary school in the North West to answer letters from Key Stage 2 pupils applying for astronaut jobs. Our Outreach team quickly assembled themselves, under the excellent guidance of Emily Truman, one of our newest volunteers, to receive adorable job applications from these enthusiastic kids. We received 53 fantastic letters and it was an absolute joy to read through them, reply and pick a winner, who received a signed copy of UKSEDS alumna Libby Jackson's book *A Galaxy of Her Own*. We are looking at ways of expanding this activity to other schools.

Student Space Ambassadors

Looking to the future, we are working with ESERO-UK to create a new network of Student Space Ambassadors. We will offer a number of free training sessions on how best to engage with and teach the next generation, and help volunteers find schools and science fairs to share their knowledge at. As thanks for volunteering their time, Student Space Ambassadors will receive official recognition from ESERO-UK, UKSEDS, the Royal Astronomical Society and others.





Operations

Our operational programme concerns our work 'behind the scenes' to enable our other principal activities. Without a motivated staff backed by effective systems we aren't able to achieve anything.

Membership & Alumni

We introduced our new membership system, Constellation last year. We have more than 450 members (registered in the past 12 months), and 28 branch societies all across the country.

As it was our 30th anniversary last year, we've tried to reconnect with many of our alumni over the past 12 months. We had a group photo at International Astronautical Congress in Bremen, and are holding an alumni dinner ahead of our conference in Edinburgh.

We continue to receive generous support from our alumni who have spoken at our events, connected us with sponsors, and mentored our newest recruits.

Inclusivity

We have set up a Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) team to coordinate our work in this area and make sure it is a core part of what we do.

D&I makes its first appearance in our annual awards, as part of our efforts to encourage our members and branches to consider how they can make their events and activities more accessible too. To help them with this, we are developing an Inclusive Initiatives Handbook – a free guide outlining what can be done within an organisation and at events, to make them more inclusive.

Systems

As a remote organisation, we rely a great deal on effective systems for communicating and keeping track of everything. The tech sector's generous support for charities means that we are able to use professional software at no cost.

In the past year we have built two brand new tools: Aurora, our events platform; and Meteor, our enquiries management system. These enable our geographically distributed team of volunteers to work more efficiently together and have been put through their paces in handling ticket sales and enquiries for this year's conference.

Partnerships

We are proud to be part of a supportive global space community. We continue to have good relationships with our sister SEDS organisations overseas, as well as other student groups like EUROAVIA, and the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

Space & Satellite Professionals International (SSPI)

We have continued our valued partnership with SSPI, organising another Satellite Design Competition, and attending the Better Satellite World Awards Dinner in December. We are excited to continue working together in the coming year.

UK Space Agency

We have received an enormous amount of support from the UK Space Agency (UKSA) this year. We received funding for a SPIN placement student to develop resources for SpaceCareers.uk over the summer, and as well as for events such as the CranSEDS Space Day, the Launch UK stream at NSSC, our National Rocketry Competition and our Student Propulsion Forum. We are also grateful to Kathie Bowden and Jeremy Curtis for attending and contributing to our events.

ESERO-UK

We are excited to be partnering with ESERO-UK in launching the Student Space Ambassador scheme and we look forward to rolling out the workshops across the UK.

British Interplanetary Society

As ever, we are hugely grateful to BIS for their continued support. Through Gill Norman, one of our wonderful trustees, we receive helpful guidance and advice on the vision and strategy of the charity. BIS generously provides a slot for us at the annual Reinventing Space Conference, where we run a day-long careers conference for students.

ESA, the University of Leicester, and the National Space Academy

We are partnering ESA, the University of Leicester, and the National Space Academy later this year to run the 3rd Symposium on Space Educational Activities, which provides an international stage for students and academics to discuss current and future space educational activities in Europe and beyond, focusing on university level activities as well as opportunities for learners and educators at high school.

Legal Changes

In 2017, we took the decision to overhaul our structure, introducing a new constitution for a new legal entity, and expanding the Board of Trustees to include six Non-Executive trustees drawn from the wider space sector. The proposed constitution was approved by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Our intention was to form the new entity, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to replace our current unincorporated charity, immediately following the Annual General Meeting. However, this process is still ongoing, and due to the Charity Commission's requirements, has meant that there are now two governing documents: a constitution and a set of rules and regulations. We expect this process to complete in Q1 of 2019.

Despite these delays in changing our legal status, we have had our intended Board of Trustees involved from the outset, which has been a fantastic and very beneficial experience, leading to improved partnerships with other organisations in the sector.

Finances

UKSEDS has had its highest ever level of income this financial year with an income of almost £40,000 and an expenditure of £22,500 in the 2017-18 period. This is partially due to the ever expanding sponsorship and attendance of the National Student Space Conference, and the new income line from sponsorship of the Lunar Rover Competition. As we don't currently use accruals for our accounts, the payment of the Space For All grant for expenditure in the previous year and an unpaid grant for our SPIN placement student inflate the income. Without these two payments, our income was just under £26,000 – still a record.

Due to the legal changes described above, we expect to stretch the previous financial until the dissolution of the current charity at some point in the next couple of months. After this, the new Board of Trustees will decide on the most appropriate financial year for the charity. Having reached an income over £25,000 per year, we are now legally required to have an independent check of our accounts, which will be completed after the end date of the this financial year is confirmed.

In terms of breakdown in spending, the vast majority (75%) of the expenditure is on our events programme. The remainder was mostly spent on running our competitions and overheads.

	2017 - 2018	2016 - 2017
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and grants	8,372.09	4515.67
Charitable activities	28,775.74	14,505.49
Other trading activities	33.68	0.00
Total Receipts	37,147.83	19,021.16
Payments		
Direct Costs	(19,199.77)	(17,944.64)
Bursaries and grants	(2,301.61)	(3,853.55)
Administrative expenses	(232.97)	(248.67)
Total Payments	(21,734.35)	(22,046.75)
Net of receipts/(payments)	12,413.48	(3,025.59)
Funds carried forward	19,007.84	3,724.43

UKSEDS

We are a registered charity no. 1158580

Our charitable objects are to advance education for the public benefit, by making a forum for the communication and exchange of ideas between students, educational establishments, industry and the general public; and to act as a resource for young people in the UK with an active interest in space, by providing advice and assistance to improve their knowledge base, skill sets, and hands-on experience

Our Trustees and Executive Committee are elected by the Membership in accordance with our Constitution, and plan our activities with regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, our Objects, and our long term strategy.



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- Joseph Dudley
- Robert Garner
- David Jones-Gerrard
- Ryan Laird
- Ciara McGrath
- Jeremy Nickless
- James Telfer

Staff

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- Joseph Dudley
- Olivia Freestone
- Jessica Goldie
- Sara Hardy
- Lilli Helps
- Ozioma Kamalu
- Manisha Kushwaha
- Lewis Lappin

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- Prahalad Kuthethoor (Vice Chair)
- Aine O'Brien (Secretary)
- Louise McCaul (Treasurer)
- Anuradha Damale
- Sam Walton

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