

# THE AWARDING CAP PROJECT

**BLACK FRESHER'S GUIDE** 

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## **WELCOME**

#### Black Fresher's Guide 2025/26

Welcome to the Black Fresher's guide for the 2025/26 academic year, brought to you by the Awarding Gap Project. This handy guide has been designed by Black students at the University to help new and returning students from Black and minoritized ethnic backgrounds to navigate their adventure at Southampton.

#### Included in the guide:

- $\rightarrow$  Information on student services and support
- → Local Black owned businesses (hairdressers, barbers and stores) and more
- → Places of worship
- → Tips for navigating university life.

Visit the Awarding Gap Project website for a digital copy or email us to get your hands on a physical guide.

#### **The Awarding Gap Project**

The Awarding Gap Project is a course of action, created by the Widening Participation and Social Mobility Directorate (WPSM), aimed at tackling the awarding gap between Black and white students, where there is the largest disparity in degree outcomes across the sector; both sector-wide across higher education as well as internally, where data at Southampton has shown that the awarding gap exists.

Find out more

Scan here to find out about the Awarding Gap Project Email us at agp@soton.ac.uk Find us on Instagram @agpsoton





# JOIN THE AWARDING GAP PROJECT

## We offer our undergraduate students paid opportunities as part of our Awarding Gap Project.

We currently work with students from Black ethnic backgrounds (currently underrepresented at the University of Southampton). These students have oversight of activities and interventions targeted at Black students at the University with the aim of improving their university experience and creating more equitable outcomes for all students.

#### **Our panel**

The panel form our core project team. Panel members evaluate the impact of existing projects and are a part of implementing targeted campaigns by developing new interventions in response to feedback. They also have opportunities to lead on workstreams, including our podcast 'Bridging the Gap'. The panel is also responsible for planning and hosting community building events for students currently underrepresented each semester and are financially supported by the University resources to do so.

Members also undergo high-quality training prior to taking their posts, both internal and external resources are available for use. Members are equipped with the skills and knowledge to complete their work.

#### **Our board**

Members of the board are made up of experienced students on the Awarding Gap Project. Within the role they act as consultants to the work of the panel, offering advice and guidance. The board meets periodically throughout the year and share the lived experiences of Black students in higher education. There is also potential scope for the board to extend their reach to other areas of the university.

#### How to become a member

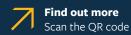
Becoming a member of this panel will allow you to be part of a project that has the potential to form a wider case study into the impact of entirely peer-led interventions on the lived experiences of Black students in higher education. Apply to be part of the core project team for the opportunity to create outcomes that align to the needs of our student body.

For more information, please email us or visit the Awarding Gap Project webpage.

To apply, simply scan the QR code, and submit the application form for your preferred role.

#### **Application Closing Date:**

Monday 13th October 2025







## FRESHERS CHECKLIST

You ready to begin your new adventure? Go through this checklist for your first month at University

☐ Explore this guide

Read through all the information in the guide and utilise it to explore what the university offers and get familiar with the city.

☐ Register for the GP

And find out about the support services via The Student Hub.

☐ Prioritise Your Wellbeing

Register for the GP, and find out about the services provided by the wellbeing team, or speak to financial support about how to get on top of your finances (you can also explore paid opportunities).

 $\Box$  Try out one of our recipes

Use the websites recommended in the guide (you can visit one of the recommended ethnic food stores to buy ingredients).

 $\square$  Try out Societies

You can find other students on your course or begin a new hobby through the wide range of societies at SUSU.

 $\square$  Sign up to join our mailing list or follow us

Find us on instagram @agpsoton to keep up to date with all things AGP.



Find out more

Scan the QR code

## **MY NOTES**

# FOOD AND RESTAURANTS

#### **Restaurants**

- → Soca Shack 33 Manor Farm Rd, Southampton SO18 1NN
- → Sunshine Shack 61 St Mary St, Southampton SO14 1NT
- ightarrow Spice World on the Go Unit 30 St Mary's Pl, Southampton, SO14 3HY @spiceworldotg
- → Mbuntu Cocktail Bar and Bistro 2-4 Cobden Ave, Southampton SO18 1FX
- → Deluxe One Oxford 1 Oxford St, Southampton SO14 3DJ
- → Afritopia 127 St Mary St, Southampton SO14 1PG
- RX Lounge 38 Victoria Rd, Woolston, Southampton SO19 9DX

