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Introducing the Campus Experience Team

The Campus Experience Team lies at the heart of the Republic Education Campus, a next-generation multi-university hub at East India Dock. Created in 2024 by Trilogy Real Estate LLP, the Campus Experience Team works to support Republic's universities in shaping place, enterprise, and community. Working across placemaking, social and civic impact, marketing, events, and communications, the team deliver the essential infrastructure for collaboration between students, academics, businesses, and local communities.

Designed for an era of open knowledge and impactdriven education, the **Campus Experience Team** supports universities as civic anchors, fostering partnerships that link learning with enterprise, social innovation, and public life. By bridging the gap between higher education, business, and local communities, the team help create a dynamic, networked campus where students and institutions can thrive in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.



Our focus is on creating a campus where students, universities, and businesses can collaborate and succeed. This includes:

Designing vibrant student spaces

Building connected student communities

Creating a welcoming campus where everyone feels they belong

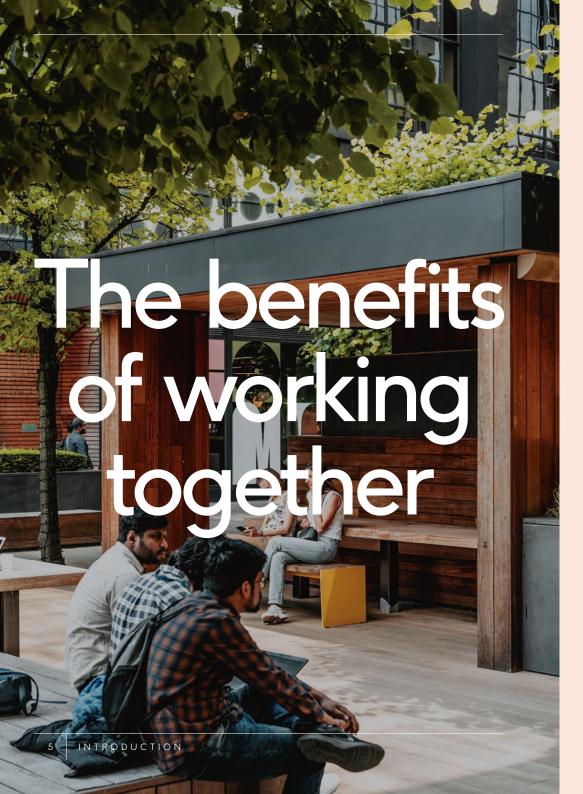
Strengthening the campus identity for universities and businesses

Supporting high levels of student and staff engagement

Connecting businesses, universities, and the local community

INTRODUCTION

BRINGING YOUR CAMPUS TO LIFE



The future of education: The shared campus Traditionally, universities have been defined by a single campus location, often reflected in their name and identity. However, the landscape of higher education is shifting. More and more, universities are expanding beyond their original locations to establish satellite campuses in cities like London, a vibrant hub for learning, culture, and employment, attracting both domestic and international students.

As higher education evolves, so does the campus model. Increasingly, universities are embracing shared spaces, working alongside other education institutions and organisations rather than adhering to the traditional, standalone approach. This move toward shared, collaborative learning spaces is shaping the future of higher education.



Supporting universities in a new era

The **Campus Experience Team** support university tenants in navigating and making the most of this change. Through our work at **Republic Education Campus**, we've developed a strong understanding of what makes shared campuses work, fostering environments where universities can flourish, students feel supported, and businesses engage with emerging talent.

Some of the key challenges we've helped our university occupiers navigate in a collaborative campus environment include:

> Fostering an inclusive, campus-wide student community, ensuring engagement beyond institutional silos

Leveraging the benefits of co-location, creating opportunities for collaboration across universities

> Adapting to a multi-institution setting

Requiring access to have places to connect beyond classrooms

social and extracurricular spaces, ensuring students

Delivering high-quality student support services within a flexible. multi-university setting



Enhancing the international student experience, supporting integration and belonging

