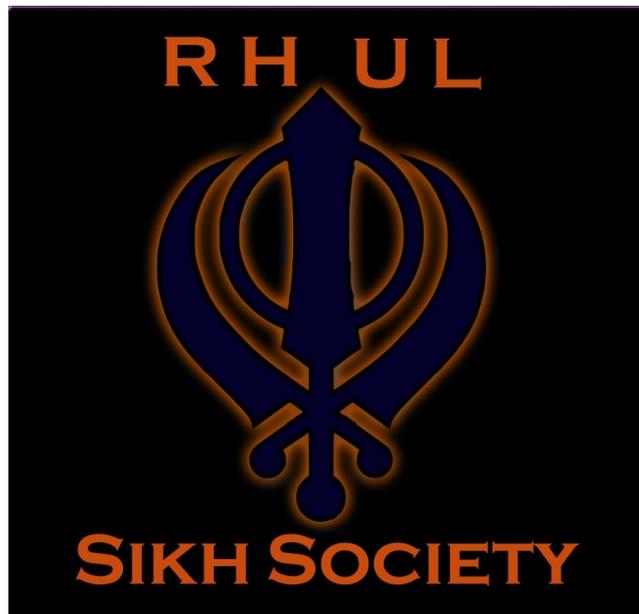


Royal Holloway University of London Sikh Soc



**Annual Report
2010-2011**

**The Royal Holloway University of
London Sikh Society
promotes activities that appreciate the
culture, history and ideology
of the Sikh way of life.**

OUR VISION

*To create awareness of Sikhi within and outside Royal Holloway University
and to give Sikh students support during their time here.*

OUR VALUES

Integrity, equality, morality, kindness, persistence, activism, spirituality.

OUR AIMS

To open Sikhi up to both Sikhs and non-Sikhs in the university, increasing awareness and promoting the multi-cultural society we live in today. Provide an opportunity for students to discuss their thoughts and ideas in an open manner free from judgement or bias and voice their ideas freely.

INTRODUCTION

This has been a brilliant year for all involved in RHUL Sikh Soc. After coming to the university in September and not seeing a Sikh Society, I got together with a few friends and we decided that we needed to create one on campus. We felt it was necessary for a number of reasons. With the growing number of students coming from abroad to study in the UK, it was the perfect opportunity to spread awareness of Sikhi on a global scale to people who may not even have ever heard of Sikhi before or even seen a Sikh. We also felt it was important to give Sikh students on campus a forum through which they could learn and discuss ideas and aspects of Sikhi.

The set-up was a long process: we first needed to get a number of signatures from willing participants and then had to go through two stages of questioning, first by the Student Activity Committee (made-up of elected members) and then through Society's Council (made-up of the officers of all campus societies). We got through all these stages and were ratified as an official society in late November 2010. From here on, we went from strength to strength. The first event organised was a Cha & Samosa party, to give everyone a chance to socialise and to get to know each other.

As it was near the end of the term, we wanted to take some momentum with us into the holidays and only had time to organise one more event which was a small discussion on the basic aspects and fundamentals of Sikhi. However, we did run into problems here. It seemed that without the selling point of free food, less people were interested to come to this session. The other committee members and I took this with us into the holidays so we could come back stronger and try to rectify this. We felt that some people were put off by the idea of 'faith' and so we tried to organise events that weren't necessarily faith events, but general events that used the different aspects and points of Sikhi. To this extent, we did a showing of the recent BBC documentary of the Sikhs in the world wars which was more of a success than the previous event, but still less than what we were hoping for.

We continued to persevere however, making sure we didn't lose sight of the people who were making the effort to come to the events and do as much as we could for them. We then got involved with the student union in general. In February, there was the SU volunteering week, and Sikh Soc booked two slots in those which were both a great success and increased awareness of us in the non-Sikh population. We also had our first speaker event in February, with Rajvinder Singh from Kent coming to talk to us about how we can take the lessons of 1699 and apply them to our modern day lives. The numbers began to grow. We also had the Student Union societies ball in February in which two members of the RHUL Sikh Soc were awarded for their efforts.

In early March, the SU run's a week called 'One World Week' used to promote the brilliant multiculturalism we have on campus. They got in touch with Sikh Soc and we organised a trip to the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara,

Gravesend, the largest Gurudwara within Europe. This event broadened our horizons as we had more non-Sikhs come to this event than Sikhs! We realised we need to build on this and combined with RHUL Basketball Club to create a cross-campus charity basketball tournament for the charity Save The Children. This event was a brilliant success, with over 50 people attending, raising over £125 for charity and Sikh Soc combining with over 3 other societies to do this (Basketball, Photography and RAG).

