



TAMIL
PROFESSIONALS
NETWORK

20
24

TPN ANNUAL REPORT

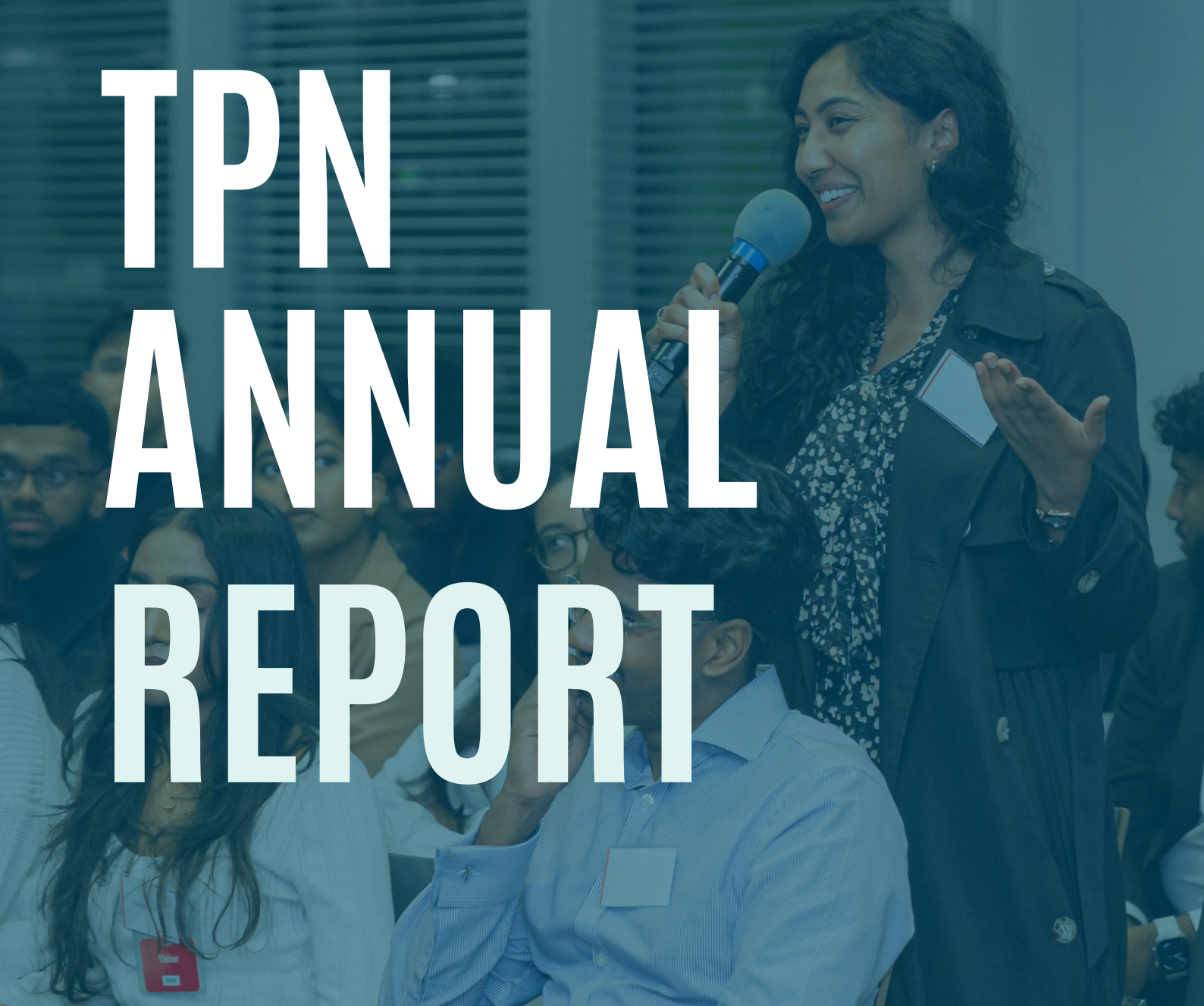




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Looking Back, Moving Forward

As we celebrate two remarkable years of the Tamil Professionals Network (TPN), I'm extremely proud of how far we've come. TPN has empowered thousands of Tamil students and professionals across the UK, bridging the gap between aspiration and opportunity.