Finding a strong sense of identity within a new location



Adapting to a

shared campus

layout, including

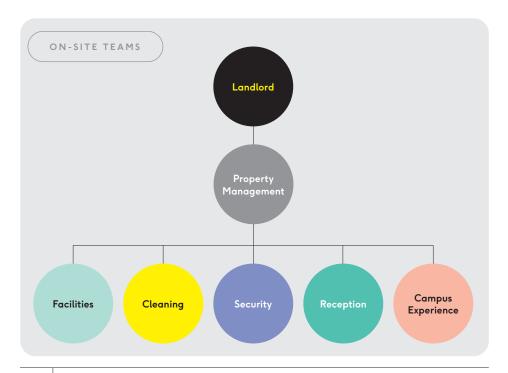
wayfinding, facilities access, and space planning

> INTRODUCTION BRINGING YOUR CAMPUS TO LIFE

Campus team structure

The Campus Experience Team lead on student experience, community partnerships, events and placemaking across the education campus.

Their work helps shape an environment where students and staff feel connected, supported and inspired to belong. Working alongside Front of House, Security, Facilities and Property Management, the team ensures that Republic is a welcoming, vibrant and inclusive place to study, work and collaborate.





MAY MOLTENO Director, People and Place

On behalf of Trilogy Property, May directs the work of the Campus Experience Team and heads up the operational side of managing the Republic Education Campus. May brings 25 years' experience of stakeholder engagement and partnership building to her role and has an expertise in social impact delivery and measurement. May's background in community development and education supports the Campus Team to create inclusive, supportive contexts in which staff and students can thrive



ROSIE NIBLOCK

Head of Campus Experience

Rosie leads the strategic vision for student life at Republic, bringing creativity, energy and insight to every aspect of the campus experience. She oversees branding, events and visual identity, and supports Republic's universities to co-create shared spaces that foster connection, wellbeing and belonging.



ANNE-MARIE PAYNE

Senior Social Impact Manager

Anne-Marie leads on civic and community engagement, working closely with local organisations and university partners to deepen Republic's impact in Tower Hamlets and beyond. Her work spans public programming, stakeholder relationships and inclusive outreach – helping to position Republic as a campus that's open, outwardfacing and rooted in place.



INAS KHALI

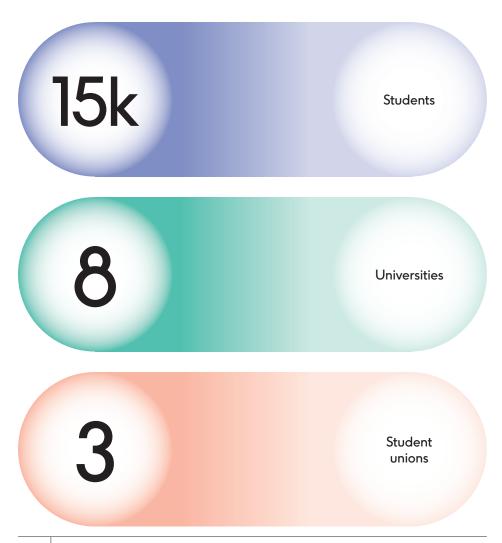
Senior Events Manager

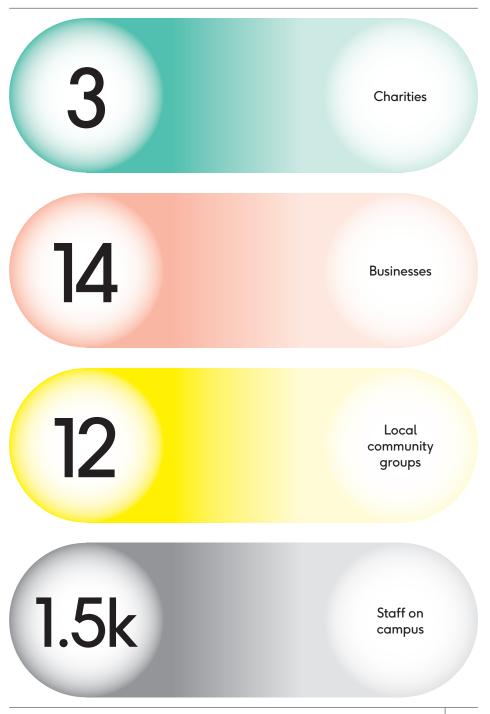
Inas curates and delivers a year-round programme of events designed to build community across the campus. She supports student-led activity, cultural celebrations and professional development sessions – ensuring that Republic is a lively, responsive space where everyone feels welcome.

