

**COMMITTEE:** Union Council

**SUBJECT:** LGBT ‘Q+’ – adding the ‘Q+’ for Inclusivity

**APPROVAL DATE:** 23/04/2021

**RENEWAL DATE:** 23/04/2024

**PROPOSER:** LGBTQ+ Students’ Representative, Bailey Sedgwick & Open Space Rep, Gabby Willis

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**HALLAM UNION NOTES:**

1. Not all LGBT+ students’ fall under the ‘Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender’ bracket.

2. Sheffield Hallam University is named as one of the most gay-friendly universities in the UK. in 2014, Sheffield Hallam scored 10/10 in Stonewalls annual Gay By Degree guide. [1] There are not any up to date statistics.

3. Despite SHU claiming to be committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming experience, the use of LGBT and not LGBT+ is not very inclusive of individuals who identify outside of the LGBT umbrella.

4. Within recent years, more people have chosen to use Queer to identify themselves, rather than being more specific within the LGBT+ umbrella. [2]

**HALLAM UNION BELIEVES:**

1. Adding the ‘Q+’ will be a more suitable alternative than attempting to add every letter for peoples’ identities. If we did do this then we would have an extremely long, confusing and not very memorable name, i.e. **LGBPTTQQIIAA+.**

2. There are hundreds of possible ways an individual can define their romanticism, sexuality and gender.

3. Due to the popularity of the term Queer, the Q should be included in LGBT+, in order to make the term more inclusive of every identity within the gender and sexuality spectrum.

**HALLAM UNION RESOLVES:**

1. To change the use of ‘LGBT’ to ‘LGBTQ+’ in all SHSU documents, literature, posts and any other use of the term.

2. Update any online resources and literature to ‘LGBTQ+’ where this is not already the case.

3. Urge Sheffield Hallam University to adopt the use of ‘LGBTQ+’ in all forms of literature, information resources, communications and any other form of media.

4. Promote the reasoning behind the change and educate staff and students of SHU and SHSU about identities covered by the ‘Q+’ and why it is important to identify these in the LGBT+ umbrella name.

5. Mandate the Union to push this policy and check regularly that it is being adhered to.

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/sheffield-hallam-amongst-britains-best-gay-students>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/why-were-adding-the-q\_b\_8535208