This year, the launch of our Student Ambassadors Network has been a game-changer, enabling us to extend our reach nationwide and connect with even more aspiring professionals. Together, we've built not just a network, but a thriving community rooted in support and shared ambition.

Our incredible mentors have been the foundation of TPN's success. Their guidance, support, and generosity in sharing their time and wisdom is inspiring - thank you to all our mentors for believing in our vision and for helping us make it a reality.

This year has been one of unparalleled growth, with the TPN community growing by an incredible 165%. I'm eager to see what 2025 holds as we build on this foundation of collaboration and support.

At our core, TPN remains committed to fostering a supportive community, uplifting one another, and inspiring future generations. Together, we're shaping lives, driving change, and building a legacy of progress for the Tamil community.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. As you read on, you'll find our milestones, achievements, and ways to get more involved. With your continued support, we will empower even more students and professionals, creating a legacy of positive change and success together.

Kind Regards,

Dharnya Nimalan

Founder & Director, Tamil Professionals Network





Welcome

An Introduction

Founded in December 2022, the Tamil Professionals Network (TPN) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to fostering growth and empowerment within the Tamil community. Guided by our three core pillars - Uplift, Community, and Inspire - TPN strives to create opportunities, build meaningful connections, and support the next generation of Tamil leaders.

Uplift: We believe access to opportunities is the key to unlocking potential. TPN is dedicated to supporting students and graduates in achieving their career ambitions. Through tailored workshops, career events, and networking opportunities, we empower students and professionals to navigate their career journeys with confidence.

Community: TPN unites students, graduates and professionals, fostering a community of individuals who are passionate about elevating one another. Through connections and collaboration, we strive to build a community that thrives on collective growth.

Inspire: TPN nurtures the next generation of Tamil professionals by providing exposure to industry leaders who serve as role models, fostering leadership and inspiring them to excel in their chosen fields and beyond.

Since our inception, TPN has grown to become a thriving network of 215+ professionals across 25+ industries, including finance, consulting, entrepreneurship, marketing, and law. This diversity provides unparalleled opportunities for students and graduates to gain insights, receive mentorship, and explore new career paths.

With a strong foundation and a growing network, we are excited to continue driving meaningful impact and empowering the Tamil community in the years to come.





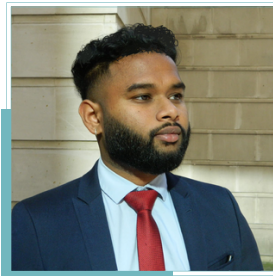
Meet the Team

2024

Thank you to our 2024 Leadership Team, whose hard work and dedication have been instrumental in driving TPN's growth and impact this year.



Dharnya Nimalan
Director



Dilan Premkumar
Student Events Lead



Janasobini Verutharuban
Operations Lead



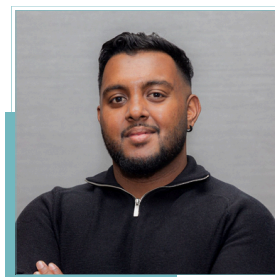
Ahila Shandramohan
Mentorship Lead



Jeniffer Jeyason
Student Outreach Lead



Chathurssan Thaneswaran
Sri Lanka Development Lead



Shayen Sathiananthan
Finance Lead



Shubanu Ranjalingam
Marketing Lead



Kavitha Kirubendran
Experienced Professionals
Events Lead



2024 Growth Our Progress

We have seen exceptional growth rates this year. The TPN community, including professionals, students, and social media followers, grew by an impressive 165%.

