



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Your Library, Your Story

Harinder Matharu



The Library in the life of a student

Working with Students as Partners

Improving Student Engagement

Enhancing Student Experience

Understanding students using ethnographic techniques: User Experience

Engaging Users

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Course
Reps

Autistic
Spectrum
Society

Student
Groups

Read at
Leicester

Residential
Advisor

Student
Lifecycle
Project

Sabbatical
officers

Fabulous
First Year

Students'
Union

Academics

IT Services

Careers

Fabulous First Year



**1000 students
engaged so far**

AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

9TH MAY -
13TH MAY, 2016



University of
Leicester Autistic
Spectrum Society.

With April having been Autism Awareness Month, the University of Leicester Autistic Spectrum Society are hosting our very own Autism Awareness Week.

There will be numerous events aimed at educating the university population about Autism Spectrum Conditions by encouraging people to talk and ask questions. Through open conversation we can foster greater understanding and appreciation of Autism Spectrum Conditions. As we all know:

MONDAY 9th May

"What is Autism?"
Myths & Facts

Queens Hall Foyer
9:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday 10th May

Q & A Session
w/ Society •a.

Alumni Room
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday 11th May

Sam Ramsay from
'Girl With Curly Hair' •b.

Queens Hall
3:00pm - 5:00pm

Thursday 12th May

Awareness vs. Acceptance
Debate w/ Society

Student Hub Lounge
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Friday 13th May

"Night Walk for Autism"

Round the University,
includes Vicki Park.
5:30pm/6pm start.

EACH EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS.

•a. Open to everyone. Medics and psychology students are encouraged to attend.

•b. This event will involve two separate talks:

• 1-hour specifically on Autism

• 1-hour dedicated to "Girls on the Spectrum"

o Open to everyone. Medics and psychology students are encouraged to attend.

Over the week we would appreciate any voluntary donations which can be made towards the following Autism support charities:-

• The National Autistic Society

• The Monday Club, Leicester

AUTISM

From the outside looking in,
it's hard to understand.

From the inside looking out,
it's hard to explain.

'I am the incoming president of the Autistic Spectrum Society and wondered if we could meet to continue the discussion we had at the Q&A, during Autism Awareness Week?

- Autistic Spectrum Society

'I've spoken to a few staff members about our plans, they've all responded positively to them. There have been a few good suggestions....one idea was getting your society to come in and do some training'

- Library

'Thank you for your email, we were really pleased to hear the (training) video was helpful....as we said, we would be happy to deliver training to your staff as a society.'

- Autistic Spectrum Society

Enhancing Experience

UNDERSTANDING NEEDS

Autism Meeting

Sit down meeting in the Library with the Society Committee and Union Sabbatical Officer

Notes from Minutes:

Main priorities in order (to address individually each month)

1) Autism-friendly study space

2) Library access (e.g. finding things, IT support, etc.)

3) Website testing

Key Concerns Raised

‘There are two main aspects of a person’s life that are affected by autism: social communication and sensory issues.’

‘In terms of studying in the library, it is the sensory issues that are most important.’

Thoughts on the current situation

‘Noise within the library currently is handled well with the quiet and silent zones.’

‘The problem most members of the society have noticed when studying in the library is the lighting.’

Priorities moving forward

‘Natural light, main room lights off and perhaps a lamp for each desk’

‘A quiet room’

‘No food/drink other than water to avoid strong smells (the usual library rules)’

‘Reasonable non-extreme temperatures’

Practical Suggestions

‘Spread out desks to help avoid social anxiety of sitting next to unfamiliar people maybe something like booths for privacy and reducing light when needed’

‘Depending how this works with the need for natural light’

‘Find a suitable working space on campus during peak times at the Library’

Pilot Study Space



Room with Natural Light

Moveable desks

Plenty of room

Quiet and out of the way of general footfall

Great views of Leicester

Training for staff

Autism Awareness video, made by the Society, sent to all Library Staff

Q & A session set with staff members in the Library

All supports our Equality and Diversity training

Moving Forward

Evaluating the use of the room

User Testing for our Library Search

Training for staff

Establishing Library training needs of the society

**Contact Hari hpsm1@le.ac.uk
@UOLDWL**

User Panel

Take a step towards democratising the Library

Black History Project

Using our archives to create history

Learning Spaces

Working with students to develop spaces at the University

Wellbeing at University

Can we turn the Library into a space that relaxes people and helps them learn more efficiently?