INTRODUCTION

BRINGING YOUR CAMPUS TO LIFE

Our work currently supports:





We have delivered:

200+ Student events

£5.1m

Social impact generated for the local area

4.6

Campus satisfaction rating



We surveyed 700+ students

In early 2024, the **Campus Experience Team** engaged **Tonic**, a social research consultancy with 15 years of experience in public consultations and evaluations, to conduct an in-depth study exploring the student experience at **Republic**. We were seeking a data-driven understanding of student needs, challenges and overall satisfaction with life on campus.

The study gathered insights through **The Republic Student Survey 2024**, which engaged 700+ students and received 670 survey responses. 32 in-depth student interviews, capturing direct experiences and personal perspectives.

Together, these sources provide a comprehensive picture of student life at **Republic**, highlighting what works well and where improvements are needed. The research served as a valuable resource for the **Campus Experience Team**: insights from the study have directly informed many of the initiatives outlined in this report, ensuring that student feedback translates into meaningful action. This, along with ongoing engagement with students, university staff, and student union representatives, has shaped our strategic approach to campus development, ensuring a shared campus environment that fosters collaboration between academia, enterprise, and the wider community.



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Understanding the student experience at Republic

The following pages illustrate how the **Campus Experience Team's** expertise in placemaking, events, and partnerships creates the conditions for universities to thrive at **Republic**. By fostering a connected, high-quality campus environment, we enable institutions to strengthen their identity, enhance student engagement, and deepen their civic and enterprise links, positioning **Republic** as a strategic hub for learning and collaboration in the heart of East London.



Outdoor space at Republic

Designed to foster wellbeing, community interaction, and student engagement, **Republic's** public realm remains a key contributor to a positive campus experience. The 2023 Public Realm Survey, carried out for the Thrive Social Impact report, reinforced the public realm's lasting impact on the environment and student life.

The Water Garden

Once an underutilised walkway, the water gardens at **Republic** now act as a 'social spine': a key pedestrian route lined with gathering and study spaces, seating, and biodiverse planting. This encourages students to pause, interact and engage, rather than just move through.

87% felt "very positive" about the transformation from walkway to water agrdens

86% of respondents said their favourite part was being by the water, with some noting they now feel safer using the space at night.

This work earned Republic an 'Excellent' BREEAM rating and recognition in the L.I. Climate Change Publication.



The Lakeside Sandpit

Created in response to a 2021 community consultation, this free-to-use play area has become a key connection point between Republic and local families.

93% of surveyed users enjoyed the space, with parents highlighting its positive impact on children's wellbeing and family life.

Since its installation, the sandpit has welcomed **16,000 visitors**, including 7,000 children

It has generated an estimated £1.7m in social value impact.



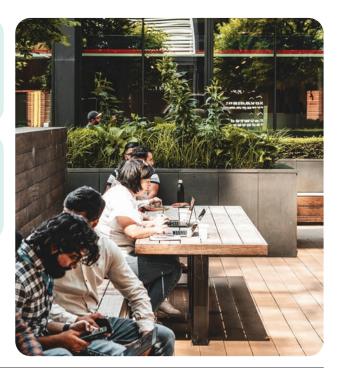
Outdoor study

& workspaces

Recognising the need for flexible, open-air spaces, **Republic** has outdoor pavilions (complete with Wi-Fi and electrical charging points) that support study, work, and social interaction.

73% of those surveyed stated that the public realm contributes to their wellbeing, helping them feel more balanced and relaxed.

Many highlighted these spaces as ideal for group study and quiet reflection.



Placemaking

A strong sense of place and identity is essential for everyone who uses the campus. By embedding **Republic** within the fabric of its surrounding area – its history, community, and evolving student demographic – we ensure that **Republic** remains accessible, welcoming, and purposeful for both local people and the occupier community.

