



# RSMU Report

Prepared by Jasmine Crocker on behalf of the RSMU Committee

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## Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Royal School of Mines Union's activities so far and any plans for the remainder of the year. I have detailed my own plans and those of my officers below.

The second term was quieter than usual given that our annual Bottle Match varsity couldn't go ahead. Our virtual Spring Dinner, Mastermines Quiz and online RSM Careers evening were the highlight events with the highest participation rates for the year. As hoped in the previous report, our Postgraduate student participation rates also increased steadily but are still on the low side. As explained by my previous presidents, the third term in the RSM is fairly quiet. Officers and members go through months of exams, coursework and fieldwork, so much so that the CU activities are minimal.

## Goals As President for this term

1. Continue discussions with Camborne School of Mines about Bottle Match(es) for 2021-22.
2. Encourage participation in the 2021 Leadership by-elections and ensure productive handovers.
3. Support committee officers in 'rounding up' their year in a role and completing any outstanding tasks.



## RSMU Academics

The two departments in our CU, ESE and Materials, are both managing another term online well now that the previous two have been completed in remote-mixed mode settings already, despite the disappointment that a lot of the fieldwork and lab work has been cancelled or modified heavily. Both sides of the RSM undertake exams spanning a couple of months in the summer term alongside finishing projects (dissertations included) before the end of the year.

Earth Science + Engineering's academic issues this year have been predominately pandemic and remote-working related. Naturally, as a department that leans heavily on both fieldwork and practical skills sessions (microscopes, maps, rock samples etc.), there have been many challenges. Despite this, the department has implemented brilliant systems such as the remote field trip platform, ESERC, and staff have adapted to online delivery well and have been extremely considerate throughout. ESERC has been used in summer term by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduates who would have otherwise expected to be in Sardinia and the Apennines respectively. For every change to the Earth Science degree schemes (ranging from swapping modules between years to the reimagining of the mapping project in a virtual world), both year and departmental reps have been consulted regarding all decisions that were taken and this has continued throughout summer term as well.

The Materials side of the RSM had a great uptake in numbers for participation in their 'Lunchtime Lecture' series from additional speakers which enhanced the cohort's interests in certain elements of their core and optional modules as well as branching out into other subjects. Their summer term consists of exams, dissertation hand ins and project work for all undergraduates in the department with the former two now complete and students looking forward to the end of term. In a non-covid year, the Materials students usually participate in an annual tour.

## RSMU Welfare

Once again, it is appropriate to detail the individual activities of each RSMU department when considering the actions being taken to look out for students' welfare. The RSM VP (Welfare) has been on hand to offer both departments' rep teams with assistance where needed and the RSMU Instagram page has begun sharing 'wellness Wednesday quotes' to encourage self-affirmations throughout the study period.

In Earth Science and Engineering, along with the academic network, a newsletter containing information about departmental updates and signposting key resources that may be useful for students has been distributed to undergraduates throughout the Spring and Summer terms. The newsletter is now extending its reach to the postgraduate community as well. As well as coordinating student community 'Tea and Biscuit' sessions or daily drop-in sessions with various members of the undergraduate staff team through the Spring and Summer terms, a new student wellbeing advisor, Anita Murphy, has been added to the staffing list which has been a very welcome change for summer term. The department also recently introduced a 'listening survey' in which students can voice any issues and where



responses are only to be read by the UG Senior Tutor. This has been done to encourage an inclusive community, with no tolerance for racism, bullying, harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct. Topics that the student body has been confronted with include bullying & harassment, sexual violence, Anti-Asian hate crime as well as a reflection of current affairs.

To boost morale and continue to assist in preventing isolation and loneliness among students in the Materials department a number of events have run throughout Spring and Summer term: ongoing weekly themed tea and biscuits sessions (Lunar New Year paper-cutting, Mothers' Day crafts etc.), chess tournament and to celebrate Women@Imperial there were talks given by the Department's staff members as well as a panel discussion accessible to all students to watch and engage with. The rep network believe that students have adapted well and received altered elements of their course well this year despite the challenges and that a buddy-system for the newest undergraduate members has been beneficial. Wellbeing tips have been shared with all students and a video has been posted to Instagram for casual reference whenever needed. Overall event attendance has been relatively high given that activities are held online but there has been a steady decline, attributed to the exam season being busy at the best of times.

## RSMU Events

### Spring Term events

The RSMU Hustings event had its most populated turn out to date with over 40 members online to listen to the 2021 Leadership Elections candidates answer questions about their manifestos. There was an equal turn out between both the Materials and Earth Science departments which hasn't been seen in the last few years.