↑ **107%**

Members

↑ **100%**

Instagram (2k followers)

↑ **57%**

Mentors

↑ **151%**

LinkedIn (1.7k followers)

↑ **17%**

Mentees

↑ **275%**

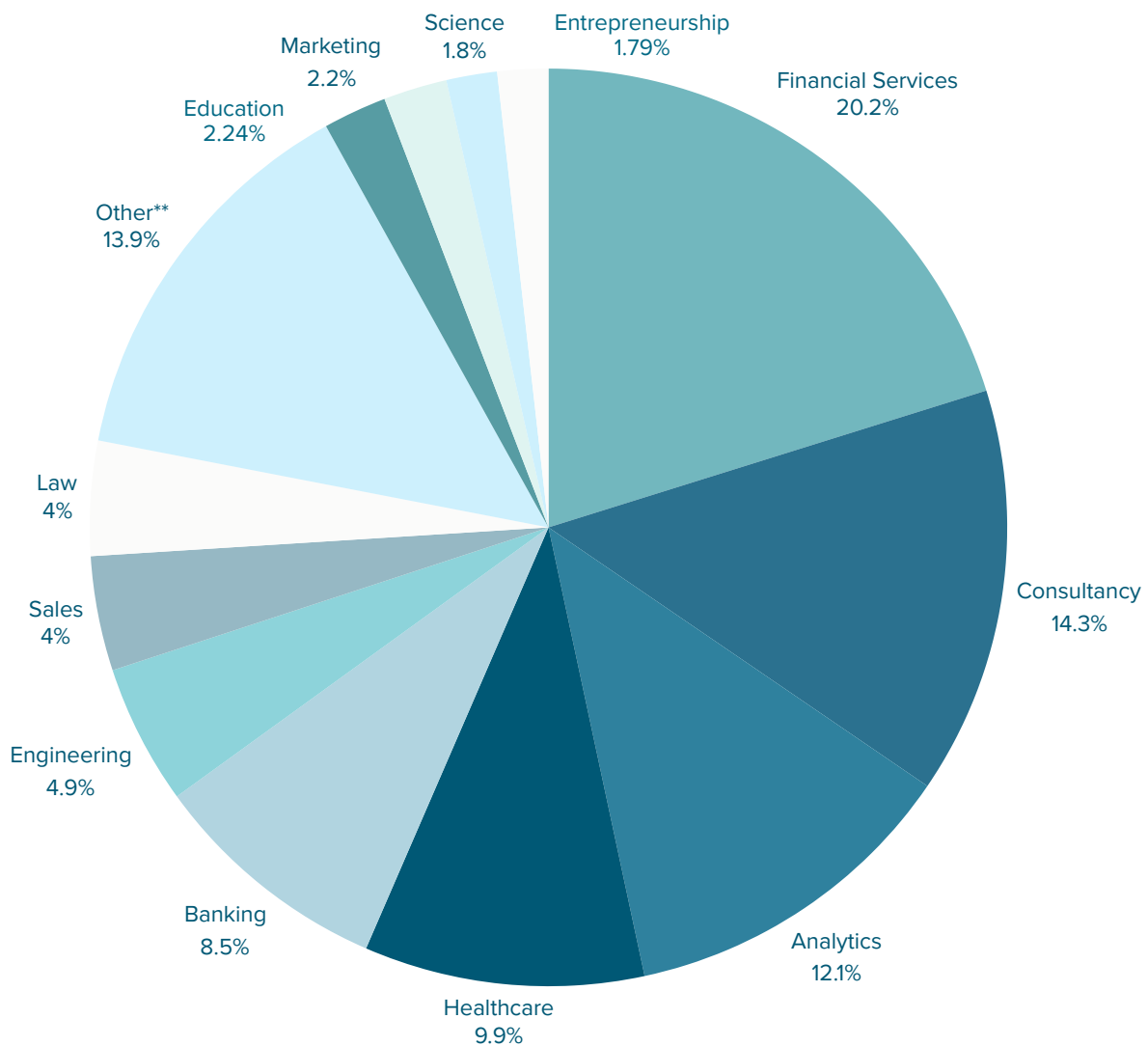
TikTok (1.2k followers)