Republic's environment is already a key strength. In the 2024 Republic Student Survey, students rated the campus **4.6 out of 5 stars**, highlighting its peaceful atmosphere, green spaces, and modern design.





STUDENT INSIGHT

The indoor and outdoor environment is really nice: it's clean and tidy. It's important for students because we need time to relax and clear our heads.

Designing for students

To further enhance this experience and orient the ground floor towards **Republic's** growing student community, the **Campus Experience Team** has delivered several placemaking projects, including:

Ground floor brand refresh

In 2024, responding to occupier and visitor feedback, the **Campus Experience Team** reimagined the visual branding of the ground floor. Recognising that these high-footfall areas needed to better reflect a welcoming, student-friendly environment, we partnered with design agency Ensemble to refresh **Republic's** identity.

The result is a bold, cohesive first impression of the campus. Through playful use of colour and pattern, the **Campus Experience Team** introduced a sense of energy and fun, reinforcing **Republic's** identity as a student-focused hub. This transformation ensures that students immediately feel like they're in the right place, with clear wayfinding and a vibrant, connected ground-floor experience.



'Inspirational Figures' project

Following consultation with local community members, the **Campus Experience Team** installed window vinyls celebrating local heroes chosen by the community, bringing cultural and historical relevance to the campus while fostering a deeper sense of connection.



Wayfinding: navigating a diverse, international campus

With eight universities and an internationally diverse student community, Republic's shared campus model presents unique wayfinding challenges. New students, many arriving from abroad, must navigate a non-traditional university setting, often while adjusting to a new country, culture, and academic system. For international students in particular, clear wayfinding plays a crucial role in fostering confidence and comfort in their new environment.

Due to GDPR rules around data sharing, we are unable to obtain precise figures regarding the total number of international students enrolled at Republic's universities.

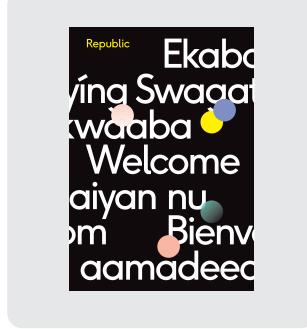
However, from our 2024 student survey, which gathered responses from 700 students from different universities based at Republic, we found that:

To ensure that students (especially those facing language barriers) feel comfortable and oriented from day one, the Campus Experience Team implemented a range of wayfinding strategies to make Republic more intuitive, welcoming, and easy to navigate.

Recent wayfinding initiatives include:

Welcome Magazine

Bringing Republic's vibrant and creative brand identity to life, we developed a Welcome Magazine, available free to all students. It provides essential information on transport links, onsite and local amenities, London attractions, and student stories, ensuring students feel welcomed, informed, and ready to make the most of their time at Republic.



Totem signage

Placed at key campus entrances, these signs feature clear, and easy-to-read maps, helping students and visitors locate their university, key facilities, and campus offerings at a glance.



'Breadcrumb' trails

A playful, visual guide leading students and visitors from the DLR station to key campus locations, ensuring that even first-time visitors can navigate quickly and confidently.



Enhancing student experience at Republic: a civic and future-focused approach to events

As the landscape of higher education evolves, there's a demand for institutions to extend beyond traditional teaching and research to act as hubs of student engagement and opportunity. The Campus Experience Team team at Republic aligns its work with this, developing an adaptive, impact-driven events programme that enhances the student experience across multiple universities. Implementing student insights, our programming fosters social integration, career readiness, and community engagement.



At the core of this approach is a commitment to optimising shared resources and operational efficiency. As a multi-institutional campus, the work of the Campus Experience Team enables universities to capitalise on a collaborative way of working that streamlines student resources, mitigates duplication, and amplifies collective impact. We create an interface through which universities can unlock economies of scale that would be difficult to achieve in isolation.

Critically, this model is designed to maximise the value of existing operational investments. As part of the wider suite of services provided at **Republic** – including security, cleaning, and shared facilities – our events and engagement programmes offer an additional layer of benefit to individual institutions. By taking full advantage of this infrastructure, universities can leverage shared expertise, and create a richer, more connected campus environment.