Spring Dinner occurred on the evening of the 2021 Leadership Elections results with a great turnout from undergraduate students. A meal delivery service was used to provide members with a 3-course dining experience from their own home followed by a virtual elections party. The RSMU Awards (based on 133 nominations) presented this year are as follows:

- 13 Half Colours
- 9 Full Colours
- 3 Student Lecturer of the Year
- Mick Moore Pot (1<sup>st</sup> Year Engagement) - Oliver Fuller-Field
- Prof. Pryor Award (Outstanding Service by a non-final year student) - Jasmine Crocker
- Union General Award (Outstanding Service by a final year student) - Chris Carter

The final event for last term was the interdepartmental quiz night, MasterMines. 8 groups of 6, both undergraduate and postgraduates from both departments participated.



## Upcoming Events

As third term for the two departments of the RSMU is full of exams, coursework and fieldtrips there won't be any large events. The two departments have their own drop-in sessions to remain in contact with the student body as well as occasional RSM sports clubs training and matches were allowed.

Summer elections information has been sent to all members of the RSMU in the hope that there is interest in our 8 vacant roles.

## RSMU Clubs and Societies

Despite the majority of our CSP's having lower activity levels than usual, the clubs have remained engaged with the RSMU committee and worked well with the Vice President to ensure annual budgeting was completed successfully. All clubs have expressed interest in the return to providing their services to full capacity as soon as possible.

## DepSocs

The Materials, Geology and Geophysics societies have all hosted a number of online events inviting other students, researchers, staff and industry professionals to talk about their interests and share insight into the different realms of the relevant sciences. The Geology Society saw it's most successful symposium yet with 120 attendees participating in the event titled 'Sustainability in Geoscience'.

For the rest of Summer term and beyond, the Materials Society aim to host a celebratory event to congratulate peers on completing the year and to hand out their newly introduced yearbook; the Geology Society are looking into planning a charitable hiking event and all societies are keen to implement effective briefings and handovers to their successors ahead of the next academic year.

## Sports

In the Spring term, our sports clubs missed out on training and playing matches both indoors and outdoors due to Covid-19 restrictions on group activity. However, in recent weeks some of the clubs' activities have started again:

- RSM Football, Hockey and Badminton are having weekly trainings and matches.
- RSM Tennis and Netball plan to return to training in the coming weeks
- RSM Rugby, where players also belong to the IC club, have not arranged any additional training.
- RSM Lacrosse and Cricket are still out of action but home to make a comeback in the Summer.



## RSMA Collaboration

The relationship between the RSMU and the RSMA remains incredibly strong, and we are, as always, extremely grateful for their support. We have met once this term with the RSMA Committee to discuss plans for the future and it has been agreed that the RSMA Final Year BBQ and associated AGM is to go ahead virtually this year although there had been hopes this could go ahead in person. This will take place on the 24th June.

We have successfully collaborated with the RSMA to order new pins to boost our regalia offering, combining it with an RSMA 100 Club pin order as well as a new cufflink design. These new products will shortly be available to both current students and our alumni. This venture together with financial support for the future RSM Hackathon and subsidy for the Spring Dinner made up the grant we are in receipt of for this year which is incredibly helpful in providing best opportunities we can for our students and of which we are very appreciative of.

The RSMA Trust competition deadline recently passed and there have been submissions from both the Materials and ESE departments, involving 1st years up to postgraduates, a competition we are delighted has spanned across a wide range of students and are excited to hear the outcome soon.

Overall, we look to maintain this strong relationship in the forthcoming academic year, introducing the incoming DepSoc presidents to a great network of alumni and support.

## RSMU Finances

The RSMU is still financially healthy with donations from the RSMA on the way and a slightly delayed grant proposal almost ready to send to the Faculty of Engineering. We have not requested a donation from the Department of Earth Science & Engineering or the Department of Materials as a consequence of not running the Bottle Match event this year.

Having held a virtual (but heavily subsidised) Spring Dinner and in the absence of Bottle Match, the RSMU's income this year is substantially lower than normal. Of course, this is matched with few outgoings other than online event subsidies and prizes for virtual competitions as well as restocking of regalia.

## RSMU Retrospective

I won't sugar coat the goings on of the past year ... it has been really difficult coming into a leadership role and having to learn my own responsibilities as well as re-learn and support the rest of the officers and guide our CSP's in this unknown covid environment. As I'm sure every volunteer or staff member will agree with. Despite this, I've taken a lot of inspiration and consolation from other volunteers as well as the Union Staff whom without, the year wouldn't have run as smooth as we managed in the RSM. It is a shame we haven't been able





to provide the usual RSM experience to students, especially our graduating members and latest first year students but from here on I will task myself with finding initiatives to invite these cohorts to join in as the term ends, but the UK returns to 'normal'.

I am really proud of what our committee have achieved this year and enjoyed my time as President to the extent that I will stay in the position for another year! I look forward to welcoming our incoming committee members and getting to work after a well-deserved break to begin the process of rejuvenating the RSMU.

Thank you to everyone who has supported myself and the RSMU this year, it's been such a valuable experience. Good luck to everyone staying at Imperial or moving onto their next chapter.

As always, if you have any other comments or would like to discuss RSMU activities to a greater depth, you can contact me at [rsm.chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:rsm.chair@imperial.ac.uk).

RSM Love,  
Jasmine