We rounded off the year with our second cross-campus event, a Guru Ka Langar outside the Student's Union. The event was an unbelievable success; we had more than eighty students turn up, much more than we estimated. So much so, we ran out of rotis!

The year has been a huge success, but couldn't have been done without the hard work of the entire committee and the huge amount of support we got from our Student Union, especially the sabbatical officer Vice-President of Student Activities, Victor Nicolaou-Garcia.

MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

SELECTION PROCESS

The current committee was not elected this year, due to it being the first year of our society, but instead the officers who got the roles were the ones who decided to get the Sikh Soc set-up.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

Amarbeer Singh – President
Jessica Kaur Sandhu – Secretary
Manroop Kaur Mann - Treasurer

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Number of paid members: 10
Average attendance for weekly sessions: 10
Cost of membership: £7

STUDENT SERVICES

ACADEMIC STUDIES

Did not manage to get any done this year.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop on fundamentals of Sikhism in December 2010 with 11 turning up. This was our second event ever, so we were pleased with that attendance but knew we could do better.

Lecture given by Rajvinder Singh on how we can apply aspects given to us in 1699 by Khalsa and Guru's to our modern day lives. Much better event, with around 17 people turning up and some new faces were there too!

ASSISTANCE

We were not provided with a budget from the student union as it is our first year and it is RHUL Student Union policy that societies cannot apply for a budget until after their first year. Any funding used for events was mostly done using donations from the committee members and membership fees.

ACTIVITIES

SPORT

Cross campus charity basketball tournament, combining with RHUL basketball club, photography society and RAG society to produce a brilliant event raising over £125 for charity and getting over 50 people involved.

ARTS

None this year

WELL-BEING

Basketball tournament, lots of charity and volunteering work throughout the year.

SOCIAL LIFE

FRESHERS WEEK

We were not set-up in Fresher's week.

CELEBRATIONS

None this year.

EXCURSIONS

Trip organised to Gravesend Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara as part of the Student Union's One World Week.

London Sikh Soc collaborations darbar at Shepherd's Bush Gurudwara in March.

CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

MAJOR EVENT

Our two biggest events were our cross campus events. The first one being the basketball tournament (as previously mentioned) and the second being the Guru Ka Langar which we did at the end of term. The Langar was a massive event, much bigger than we could have hoped for, so much so we ran out of food and cutlery!

ACTIVISM

Various charity projects throughout the year, including the tournament, volunteering week and encouraging the society members to get involved on a political level with the protests and demonstrations that have been going on in London throughout the course of the year.

COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

MODES

We set up a website and a mobile website which has been one of our main forms of communication. We've also had a facebook group and email mailing list, but most communication to do with events has been done by word of mouth; we found this was this most effective way. We sent out regular emails and facebook messages to our members with details of events and made sure we kept a regular track of our events on the website. We also used the SU to publicise our events and put posters up around campus for our bigger events.

PARTNERSHIPS

WITHIN Royal Holloway University

We have had a brilliant year working with other societies. Sikh Soc has set a precedent in terms of collaborative efforts, getting involved with photography soc, history soc, RAG, basketball club and the SU in general. We have been given huge amounts of support and encouragement throughout the year by all SU members.

NATIONAL BODY

We got involved with other London Sikh Socs, with the help of Narvir Singh and managed to get to the collaborative event set-up at Shepherd's Bush Gurudwara in mid-March.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

We worked with Save The Children and all proceeds from the basketball tournament went to them. The tournament was sponsored by Domino's Pizza who provided us with prizes.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY

As we didn't have a budget this year, we don't have a detailed summary of the financial performance of the society.

Income from memberships: £70

Expenditure: £70

Expenditure used on: Cha & Samosa party and prizes for basketball tournament.

* Some of the costs we incurred were paid for by Sikh soc officers directly and have not been itemised here.

THE FUTURE

This year the society went from strength to strength. From being set-up in late November with only 7 months until the end of the academic year, to ending it with a huge cross-campus event. Royal Holloway Sikh Society has truly made a name for itself within campus and will hopefully continue to do so in years to come.

We need to look at continuing the excellent relationships we've developed with other RHUL societies and organising a wider range of events, including looking at more excursions and celebrations of major events in the Sikh calendar.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!