Through our events programme, the Campus Experience Team works to:

Strengthen employability through career development and entrepreneurial support

Facilitate international student inclusion and social cohesion

Cultivate wellbeing, cultural exchange, and community participation

Activate public spaces to create a thriving, socially connected campus.



Our approach mirrors emerging trends in place-based education, ensuring that learning, networking, and cultural engagement happen both within and beyond the classroom.

In response to student feedback, our events programme is structured around the following key focus areas:

Career development and employment support

Survey data

Among 700 students surveyed, 50% were engaged in part-time employment while studying, while 20% worked full-time. This underscores the necessity for campus-based career development initiatives aligned with students' financial and professional needs.

42% of students identified a gap in career development support, explicitly requesting additional job fairs, professional networking events, and employability-focused workshops.

A number of international students expressed aspirations to remain in the UK for employment opportunities, though many highlighted challenges related to visa restrictions and work-hour limitations.

Our response

Republic's events programme is designed to equip students with the skills. industry connections, and entrepreneurial opportunities needed for future success. Delivered by the Campus Experience Team in collaboration with our university partners, the programme includes job preparation hubs featuring professional headshots, CV clinics, and industry mentoring, alongside LinkedIn workshops, interview coaching, and employability insights from sector leaders.

We also collaborate with our tenant universities to host flagship employability events that connect students with top employers, internship opportunities, and professional networks. Additionally, our incubator initiatives support student entrepreneurs, providing a platform to pitch ideas to investors and industry experts, fostering innovation and economic engagement.

International student experience and inclusion

Survey data

28% of international students reported experiencing unwelcoming attitudes, highlighting the importance of fostering an inclusive and socially responsive campus culture.

Many cited challenges with language barriers and adapting to UK academic expectations.

Our response

Recognising the importance of belonging and cultural exchange, we design initiatives that enable students to connect across backgrounds. Examples include cultural exchanges such as Eid al-Fitr celebrations, multi-cultural events showcasing global traditions, platforms for LGBTQ+ voices, and more.

STUDENT INSIGHT



We need more handson support with job applications, networking, and industry connections. STUDENT INSIGHT



I would have benefited from a student buddy program or mentorship when I arrived.



Social and community engagement

Survey data

40% of students reported ease in forming social connections, while 13% expressed difficulties in making friends. This reinforces the need for structured social engagement initiatives that encourage peer interaction and community-building.

Our response

As Republic continues to evolve, we are committed to developing a campus environment students find engaging, welcoming, and valuable to their academic and social lives. Our community-building initiatives foster meaningful connections among students through a diverse programme of activities.

students to societies, support services, and peer networks; highly attended live music and open mic nights; sports events that encourage teamwork and wellbeing; craft sessions that provide space for creativity and social engagement; and student-curated cinema screenings, offering shared cultural experiences in an informal setting.

These include Student

Welcome Weeks, which

serve as campus-wide

touchpoints linking

STUDENT INSIGHT



I didn't expect to spend much time here outside of lectures, but the events have given me a reason to stick around and get involved.



A prototype for higher education

Republic as a prototype for the future of higher education

The Campus Experience Team's evolving events programme positions Republic as a leading example of place-based university engagement, where co-located universities have a unique opportunity to move beyond institutional silos and develop new models of collaboration, civic engagement, and industry integration.

By embedding student-led programming, public space activations, and industry-aligned career development into the wider campus experience, **Republic** is shaping a highly adaptive model of higher education that is:



Responsive

Continuously shaped by student insight and co-designed with the academic community to align with evolving pedagogical and employability priorities.

Place-based

Embedded within a regional ecosystem that enhances universities' civic responsibilities while strengthening connections to local communities and industries.

Future-ready

Equipping students with the social, cultural, and professional capital required for long-term economic participation and knowledge-based innovation.



Multi-campus research (Pinheiro & Nordstrand Berg, 2017) highlights that the greatest challenge facing co-located institutions is the tendency to operate in silos, which leads to duplication of efforts, inefficient resource allocation, and a fragmented student experience. Instead, Republic provides a model where universities can:



Strengthen student belonging

by creating shared initiatives that enhance social cohesion and wellbeing across institutions.

