



St Mary's
University
Students'
Union

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is Summer Ball?

Summer Ball takes place on Friday 8 May 2026, from 8pm to 1am.

2. Where is Summer Ball taking place?

Summer Ball will take place across the 1850 venue and adjoining outdoor areas on campus.

3. How much are tickets?

Tickets are £24 for general sale and £26 for guests.

4. Can I buy tickets on the door?

No, tickets will not be available on the door. Tickets will be on sale until 7pm on 8 May 2026.

5. Do I need ID?

Yes. You'll need to bring your student or staff ID, along with a valid physical photo ID, for entry.

6. Can I bring a guest?

Yes. Current St Mary's students can add one guest ticket to their basket when purchasing a Summer Ball ticket. Guests must enter the event with their ticket holder and be signed in on arrival.

7. Can I attend if I am under 18?

No. Summer Ball is an 18+ event, and all attendees including guests may be asked to show valid photo ID on entry.

8. Can I get a refund if I can't attend?

Tickets are non-refundable unless the event is cancelled.

9. What happens if Summer Ball is cancelled?

In the unlikely event that Summer Ball is cancelled by St Mary's Students' Union, ticket holders will be contacted directly with details of the next steps, including any refund arrangements.

10. What's included in the ticket?

Your ticket includes entry to Summer Ball and access to all entertainment on site, including the event spaces, multiple stages, DJs, a live saxophone performer, a fairground ride, food stalls and a 360 photobooth.

11. Are fairground rides included in the ticket price?

Yes. The fairground ride is included in the cost of your ticket.

12. What time is last entry?

Last entry is 11pm.

13. Can I leave and come back?

No, re-entry will not be permitted unless agreed in exceptional circumstances.

14. Can I bring my own food or drink?

No. As this is a licensed event, outside food and drink cannot be brought into the event.

15. Will the bars and vendors take cash?

No, all bars and vendors will be cashless, so please bring a bank card or mobile payment method.

16. What items are prohibited at the event?

Outside food and drink, illegal substances, masks or fancy dress that hides the face, and any items that may be unsafe or disruptive are not permitted.

17. Will there be searches on entry?

Yes. Bag searches will take place on entry, and security reserve the right to carry out additional searches if needed. Refusal to be searched may result in refusal of entry.

18. What should I wear?

Summer Ball is a chance to dress up and celebrate, but wear whatever you feel comfortable in. We'd recommend dressing for both indoor and outdoor spaces.

19. What entertainment will be there?

Expect a full end-of-year celebration with multiple stages, DJs, a live saxophone performer, food vendors, a 360 photobooth and a fairground ride.

20. Will food vendors cater for dietary requirements?

We'll have a range of food vendors on site. Vegetarian, vegan and other dietary options will be available where possible, but if you have a specific allergy or dietary requirement, please check directly with the vendor before purchasing.

21. Who can I speak to if I need help on the night?

Please speak to a member of event management, bar staff or security if you need assistance at any point during the event. Security will be located at the main entrance and throughout the site for the duration of the event.

22. What should I do if I feel unwell or unsafe?

Please speak to a member of event management, bar staff or security straight away. If you or a friend start to feel unwell, vulnerable or unsafe at any point, staff will help you get the support you need.

23. I think I or my friend has been spiked. What should I do?

If you think you or a friend may have been spiked, tell a member of event management, bar staff or security immediately. We take any suspected spiking seriously and staff will help you access support and take appropriate action.

24. How do I report harassment or inappropriate behaviour?

If you experience or witness harassment, inappropriate behaviour or anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, report it to a member of event management, bar staff or security straight away. Reports will be taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.

25. What happens if I lose something?

Any lost property handed in during the event will be held by the event team or security. During the event, you can check with security at the main entrance. After the event, you can contact 1850.smsu@stmarys.ac.uk or visit the 1850 during opening hours.

26. I'm having trouble buying a ticket online. What should I do?

If you're having trouble buying a ticket, please contact 1850.smsu@stmarys.ac.uk and include as much detail as possible about the issue.

Accessibility FAQs

1. Is Summer Ball accessible?

Yes. The event site has been planned with accessibility in mind. In general, all areas use flat, hard-standing surfaces and accessible routes, and all ingress and egress points are accessible.

2. Do you offer companion tickets?

Yes. We offer a free companion ticket scheme for students with additional requirements who need to bring a carer or personal assistant to the event.

3. Is there accessible parking?

Yes. There is Blue Badge parking across campus, including two accessible parking spaces directly outside the venue.

4. Will there be an accessible viewing area?

Yes. If requested in advance, The Loft can be used as an accessible viewing area, offering a less crowded view of the main stage. The Loft is accessible by lift.

5. Will there be a quieter or less crowded space available?

If requested in advance, The Loft may also be used as a less crowded viewing or quieter space, depending on event setup and availability.

6. Is there an accessible toilet?

Yes. There is one accessible toilet within the 1850 compound.

7. Can I bring an assistance or service animal?

We do not currently have dedicated facilities for assistance or service animals. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but due to the nature of the event and expected noise levels, Summer Ball may not be suitable for all service animals.

8. Can I request other reasonable adjustments?

Yes. If you have any other access requirements, please contact us in advance so we can discuss your needs and make reasonable adjustments where possible.

9. How do I let you know about an accessibility requirement?

Please contact us in advance at 1850.smsu@stmarys.ac.uk so we can discuss your requirements and make reasonable adjustments where possible.