#### Food

- → Black Sea Supermarket -4-6 Shirley High St, Shirley, Southampton SO15 3NH
- → International foods Ltd Portswood Rd, Portswood, Southampton SO<sub>17</sub> 2NJ
- Bangers and Biltong 161 High St, Southampton SO14 2BT
- → Impala family butchery 167 Shirley Rd, Southampton SO15 3FG



## HAIR AND BEAUTY

#### Hair

- → Affricardo Barbershop 16 Bedford Pl, Southampton SO15 2DB 02380225731
- → **Top Design II Southampton** 36 Old Northam Road, Southampton SO14 OPB 07448408842
- → Ktrendz Barber
  24 High Street SO14 2DF
  023 8033 4387
- → **Urban Trend Barbers** 190 Above Bar Street, Southampton SO14 7DW
- → The Saints Barbers 82 High Rd, Swaythling, Southampton SO₁6 2HZ 07877 325723
- → M3 Barbers 92 St Mary's Rd, Southampton SO14 oAH 07944 990615
- → Beauty by Aja Ndeye 19C London Rd, Southampton SO15 2AE 02380234739
- → Judith's African Caribbean Hair Design 354 Portswood Rd, Southampton SO17 3SB

+ JMIKINGS @jmikings

#### **Beauty**

- → **Jasmine nails** 160 High St, Southampton SO14 2BT 07848821284
- → DayotheMua instagram:dayothemua

#### **Beauty Supply Stores**

- → Afro City 94-95 St Mary St, Southampton SO14 1PB 02380233005
- → Fabulous Hair Extensions
  Unit 25a, the Marlands Shopping Centre,
  Western esplanade, Civic Centre Rd,
  Southampton SO14 7SJ
  07888731078
- → Harmony Hair

  14 Shirley High St, Shirley,
  Southampton SO15 3NH

  07814781117
- → Skin & Strands 169 Shirley Rd, Southampton SO15 3FG

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **Activities**

We offer free events and activities across our campuses and halls throughout the year. These can be viewed on the My Southampton App.

There is also a wide range of activities to do in and around the city of Southampton.

Whether you are a thrill seeker in search of adventure or simply looking to explore local treasures: there is something for everyone!

→ Hollywood Bowl Southampton

> West Quay, Harbour Parade, Southampton SO15 1DE 0844 248 2041

- SeaCity Museum
  Havelock Rd,
  Southampton
  SO14 7FY
  023 8083 4536
- → John Hansard Gallery
  142-144 Above Bar St,
  Southampton SO14 7DU,
  023 8059 2158
- → Elusion Escape Room
  68 Commercial Road,
  Southampton, England,
  SO15 1GD
  02380 572837
- → Locked in a Room

  West Quay Shopping

  Centre, Portland Terrace,

  Southampton SO15 1QD

  01179291759

→ Ninja Warrior UK Adventure

> Antelope Park, Bursledon Rd, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 8NE 023 8127 7870

- → 1st Base Southampton 16 East St, Southampton SO14 3HG 0808 164 1010
- → GO APE Southampton Itchen Valley Country Park, Allington Ln, Southampton SO3o 3HQ o16o3 895500
- → Mayflower Theatre
   22-26 Commercial Rd,
   Southampton SO15 1GE
   023 8071 1811
- → Paulton's ParkRomsey SO<sub>51</sub> 6AL023 8081 4442

→ Alpine Snowsport
Centre
Thornhill Rd,

Thornhill Rd, Southampton SO16 7AY 023 8070 7815

- New Forest
  National Park
  newforestnpa.gov.uk
  01590 646600
- TeamSport Go Karting
  Barton Park, Chicken Hall
  Ln, Eastleigh SO50 6RR
  01252 732300
- → Delta Force Paintball Lee Ln, Southampton SO16 oAD o20 3869 9305
- → Solent Sky Museum Southampton SO14 3FR 023 8063 5830
- → Boom Battle Bar
   Southampton
   Southampton SO15 1DE,
   023 8033 4466



#### **Nightlife and Clubs**

ightarrow District

127 Above Bar St, Southampton SO14 7FN 023 8023 8418

- → Island Ting
  Instagram: Island Ting
  islandtinguk.com
- → **Fever and Vibe** 24 Carlton Pl, Southampton SO15 2DY 07926 384802
- → **Sobar** 98 Bevois Valley Rd, Southampton SO14 oJZ o23 8023 6343
- → BRAVE Night Lounge Salisbury St, Southampton SO15 2TZ 07552 344110
- Buddha Lounge
  3a Winchester St,
  Southampton SO15 2EL
  023 8023 6133