Expand industry and civic partnerships

by working with a networked campus model that fosters collaboration between universities, businesses, and the public sector.

Leverage shared infrastructure for institutional resilience

ensuring that universities maximise the benefits of a co-located campus, reducing inefficiencies while enhancing the collective impact on student experience and graduate outcomes.

Pinheiro, R., & Nordstrand Berg, L. (2017). Categorizing and assessing multi-campus universities in contemporary higher education. Tertiary Education and Management, 23(1), 5-22. https://doi.org/10.1080/13583883.2016.1205124



Shared spaces and the architecture of student belonging A key insight from student feedback is the critical role of shared spaces—not just as passive infrastructures but as socially generative landscapes that shape engagement, wellbeing, and intellectual exchange. While students gave the campus an impressive 4.6/5 rating, the survey also highlighted a persistent challenge: many students only come to campus for classes and leave immediately afterward, citing a lack of spaces that encourage them to stay beyond their academic commitments.

Despite this, the campus environment itself was widely praised, with students describing it as peaceful, well-maintained, and conducive to both study and relaxation.

73% of students said that having friendships on campus was important, yet many noted a lack of organic spaces for casual socialising. These insights underscore the need for intentionally designed communal spaces that do more than provide function. They must actively foster belonging, facilitate connection, and encourage students to see campus as a lived space, rather than just a transit point between lectures.



A student-responsive social hub

In direct response to these findings, **The Common Room** was launched in mid-2024. Designed through consultation with students, it transforms a previously underutilised site at the heart of **Republic** into a dynamic and inclusive hub, where students can build a sense of community on their own terms.

The survey data consistently pointed to the need for more student-led engagement opportunities, from casual socialising and quiet study areas to creative workshops, group collaboration, and cultural events. **The Common Room** was designed with this adaptability in mind. Featuring reconfigurable furniture and an open, modular layout that allows students to define how the space is used. Whether repurposed for an impromptu study group, a student-led film screening, or a quiet retreat between lectures, the space is intentionally designed to evolve with its users. This malleability empowers students to inhabit the space on their own terms.

Early observations suggest that **The Common Room** is already addressing the challenges identified in the survey. Where students previously cited a lack of incentives to stay on campus after lectures, the space is now serving as a catalyst for engagement, supporting both the social and academic life of students, while also being used by local community groups out of hours.

By embedding student-responsive placemaking at the heart of its strategy, the **Campus Experience Team** continues to refine and elevate the campus experience, ensuring that **Republic** is an environment where students can forge lasting relationships, experiment with new ideas, and establish a profound sense of belonging.



Amplifying collective impact at Republic

The **Campus Experience Team** believe that, through collaboration, universities based at **Republic** have a unique opportunity to amplify their civic role, demonstrate meaningful outcomes, and contribute to the long-term wellbeing of communities local to East India Dock.

The **Campus Experience Team** can help coordinate these initiatives, ensuring that partnerships between universities, local organisations, and businesses are mutually reinforcing. Without this central support, civic initiatives risk fragmentation, duplication of efforts, and a lack of measurable impact.

Our approach to social impact has already delivered significant social value for the area. Initiatives at **Republic** between 2017 and 2023 generated a total of £5.1million in monetised social impact (Social Value Impact of the Republic Education Campus, 2017-2023); from supporting entrepreneurs (£370,491) and job creation to providing over £367,922 in rent-free space for community organisations. The 1.3-hectare public realm and green spaces at **Republic** enhance health and wellbeing, while over 4,000 individuals have attended site-wide community events.



Supporting universities with civic impact measurement

Measuring the impact of civic engagement remains a challenge for universities, often due to inconsistent metrics, fragmented reporting, and difficulty capturing long-term social outcomes. The **Campus Experience Team** addresses this through its bespoke THRIVE framework, developed with Forever Consulting, which provides a comprehensive, structured approach to tracking civic impact.