Network Growth

Our Industries

The TPN community consists of 215+ members across 25+ industries, including:



**Other includes: Technology, Retail & FMCG, Marketing and Advertising, Supply Chain & Logistics, Publishing & Media, PR, Manufacturing, Leisure & Tourism, Healthcare and Medicine, Defence, Research, Public Sector, Operations Management & IT



200+

Members across the UK
spanning 25+ industries



175+

Early career professionals
offering support to students



30

Student Ambassadors
across 15+ UK Universities



21

Events & Workshops
(in-person/virtual)



70+

Students mentored 1:1 via
our Student Mentorship
Programme, 'Arivu'



~5k

Followers across platforms
including Instagram, TikTok
& LinkedIn



Tamil Students Insight Day at HSBC

On July 5th 2024, we welcomed 100 Tamil students to the HSBC Global Headquarters, Canary Wharf, for our biggest insight opportunity yet. This initiative provided direct exposure into the corporate world and demonstrated to students that ***if we can do it, they can too.***



“The whole team was so motivating, it felt as if I was talking to older brothers and sisters. I could really feel that they cared about us and wanted the best. I will work very hard and aspire to reach high levels like them all!”

“It was truly inspiring to see Tamil representation in the finance industry and seeing the professionals make their mark at HSBC.”



Sri Lanka Mentorship Programme

We have made significant progress in growing our virtual mentorship initiative in Sri Lanka. After successful trial sessions focused on interviews, soft skills, public speaking, and career guidance, we are now mentoring 18 students in Sri Lanka, 2 of which have recently completed their A-Levels.

In collaboration with the Aram Initiative, several TPN members supported with setting up digital infrastructure during the 2024 Aram Trip - including projectors and web cameras - at locations across Sri Lanka, such as Maskeliya, Trincomalee, and Jaffna.

This enabled our members to deliver high-quality, interactive workshops during the 2024 Aram trip.

Looking ahead, we aim to expand our reach to support 100+ students and continue fostering meaningful connections between Tamil professionals in the UK and students in Sri Lanka.



"Thank you for caring about us, it's so motivating for my learning to have someone invested in me."



Student Events Highlights

Collaboration with Lotus Caring Hands

This Summer, we collaborated with **Lotus Caring Hands**, bringing together 10 TPN members who shared their career journeys and insights with school & University students aged 16-20 years old.

What stood out most were the candid discussions on topics often left unspoken in the Tamil community, including neurodivergence and mental health. Our professionals' openness was not only inspiring, but also essential for fostering growth within our community.

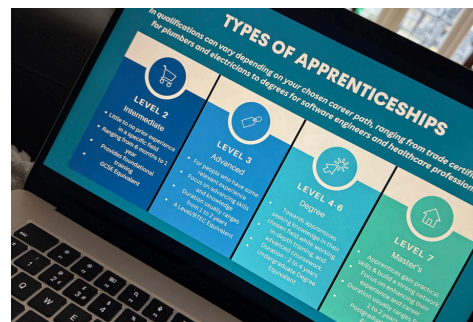


Women in STEM, International Women's Day

Led by the inspirational psychologist **Dr Juliet Anton** (PsychD, HCPC - Couns. Psych.), this event fostered an open group discussion among students and women currently working in STEM fields. The event highlighted the progress made in STEM workplaces for women, while candidly addressing the challenges that persist.

'Exploring Apprenticeships' Workshop

Recognising the need to spotlight alternative career routes, we hosted a workshop on Apprenticeships. This session highlighted the benefits and opportunities of this pathway, often overshadowed by the traditional university route, and inspired students to explore this career path.





Connecting Early & Experienced Professionals

This year, we hosted a range of events which provided professionals in the early stages of their career with valuable insights and networking opportunities to advance their career journey.