Find out more:



## **GET INVOLVED**

#### **Cultural and Ethnicity Based Societies**

Societies are student-run organisations focused on providing members with opportunities that will develop them into culturally proud and aware, well rounded individuals who feel valued during their time in higher education. They aim to unite students from various backgrounds through shared interests while encouraging them to excel in their academic and career pursuits. Here are just a few of the many cultural and ethnicity focused societies on offer here at Southampton:

## ACS (including ACS Netball and ACS Football)

Instagram: @acssoton

#### Southampton Black Law Students Network

Instagram: @blsn.soton

#### Black Women's Project (BWP)

Instagram: @bwpsouthampton

## African Caribbean Medical Association (ACMA)

Instagram: @acma\_soton

Visit the SUSU website for more societies and sports clubs available at the university (there are over 300 to choose from)!



#### Find out more:



#### Give It A Go

Give It A Go is an activity programme provided by SUSU where you can find diverse weekly craft workshops, day trips to near cities, taster sessions by our clubs and societies such as surfing, volunteering and lots of fun things to do! There is no long-term commitment, and all events are at student-friendly costs. If you have any questions you can get in touch via giveitago@soton.ac.uk.

#### **Bridging the Gap Podcast**

Our student-led podcast is created by members of the Awarding Gap Project. This University of Southampton affiliated podcast delves into the top issues that affect university students today, with particular emphasis on the impact they have on Black and minoritised students. The podcast critically explore a range of topics with special student guests. If you are interested in being a guest on the podcast or would like to suggest topics the podcast should cover, get in touch agp@soton.ac.uk



#### **Listen to Season Two now:**









## **SPORTS AND FITNESS**

Whether you're an athlete or looking to stay active, there is plenty to get involved with. Between sports clubs, gym memberships and performance sports, there is something for everyone. You can also join free sessions all year round as part of the **Be Active**, the free, accessible and fun programme for everyone.

#### **Southampton Sport**

#### **Jubliee Sport and Recreation Centre,** University Road Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ

#### **Wide Lane Sports Ground**

University of Southampton, Wide Lane, Eastleigh SO50 5PE

#### **Mayflower Gym**

West Park Road, Southampton SO15 1DQ

#### **SUSU**

#### **Basketball Club**

Instagram: @subc.sharks

#### **Gymnastics**

Instagram: @uosgymnasticsclub

#### Volleyball

Instagram: @uosvolleyball

#### **Football**

**Instagram:** @sulfc\_





#### Find out more

www.southampton.ac.uk/sport



## **FAITH AND WORSHIP**

Navigating university can seem difficult at the start as the things around you change constantly. We understand that your university experience is more than just your degree. Getting involved in faith and worship both locally and on campus is a great way to meet new people from various backgrounds, who share the same belief system, in a welcoming environment.

#### **Worship on Campus**

#### **Faith and Reflection Centre**

Highfield Campus chaplaincy@soton.ac.uk

#### **Prayer Room**

Entrance by the staircase around the back of Building 38

#### Islamic Society

Instagram: @southamptonisoc

#### **Christian Society**

Instagram: @southamptoncu

#### Worship in Southampton & Winchester

#### **Bashir Ahmed Mosque**

96-100 Portswood Rd, Portswood, Southampton SO17 2FW

#### **Portswood Church**

Portswood Rd, Portswood, Southampton SO17 2FY

#### **Southampton Buddhist Centre**

73 Saint Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1NW

#### **Winchester Baptist Church**

2-4 City Road, Winchester, SO23 8SD

#### **Winchester Muslim Cultural Association**

33 Jewry Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8RY

#### **Victory Gospel Church**

154 Portswood Rd, Portswood, Southampton SO17 2NH





www.southampton.ac.uk/chaplaincy/index.page

# SUPPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY

The Student Hub is your first point of contact for questions and concerns relating to fees, financial support, accommodation, wellbeing, disability, careers and course administration – contactable 24/7 via the online chat, by email, or phone on 02380 599 599. You can also visit the team in person across our campuses.



southampton.ac.uk/studenthub

Your Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) can support your academic needs by offering one-to-one support and study advice throughout your time at the University.