Grounded in established methodologies such as the HM Treasury Green Book and the HACT Social Value Bank, and backed by a robust theory of change, the framework helps universities assess their contribution across six key dimensions: inclusion, wellbeing, resilience, community vibrancy, economic sustainability, and environmental quality. It aligns with national best practices, ensuring transparent and accountable reporting.



For more information or to explore collaboration, contact community@republic.london.

By partnering with the **Campus Experience Team**, universities benefit from:

01

A ready-made impact measurement framework, reducing time spent developing bespoke

evaluation tools.

02

Support in **tracking and assessing civic initiatives**,
ensuring long-term,
measurable benefits.

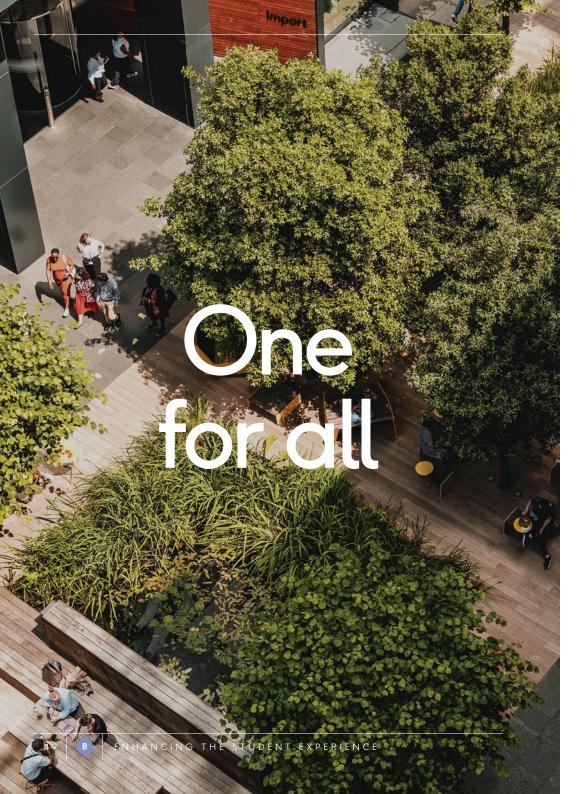
03

Ongoing monitoring and reporting, **streamlining evaluation processes** so universities can focus on delivering real change.

04

Expert guidance in aligning impact measurement with institutional goals and local needs.

Through this structured approach, the **Campus Experience Team** enables universities to amplify their civic role, demonstrate meaningful outcomes, and contribute to the long-term wellbeing of local communities.



Steering groups

Republic thrives on a shared commitment to partnership-driven impact. Institutions working together, whether universities, businesses, or community organisations, have the power to drive innovation and create change. The **Campus Experience Team** currently facilitates the following steering groups:

Education Leaders Group

University decision-makers come together to align institutional priorities and explore how the **Campus Experience Team** can provide meaningful support.

Retailer forum

Republic's retail occupiers connect to discuss shared challenges, exchange insights, and shape the commercial landscape to meet evolving community needs.

Events and engagement group

Events professionals, organisers, and engagement leads collaborate to develop **Republic's** events programme and foster a sense of belonging among students and staff.

Campus communications group

Marketing professionals across the campus coordinate messaging, promote initiatives, and ensure the Republic community stays informed and engaged.

These steering groups reflect the **Campus Experience Team** commitment to coproduction, ensuring that those who use the campus have a role in shaping it.

Strategic communications approach

At **Republic**, a multi-channel communication strategy is central to shaping a campus that is both functional, socially cohesive and inviting. The **Campus Experience Team**'s approach leverages a range of engagement tools, ensuring that students, particularly international cohorts and those with complex schedules, have access to readily available and easily digestible information that enhances their experience. The following interventions are designed to improve wayfinding, belonging, and student participation, drawing on insights from analytics, Republic's 2024 student survey, and interviews.



Website: A digital gateway to campus life

Survey data Students reported low visibility of key campus services, with many unaware of the full extent of support structures and social spaces available.

Our response In 2024, the Campus Experience Team launched a redesigned digital ecosystem that positions the website as a knowledge hub for campus life. The Campus Life page serves as a placemaking tool, providing an integrated, real-time directory of events, amenities, and civic initiatives, ensuring a frictionless student experience.