We kicked off the year with a session from **Dayalan Mahesan** on Property Investment, offering practical advice on strategies to purchase properties and navigate the property market. This was followed by an inspiring panel discussion with **Nelson Sivalingam**, CEO of HowNow, who shared his entrepreneurial journey, offering insights on leadership, resilience, and innovation.

Our annual Speed-Networking Event this September brought together 120+ attendees across 8 industries, featuring a panel discussion with accomplished Tamil professionals, **Karthik Kugathayaparan, Koby Yogaretnam, Pira Muthu & Viji Mahalingam**, who shared their experiences and insights on achieving success, overcoming challenges, and breaking stereotypes in their respective industries.

Our events have touched on various topics including balancing personal identity in the workplace, overcoming challenges in pursuing career passions, and breaking traditional stereotypes. These conversations, rooted in shared experiences, provided insights to those in the early stages of their career journey.



“It was inspiring to see professionals who looked like me in such senior roles, showing me that if they can do it, I can too.”



Introducing TPN Student Ambassadors

2024 marked the launch of our first Student Ambassador programme. This initiative was introduced to strengthen the bridge between TPN and student communities across the UK. We welcomed 28 student ambassadors from 15+ Universities across the UK to the TPN team, and recently introduced a further 30 ambassadors for the 2024/5 academic year.

Our student ambassadors play a vital role, increasing TPN's visibility across student communities through promoting our initiatives with their networks via social media platforms and in-person events. Their outreach efforts have enabled more students to gain awareness of TPN, our resources and the opportunities available to them.

Our ambassadors have also proposed a variety of initiatives, collaborative events, and strategies to improve the effectiveness of TPN's outreach.

This programme also serves as an opportunity for students to give back to the community and develop transferable skills to broaden their skillset. We're excited to see the growth and development of our ambassadors as they build the necessary skills required to navigate through the programme and amplify TPN's platform.

"Being a TPN Student Ambassador has allowed me to grow as a leader while contributing to a community that fosters collaboration and professional development.

TPN has provided a platform to connect with like-minded students and professionals, expanding my network in ways I hadn't imagined."





Introducing ‘Arivu’ Mentorship Programme

This year, we rebranded our Student Mentorship Programme as ‘Arivu,’ meaning ‘knowledge,’ to better reflect our mission of empowering university students and shaping their futures.

Our programme provides students with 1:1 mentoring from professionals, offering career guidance, confidence-building, skill development, and networking opportunities.

We welcomed 74 University students to our 2024/5 cohort, pairing them with mentors who provide regular career support. In November, we partnered with Seeple to deliver a CV workshop, offering students insights into tools that may support their career journey.

We look forward to continuing Arivu and supporting our students’ growth and success.



“I joined this programme not expecting much. Studying Neuroscience, a degree that is very under-represented in the Tamil community, I was the only Tamil student on my course and was unsure of my career path. However, through TPN, I was matched with a mentor in research who has provided invaluable guidance.”

“This programme has surpassed my expectations - I would definitely recommend the scheme to anyone who's feeling uncertain about their future career path.”



What's Next?

2025 Outlook

As we step into 2025, we remain committed to fostering growth and creating opportunities to support the Tamil community. Here's what's next:

Building a Global Network

We are exploring the creation of a global network of Tamil professionals to facilitate knowledge exchange across borders. This initiative will provide a platform for professionals worldwide to share expertise, collaborate, and inspire one another, reinforcing the strength of the Tamil professional community globally.

Expanding Our Reach

As we approach the new year, one of our goals is to introduce monthly newsletters to grow our reach, strengthen our community, and support Tamil businesses by spotlighting and promoting their work. By fostering deeper connections, we aim to make TPN's mission resonate further and wider.

Supporting Career Journeys

In 2025, we plan to work with more corporations to support students on their career journeys by providing direct exposure to the corporate world. Through these partnerships, we hope to provide greater exposure and insight, bridging the gap between academic aspirations and professional realities.