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#### Find out more

www.southampton.ac.uk/ studentadmin/academic-supportguidance/personal-tutor.page

#### **Accessible Study Spaces**

#### **Clarkson Room**

A designated quiet space for students with disabilities or long-term health conditions. Building 6, Room 1085.



#### **Hartley library**

Assistive technology suite in Hartley Library, Level 2.



#### Global Lounge (Building 54, Room 2001)

A relaxed environment for international students to use to study and socialise.



#### **Study Support**

#### **Our campus libraries**

Our library services offer many different support options. You can ask questions directly, request books or papers, get access to software and so much more. To find out everything you can get from our campus libraries, visit the link below or just pop in and ask.



#### **Academic Skills Service**

As part of the library services, you can academic skills support in a great range of areas. Access a range of academic skills support and resources to help you with the transition to higher education and throughout your time at university.



#### **Student Societies**

Most courses have a student society that will represent the subject. These societies may hold events for revision or may even have an area where they upload notes or tips etc.



#### **Personal Support**

#### **Student Wellbeing**

The Student Wellbeing Team offers support to students throughout their studies, enabling them to make the most of their time at the University and develop healthy habits to last a lifetime. The team are available 24/7 to provide all students with wellbeing support via the student hub. Wellbeing advisors are based in the The Student Hub on Highfield Campus but can travel to meet students on other campuses or in halls when requested. There is a wide range of further support available to you, which we will help you explore and access where appropriate.



If you are concerned about the wellbeing of another student, you may also tell the student wellbeing team who will be able to reach out to them to offer appropriate support.

#### Careers, Employability and Student Enterprise

You can get advice around careers and internships through this service. There are services such as CV reviewing, mock interviews or setting up work experience. You can get individual support from an advisor or utilise the resources to build your career goals and pathway.



#### **Report and Support Tool**

The Report and Support tool is available or you to use to report any incidents surrounding harassment and/or discrimination you may encounter at university. These can be anonymous or you can leave your details and this ensures the university will be aware of the problem and you can access support following the incident.



#### **SUSU Advice Centre**

You can get free and confidential advice through the advice centre. You can get advice regarding practical elements of university life such as finance or housing.



#### **Health Services**

The University Health Service on Highfield campus is a general doctor's surgery thats offer medical advice, assistance and treatments as well as medical evidence request forms and work closely with the university for special cons, reasonable adjustments and DSA applications.



Find out more at: www.unidocs.co.uk

Here you can find details on other local health providers.

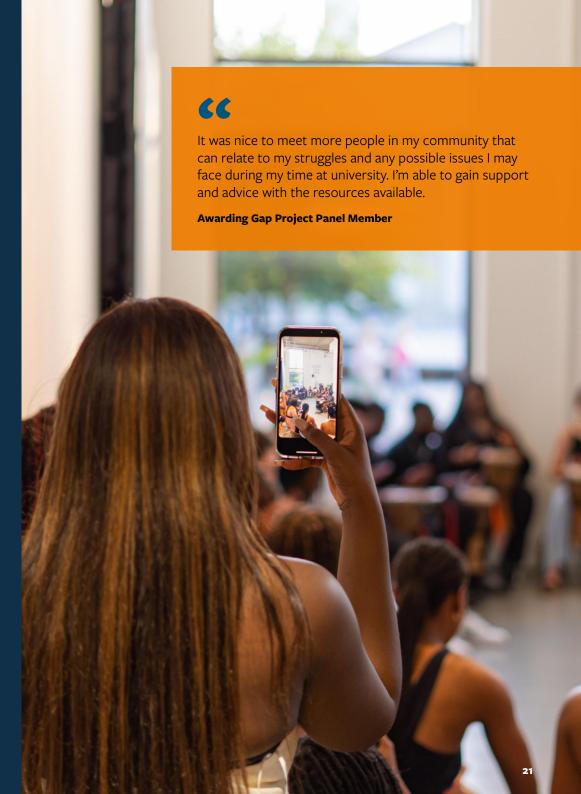


#### **Faith and Reflection Centre**

Our faith and reflection centre is a space to relax and unwind. It's open Monday - Friday, (10:00 - 17:00) offering free tea, coffee, and volunteers who are available for a chat.



They serve pancakes and cheese toasties on select days, and host games and activities.