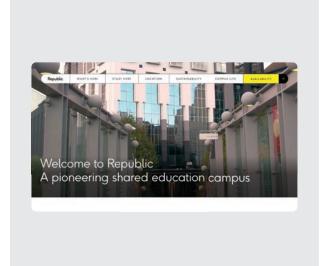
Digital screens: Spatially embedded wayfinding and messaging

Survey data 28% of international students cited difficulties navigating UK academic systems and cultural norms. Many also struggled with language barriers, particularly in absorbing key university policies, and in finding their way around campus.

Our response Republic's network of animated digital screens function as an integrated visual communication system, strategically placed in high-dwell spaces such as lifts, communal zones, and The Common Room, These screens reinforce essential messaging around campus safety, social events, and academic guidelines in a way that is visually accessible and brand-cohesive.



Not everyone knows about the support that is available. I only found



of international students cited difficulties navigating UK academic systems and cultural norms.

WhatsApp: Mobile-first engagement for a time-poor student body

Survey data 50% of students work part-time, and 20% work full-time, managing competing academic and professional demands. Email was frequently cited as an inefficient channel due to high volumes of unread messages.

Our response
Recognising that information accessibility must align with student behaviour, the Campus Experience Team implemented a Campus WhatsApp Group, designed as a light-touch, low-friction communication tool that meets students where they

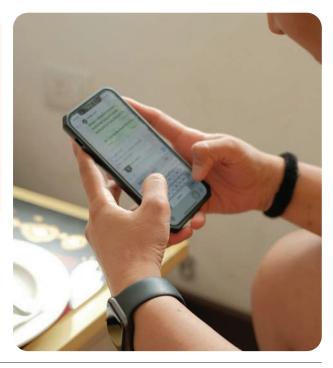
already are. With concise, twice-weekly updates on events, employment opportunities, and campus offers, this platform ensures that key messages cut through digital noise. Within just four months, the group has grown to 400+ members, with consistent new sign-ups, reflecting the effectiveness of this new communications channel. This approach mirrors industry best practice, where real-time communication improves engagement, and enhances the overall visitor experience. Posters: Tactile, place-based engagement Survey data
Many students expressed a
desire for more reasons to
remain on campus beyond
academic commitments,
with some highlighting the
challenge of forming social
connections. International
students, in particular, faced
barriers, with 28% reporting
unwelcoming attitudes and
language challenges.

Our response In order to activate social spaces, the Campus Experience Team has adopted a high-impact, visually dynamic print strategy for Republic. Colourful, large-format posters and flyers, designed in alignment with Republic's visual identity system, are placed in key sightlines across campus, drawing attention to a curated events programme designed to increase campus stickiness.

STUDENT INSIGHT



Working part-time while studying is tough. I don't always have time to check emails, so I miss out on opportunities. It would be great if updates were easier to find.



STUDENT INSIGHT



There is nothing that encourages me to stay on campus after my lectures. Once I'm done with my classes, I go home. We need more things to do—like sports clubs, music, or places to just hang out.



The Campus Experience Team:

Defining the next era of the urban university campus

Republic represents a fundamental shift in how universities inhabit cities. As higher education moves beyond the bounded campus towards co-located, multi-institutional models, the challenge is no longer just about space—it is about integration, identity, and long-term resilience. At a time when traditional university models are under increasing strain, the Campus Experience Team is actively shaping this transition, ensuring that Republic not only adapts but endures as a strategically networked environment. Here, universities can embed themselves within the community, foster student belonging, and extend their civic and economic reach, preserving their relevance in an evolving landscape.

The next phase of **Republic's** development will continue to test and refine this model, positioning it as an exemplar of multi-university placemaking and civic integration. Institutions that partner with the **Campus Experience Team** will have the opportunity to shape this trajectory, ensuring that their presence at **Republic** is both strategically embedded and forward-thinking.

To explore collaboration, contact community@republic.london.



Futureproofing higher education



Get in touch

To explore how the Campus Experience Team can support your institution's strategic objectives, contact:

community@republic.london



Republic



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