



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	09	2023		31	08	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Ustinov College Graduate Common Room

Other names charity is known by

Ustinov GCR

Registered charity number (if any)

1164865

Charity's principal address

Ustinov GCR, Ustinov College, Sheraton House,

Sheraton Park,

Durham

Postcode

DH1 4FL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Anthony Jones	GCR President 2023-2024	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
2	Ammar Alahmadi	GCR Treasurer 2023-2024	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
3	Aparna Dinesh-Shanoy	GCR Chairperson 2023-2024	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
4	Jamie Hunter	GCR Vice-President 2023-2024	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
5	Cory Winter	GCR Welfare Officer 2023-2024	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
6	Katherine Schofield	Student Trustee	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
7	Adam Fletcher	Student Trustee	September 2023-July 2024	Student Body
8	Thom Addinall-Biddulph	Chair of Trustees		Appointments Committee
9	Ian MacDonald	External Trustee		Appointments Committee
10	Ray Mumford	External Trustee		Appointments Committee
11	Rachel Barclay	External Trustee		Appointments Committee
12	Evangelos Vagenas-Nanos	Alumni Trustee		Appointments Committee
13	Ahmed Shafquat Hassan	GCR President 2024-2025	July 2024-August 2024	Student Body
14	Artie Graham	GCR Vice-President 2024-2025	July 2024-August 2024	Student Body
15	Chris Johnson	GCR Welfare Officer 2024-2025	July 2024-August 2024	Student Body

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountant	B.H. Accountancy Ltd	363 West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7NL

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Anthony Jones (GCR President 2023-2024)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution and Standing Orders
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Student Trustees and the GCR officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of summer by the wider membership in an election process. The alumni and external trustees are both appointed by a simple majority vote of the Appointments Committee provided that the appointment of each Alumni Trustee is ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of a general meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system

The current trustee board comprises five officer roles (President, Vice President, Chair, Welfare Officer, and Treasurer). Along with being members of the Trustee board, these officers also sit on the executive committee and head the general GCR committee, which governs the day-to-day activities of the GCR.

The Trustee board also has space for up to three alumni trustees, of which two positions are currently filled. There is space for up to three external trustees, of which we currently have three. The Trustee board also has space for two student trustees, of which two positions were filled until July 2024 and are now open for election in the new academic year 2024-25.

The trustee board meets as needed or at least once per term. The trustee board also meets before the AGM of the GCR each year to approve the accounts before they are presented to the GCR body and ratified by a two-thirds majority. Trustees were recruited based on their knowledge and experience with Ustinov and/or Durham University.

and procedures to manage them.

The Trustee Board's main objective is to ensure compliance with standing orders and the constitution. Both documents prioritise welfare support and enhance the overall student experience at Ustinov College.

During the last year, Thom Addinall-Biddulph, alumni trustee, acted as the Chair of the Trustee Board.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The GCR's objectives are outlined as followed by the constitution:

"3. The GCR's objects are the advancement of the education of Students at Ustinov College for the public benefit by:

3.1 promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Ustinov College during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students;

3.2 being the recognised representative channel between Students and Ustinov College and any other external bodies, including the DSU and Team Durham;

3.3 providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students;

3.4 promoting intercultural understanding among Students, informed by the College motto *Diversitate Valemus*;

and 3.5 promoting ecological awareness among Students, and encouraging sustainable and environmentally-friendly behaviour, with the aim of improving the environment in which Students live, both locally and globally."

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The GCR has been an inclusive hub of support and enrichment for postgraduate students, fostering fulfilling experiences throughout the academic journey. Among our most important activities are:

Welfare Campaigns: The GCR has consistently championed the well-being of postgraduate students through targeted welfare campaigns.

Social Engagement: Our GCR has orchestrated various engaging and inclusive social events, creating opportunities for meaningful interactions among postgraduate students. From themed parties to our weekly pub quiz, these events are aimed to foster connections and forge lasting friendships with the students.

Cultural Enrichment: The GCR has facilitated enriching cultural experiences through events and external excursions. These endeavours have allowed postgraduate students to explore local landmarks, historical sites, and diverse cultural offerings.

Supportive Community: The GCR has created a welcoming and inclusive community beyond academic pursuits. By organising support groups and informal gatherings, postgraduate students have found a network that encourages personal development, shared learning, and mutual encouragement.

Advocacy and Representation: The GCR has actively advocated for the needs and concerns of postgraduate students, acting as a voice to ensure their perspectives are heard and their interests are addressed within the broader university context.