#### **Financial Support**

#### **Cost of Living**

Our Cost of Living SharePoint hub brings together all the support that the University and Students' Union are offering in one place. This includes various funding and support to help you if your financial situation is affecting your ability to study. They do not need to be paid back and can help with the cost of things such as study equipment, technology, health and wellbeing, rent, utilities, food, and unexpected outgoings.



#### **Student Support Fund**

The Student Support Fund is a limited pot of money designated to help you if you find yourself in unexpected financial hardship, such as paying for rent, utilities and food.



#### **Student Money Champions**

Student Money Champions help other students build knowledge and confidence around financial capability. They support their peers in applying financial knowledge to own personal situations, increase their sense of money confidence and financial wellbeing. They host finance-focused events throughout the year and produce bespoke resources such as the student budget planner. For more information contact the financial support team **stufunds@soton.ac.uk** 



#### **Explore the budget planner**

www.southampton.ac.uk/~assets/doc/student-services/budget.pdf

#### **Paid Opportunities**

Many students take up paid internships and flexible part time roles, alongside their study to gain valuable work experience and supplement their income. You can find more information on casual work, UoS internships and other opportunities the University has to offer on MyCareer.





#### **Student Recipes**

A balanced diet is important to maintaining part of a healthy lifestyle and promoting optimal brain function. Whether you're a pro in the kitchen or a complete novice, you can create delicious meals on a budget.

Here are some of our favourite filling and nutritious meals, that won't break the bank.

#### **Budget Meals**

→ Mob Kitchen Easy & Cheap Student Recipes



→ Rachel Ama's Vegan Recipes



→ Tesco Student Meals and Recipes



→ Nando's Meal Prep Recipes



→ Original Flava Caribbean inspired Vegan Recipes



→ Original Flava Caribbean and African inspired meals



#### A day in recipes: Breakfast

#### Jamaican Cornmeal Porridge Vegetarian, serves 4

#### **Ingredients**

2 Cups water

2-3 Cups coconut milk

Half teaspoon of salt

Teaspoon of ground cinnamon/ half cinnamon stick Cup of yellow cornmeal

Teaspoon or vanilla extract

Half teaspoon nutmeg

Half cup sweet condensed milk

#### Method

- Add 2 cups water and 2 cups coconut milk to a large, heavy-bottomed saucepan. Throw in ½ stick cinnamon stick, and bring to a boil.
- Gradually whisk in the cornmeal until you have added the whole thing to the pot, a little bit at a time, and keep stirring with a wooden spoon to prevent lumps.
- 3. Reduce the heat to low and cook until the mixture thickens, about 15 minutes.

- 4. Add vanilla extract, nutmeg, and sweetened condensed milk.
- Adjust consistency with coconut or water if desired.
- 6. Turn off the heat. Serve piping hot with extra nutmeg and optional sweeteners.

#### A day in recipes: Lunch

#### Easy Jollof Rice Serves 4

#### Ingredients

450g easy-cook long grain rice

500g fresh vine tomatoes

2 red bell pepper, chopped

1 scotch bonnet pepper, deseeded

1 white or red onion, chopped

3 garlic cloves

thumb sized fresh ginger

1 tbsp. tomato puree

1 tbsp fresh thyme

1 tbsp smoked paprika

1 tbsp all-purpose seasoning

1 tbsp garlic granuels

1 tbsp onion granuels

3 bay leaves

1 tbsp. oil

350ml beef stock

Salt, black pepper, additional all-purpose seasoning, to

taste

#### Method

- 1. Rinse the rice under cold water until the water runs clear, then set aside to drain.
- Blend the fresh tomatoes, red bell peppers, scotch bonnet pepper, half the onion,ginger and garlic cloves until smooth. Set aside.
- 3. Heat the oil in a large, deep skillet or pot over medium heat.
- Add the remaining chopped onion and cook until softened.
- Once softened, add your tomato paste and cook this for roughly 5 minutes or until the tomato paste carmalises, you should see black parts on your pan this is where spme of the smoky flavour will come from.
- Into the pan add smoked paprika, allpurpose seasoning, garlic granules, onion granules and cook until aromatic around 60-90 seconds.
- 7. Add the blended tomato mixture to the pot and cook, you will need to stir to combine to tomato paste and sauce then add a lid and cook for 25 minutes until it thickens and reduces slightly.