A Shared Vision

TPN was founded on the principles of community, upliftment, and inspiration. These values will remain at the heart of everything we do in 2025. Whether it's through providing platforms for professionals to thrive, supporting students, or expanding our reach globally, our vision is to create a brighter future for Tamil professionals.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We can't wait for all the exciting things to come in the new year!





How Can You Support Us

As a non-profit organisation, sponsorship will be a critical element for TPN’s growth in 2025. From hosting CV workshops for our students to organising networking sessions for our professionals, it is critical to raise funds to facilitate these events. Not only does donating provide an opportunity to support the Tamil community, but it also provides the perfect medium to advertise your services to a community of students and professionals across a diverse range of industries.

TPN holds a unique position, with access to university students, recent graduates and professionals across various stages of their career journey. Through sponsorship, not only will you be able to advertise to thousands of Tamils, but you will also have the opportunity to develop your business through featuring in unique advertisements on various platforms. All this, whilst helping future generations of young Tamils thrive.



As a Sponsor, you could benefit from:

1

Increased visibility

- Promote your services to our network of students & professionals across various platforms

2

Build Connections

- Foster strong connections with the next generation of Tamil professionals who could support you in growing your business

If you would like to know more about how we can support each other, or if you would simply like to make a one-off donation, please get in touch with us:

✉ tamilprofessionalsnetwork@gmail.com

📷 [@tamilprofessionalsnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/tamilprofessionalsnetwork)



Special Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the **Harley Lounge** for their generous support in providing us with a venue to host the Experienced Professionals Network event this March. A special thank you to **Ara Vetha**, whose impeccable coordination ensured the event ran smoothly. We are truly grateful for their support in making this event a success.

A sincere thank you to **Jason Davey** for supporting TPN's Annual Speed-Networking Event, Professionals Connect. It is invaluable to have senior leaders at HSBC who wholeheartedly support our mission.

We are very grateful to **Victor Ramanan**, Deputy Chairman/CEO of **Nawaloka College of Higher Studies**, for their generous sponsorship of the TPN website. Your support plays a key role in enabling our growth and expanding our initiatives to support Tamil students and professionals.

Thank you to **Rabi Mandias** (@shotbyozzy) for photographing multiple events throughout the year, capturing TPN milestones and bringing our events to life through your lens. Your dedication has been instrumental in showcasing our journey, and we're incredibly grateful for your support and talent!

We would also like to express our gratitude to the **University Tamil Societies** with whom we have collaborated over the past year. Thanks to your partnership, TPN has been able to support students at your universities and further our mission of uplifting and supporting the Tamil community on their career journeys. We look forward to continued collaboration in the year ahead.

University Tamil Societies include: *University of Birmingham, City University of London, University of Kent, University of Kingston, London School of Economics, University of Nottingham, Queen Mary University of London, University of Southampton, and University College London.*

Thank you to each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions to our shared success.



“It is with immense pleasure that I share my appreciation and experiences with the TPN. **Their work exemplifies selfless dedication to fostering the professional and academic growth of the Tamil youth and beyond.** Their widely accessible and insightful initiatives, such as Insight Days, Careers Workshop, and their Mentorship Programme, are executed with the highest calibre and should not be taken for granted.

I had the privilege of attending their HSBC Insight Day at Canary Wharf, which significantly enhanced my knowledge of the sector. **With this newfound knowledge, I successfully secured an internship at HSBC the following Summer.** Their continuous support has been crucial for my career growth. Thank you TPN!”

Lovesanth Lingkeswaran

Student, University of Bath



“TPN has been a key factor in my career development - **with their support, I managed to secure a Summer Internship which I have since converted into a graduate scheme offer.** Their events, mentorship and Instagram content has been of huge help.

TPN is always looking to collaborate with student committees and introduce mentorship schemes such as ‘Arivu’, showing how **committed they are to helping students succeed.** Seeing how much they’ve grown in just two years is inspiring – their work is truly having a real impact. I can’t wait to see what they do next and wish them all the best!”