In summary, the GCR's initiatives encompass comprehensive activities to support postgraduate students' well-being, social connections, cultural enrichment, and professional growth. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment and facilitating diverse experiences, the GCR plays a vital role in enhancing the overall student experience

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

In August/September 2023, we invested in the social space in the college, renamed 'The Paddle' as part of our activities to invest in the best facilities for our members and college more widely – these furnishing improvements have been retained on our asset list.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This past year the GCR continued to commit to delivering events for our community. Redevelopment of the common room was undertaken in September 2023, project managed by the President for 2023-2024 Anthony Jones.

The revamp signalled a renewal and commitment to delivering a first-class environment and experience for all Ustinovians. Other significant milestones across various domains included:

Postgraduate Engagement: Our charity has successfully cultivated a vibrant and engaged postgraduate community, fostering intellectual and social interaction among scholars from diverse backgrounds and nationalities (Ustinov College is the largest and most diverse from Durham University). Our events, discussions, and collaborative initiatives have led to a thriving network that has been praised by both students and staff.

Biggest GCR membership: With well over 200 students now members, this year has been one of impactful and sustained work across many areas. The most important area is community. We continue to work hard as volunteers to bring together everyone studying at Ustinov.

Cultural Enrichment: The GCR organized external trips to notable destinations. These excursions provided opportunities for cultural exploration, learning, and fostering bonds among students.

Events: We are holding more events than ever and the Halloween Party, Summer Ball and Ustinov Day remain highlights, bringing together a record number of our students.

Continued support for Clubs and Societies: We are proud to be home to a wide range of clubs and societies, both sporting and personal interests. We are now one of few colleges who do not require membership to participate in college sport, providing benefit to all of our members and the wider college.

Formal dinners: We are hosting formals at various colleges around the University again. We hosted the first ever Cathedral formal in January 2024 – a first in Durham and a fantastic evening was had by all our members who attended.

Impactful Welfare Campaigns: Our welfare team, led by our welfare officer, has continued to run events centred on wellness and wellbeing. We have a weekly tea and biscuits event that provides a space for students to talk in a supportive environment.

In summary, the GCR's achievements continue to reflect a deep commitment to fostering a dynamic and inclusive community, promoting excellence in sports and academics, and actively contributing to positive change through impactful initiatives and events. We remain dedicated to furthering our mission and creating a lasting impact for years to come.

After the conclusion of the college day, the team running the GCR changes to the next group for the academic year. The transition this year has been very successful and the team of Shaf, Artie and Chris will now work to delivering freshers week in the new academic year.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's reserves are maintained such that any complication with the GCR's relationship with the university would not result in a deficit in the GCR's accounts. This effectively results in a reserve of £70,000, assuming that any dispute would be quickly resolved. Similarly, this would allow the GCR to continue functioning were our income to substantially change within the period of one year. Reserves stand at £70,000, which is currently the required amount.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

 ONES



Full name(s)

Anthony David Jones

Thomas Addinall-Biddulph

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

President 2023-2024

Chair of Trustees

Date

3rd September 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

USTINOV COLLEGE GRADUATE COMMON ROOM

No (if any)

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
01/09/2023

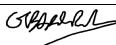

To

Period end date
31/08/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
UNIVERSITY GRANT	13,083	-	-	13,083	12,885
INTEREST EARNED	-	-	-	-	-
GCR LEVIES	-	22,588	-	22,588	11,505
RECEIPTS FROM ACTIVITIES	-	26,728	-	26,728	8,634
TRANSITIONAL FUND	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER INCOME	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,083	49,316	-	62,399	33,024
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,083	49,316	-	62,399	33,024
A3 Payments					
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES	17,204	-	-	17,204	3,402
COMMON ROOM	-	-	-	-	17,754
ADMIN AND WELFARE	2,165	-	-	2,165	1,029
TV AND RADIO	-	-	-	-	-
LICENSING AND INSURANCE	2,375	-	-	2,375	2,389
ACTIVITIES	-	40,005	-	40,005	37,420
MERCHANDISE	-	-	-	-	-
TRAVEL COSTS	-	-	-	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	-	-	-	-	-
DONATIONS	-	-	-	-	-
BANK CHARGES	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER EXPENSES	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,744	40,005	-	61,749	61,994
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,744	40,005	-	61,749	61,994
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 8,661	9,311	-	650	- 28,970
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	40,211	39,291	-	79,502	108,472
Cash funds this year end	31,550	48,602	-	80,152	79,502

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CURRENT ACCOUNT	31,551	48,602	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	31,551	48,602	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	LOAN TO UNIVERSITY		1,500	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Thomas Addinall-Biddulph	03/09/2024	
		Anthony Jones	03/09/2024	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

USTINOV COLLEGE GRADUATE COMMON ROOM

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST AUGUST 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1164865

Set out on pages

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

26/06/2025

Name:

B.H. ACCOUNTANCY LTD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body:

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Address:

363 WEST ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, TYNE AND WEAR, NE15 7NL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.