- Once reduced, add the rinsed and drained rice to the pot with the tomato sauce. Stir well to coat the rice evenly with the sauce.
- Pour in the beef stock and season with salt, thyme, bay leaves and additional all-purpose seasoning to taste. Stir everything together.
- 10. Reduce the heat to low. Cover the pot with a lid and simmer for about 20-25 minutes,
- Remove the lid and mix the rice together to make sure there are no spots without sauce and cook for a further 55-65 mintues or until the rice is cooked through and the liquid has been absorbed.
- Once the rice is cooked, remove the pot from the heat and allow it to sit, uncovered, for 10 minutes to remove excess steam.
- 13. Fluff the rice with a fork to separate the grains. Serve the jollof rice hot as a main dish or as a side dish with your favorite accompaniments.

#### A day in recipes: Dinner

#### **Jamaican Curry Chicken** Serves 4

#### **Ingredients:**

<b>6</b>			
900g Chicken thighs	2 tsp salt	2 medium Potatoes (diced)	
4 tbsp Curried Powder	4 cloves of garlic (chopped	optional	
1-2 tbsp Jerk Seasoning	ing finely)	2 twigs of spring onion	
(optional)	A small-medium onion (diced)	Thyme	
1-2 tbsp all purpose Seasoning	2-3 tbsp Green Seasoning	Scotch bonnet pepper (optional)	
1 tsp pimento seeds / all spice seasoning	2-3tbsp cooking oil		
	1 Carrot (chopped) optional		
1 tsp black pepper			

#### Method

- Marinate your chicken with salt, black pepper, all purpose seasoning, all spice (or pimento seeds), half of your curry powder, jerk seasoning (optional) and green seasoning. Set aside for at least half an hour.
- Add cooking oil to a pot on a mediumhigh heat. Add curry powder and toast for 30 seconds, before adding the chopped garlic and onion. Fry until softened.
- Add your chicken to the pot and cover for five minutes until the chicken releases its juices. Stir before reducing the heat. Allow the chicken to simmer for a further seven minutes.

- Add carrots, potatoes and whole scotch bonnet pepper. Stir, before adding water as needed. Leave to simmer for fifteen minutes.
- Once the chicken and vegetables are soft and cooked all the way through, take off the heat. Stir and serve hot with fluffy white rice or roti.

#### A day in recipes: Dessert

### African Donuts (also known as bofrot / puff puff / amagwinya / toogbei / vetkoeks) Vegan - Serves 4

Dry Ingredients	Wet Ingredients	To Activate Yeast
4 cups All Purpose Flour	3/4 cup Water	1 tbsp Sugar
1 cup Sugar		2 tsp Yeast
1 tsp Nutmeg		1 cup Warm Water
1 1/4 tsp Salt		

#### Method

- In warm water add a table spoon of sugar, 2tsp of yeast mix it well cover it up and set it aside for 5 minutes to activate and don't a use lot of yeast because it has a very sour kind of bitter after taste, so just enough.
- In a separate bowl add flour, sugar, nutmeg, and some salt. Mix it well and set it aside.
- 3. Once your yeast has activated nicely go ahead and add this to your dry ingredients. Foam means that your yeast is good. Now when it comes to making puff puff the amount of water you add really depends on you, so if you like your puff puff very dense so don't add lot of water but if you like it soft then you have to add just a little more of water to make it light and fluffy. Mix it well to activate the gluten at the same time. Once you have consistency you are going for, cover it up and set it in a warm place for about 2 hours to let it rise.
- Next pour oil into a deep pot, (I like to use smaller pots, that way I don't waste a lot of oil) and put on a high heat. Remove

- your dough mixture from the warm place, uncover and take out some of the air by beating it to the side of the bowl. Once its smooth you can scoop it up in your hand and squeeze it out in small drops into the oil. You can also use an ice cream scoop to scoop out balls of the dough into the oil. This ensures that you get a very perfect round puff puff.
- . You will want to drop enough dough into the pot without overcrowding the pot, then lower your heat from high to medium so that your doughnut do not cook on the outside and then the inside is still raw or bad. Use a spoon to gently keep turning the dough balls in the pot in order for them to cook evenly. Once golden brown remove from the pot and set aside on paper towel (to absorb excess oil). You may want to roll the donuts in a cinnamon sugar mixture while they are still hot for some added sweetness.



#### Find out more

Scan here to find out about the Awarding Gap Project Email us at agp@soton.ac.uk or find us on Instagram @agpsoton