Deenesh Santheeswaran

Student, Kingston University



“Joining TPN has given me access to valuable resources and a community of individuals from a shared background. **Seeing fellow Tamils thrive in senior roles has inspired me to aim high in my own career,** and TPN’s events have widened my perspective and given me the confidence to excel in competitive spaces.

With TPN’s support, I was able to secure a Summer Internship at Lloyds Banking Group, which led to a graduate scheme offer. While this achievement came through my hard work, TPN played a key role in sharpening my skills and expanding my network. TPN has been a valuable resource, and I recommend it to any students seeking professional growth and looking to build meaningful connections!”

Preyankan Kamalakumar

Student, City University of London



“My decision to join TPN stemmed from a desire to connect with the Tamil community and its professionals - this was driven by a strong ambition to give back. TPN's welcoming environment facilitated this goal. As an apprentice who initially lacked guidance, I aimed to mentor others. TPN provided the platform to achieve this, fulfilling my wish to support fellow apprentices.

Beyond mentorship, TPN has exposed me to diverse industries I hadn't considered, like film and directing. Attending various talks has broadened my career perspective significantly, opening my eyes to new possibilities. **TPN has proven instrumental in both community engagement and professional growth**, offering unique opportunities for both personal and career development.”

Nillanee Nehrujee

Publisher, British Medical Journal



“TPN has given me a sense of belonging in a new country, and to me, it's become like a second home here in London. This network has not only provided me community support, but it has also opened doors for me professionally.

TPN has allowed me to make life-long friends, all whilst giving back to the community. **Beyond the professional opportunities and networking, it's the friendships I've built and the sense of belonging that truly make TPN feel like a second home** – a family that has welcomed me with open arms and continues to support me every step of the way. Thank you TPN!”

Hirish Karuneswaran

Pricing Analyst, Commercial Pricing and Proposition



“I had the absolute pleasure of attending TPN's Annual Speed-Networking Event, and I cannot express enough how inspiring and uplifting the entire experience was. The panellists were not only knowledgeable but also deeply passionate, sharing their stories in ways that truly resonated with everyone in the room.

Beyond the panel, the conversations with fellow attendees were engaging and thought-provoking. **It was refreshing to be surrounded by such a diverse group of professionals who were all so open, supportive, and eager to connect.** It's initiatives like these that bring people together and foster a sense of community and inspiration. I'm already looking forward to the next one and can't wait to see what else TPN has in store!”

Thuriga Vairamuttu

Account Executive, Illuminate Digital



“Thank you to the team at TPN for inviting me as a panellist at their ‘Professionals Connect’ event. The event attracted a wonderful array of Tamil graduates and professionals that value the community that TPN is creating. I personally was extremely impressed with the TPN team and how professional they were throughout the planning and execution of the event. **I would thoroughly recommended TPN events to all, to learn, collaborate and support one another.** Well done to TPN!”

Koby Yogaretnam

Head of Investments & Programmes, Foundervine



“It was an honour to speak at the TPN event recently, addressing an audience of talented and driven Tamil professionals and students. **Engaging with such a dynamic group allowed me to share insights from my journey** as a Senior Finance Leader / Life Coach and exchange ideas about career growth and leadership. The TPN team were exceptional and dedicated, and I look forward to supporting them and being part of this empowering network in the future.”

Viji Mahalingam

Senior Finance Director, FIS | Director, Conscious Wealth Coach, Psychology of Abundance Ltd



“Coaching at a recent TPN event was a hugely rewarding experience for me. I loved the hunger to learn in the room and during the networking event I had some really engaging conversations. The TPN committee are a hugely impressive and ambitious group who are **equipping the next generation of Tamil professionals with all the tools to succeed.** Well done on your journey so far, be encouraged to keep going and keep growing - the future you’re helping to build is exciting!”

Dayalan Mahesan

Founder, Dayalan Mahesan Keller Williams



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