



Edinburgh Napier University and Edinburgh Napier Students' Association

Student Partnership Agreement

2021 - 2024

Edinburgh Napier University and Edinburgh Napier Students' Association (ENSA) are committed to building a mature, positive and constructive working relationship for the benefit of students.

Fundamental to this Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) is the student voice and both partners are committed to engaging students at all levels of decision-making in matters relating to education and the overall student experience.

This SPA has been informed by student feedback and aligns with the strategic objectives of both ENSA and the University. The partnership will be enabled by USAF (University and Students' Association Forum).

What is a Student Partnership Agreement?

Originally outlined in Scottish Government's 2011 paper, *Putting Learners at the Centre*, a Student Partnership Agreement is a mutually agreed, non-binding statement of the ways in which the institution and the student body will work in partnership. It should be a living document that is reviewed annually and will enable progress on joint activities to be monitored and communicated.

The Edinburgh Napier University - ENSA SPA has a three-year horizon linking to strategic objectives and an annual planning cycle reflecting the campaigns of Sabbatical Officers and the evolving needs of students.

Partnership

The partnership between the University and ENSA is guided by the following principles:

- Mutual trust in one another's commitment to improving the student experience
- A commitment to empowering students to shape their university experience
- Honesty, transparency and openness
- Ongoing constructive dialogue

Strategic Priorities

ENSA strategic priorities

Community – we want students to feel a sense of belonging, to be included and inclusive, to meet and appreciate people from all walks of life, to take part in extracurricular activities, and to make new friends while at university.

Education – we want students to be supported to learn and develop, to be stretched and challenged, to enjoy their studies, to gain the knowledge and skills they need to make a difference to their workplaces and their communities.

Representation – we want students to have a say in shaping their university experience.

Empowerment – we want students to feel empowered to bring about positive change for themselves, others and the environment.

Wellbeing – we want students to be mentally and physically healthy and to feel good about themselves and their future prospects.

Transformation – we want students to have a broad range of exciting extracurricular opportunities to stretch and challenge themselves, learn new skills, to develop as leaders and be transformed by their university experience.

University strategic objectives

Build careers – create opportunities

Grow networks – connect communities

Advance knowledge – deliver impact

With a commitment to growing sustainably

Through core strategies we will:

Elevate the student experience to a new level by introducing the Edinburgh Napier Gold Standard curriculum, underpinned and systematically integrated with professional practice and excellent research.

As a result of delivering our strategy, students will:

Feel part of a diverse, accessible & interdisciplinary academic community - making a difference through relevant programmes, projects and placements, while becoming equipped and connected for their future careers.

Our shared priorities for 2021 – 2024

Detailed objectives are appended and will be updated and revised to reflect progress made, and to take into account the priorities of incoming sabbatical officers and any new areas of work identified during the three-year horizon of the SPA.

Community and inclusivity

Enhance the Edinburgh Napier community spirit, helping our diverse student body to feel part of the University and ENSA, by promoting diversity and inclusion and ensuring all students are welcomed, supported and that their voices are heard and can influence change.

Education and representation

Improve and support the representation system, enhancing Rep recruitment and training, improving our Student-Staff Liaison Committees (SSLCs) and Rep communication with classmates, and ensuring equitable access for all Reps to support and opportunities.

Employability

Provide meaningful ways for students to engage in shaping their career development through volunteering and placements, increasing their awareness of opportunities through improved communication and support.

Sustainability

Encourage students to take sustainable actions and integrate sustainability in all decision making.

Wellbeing

Improve student mental and physical wellbeing.

Detailed objectives for 2020/21-2021/22¹

Priority	Goal	Objectives 2020/21-2021/22	Responsible for objective	Responsibility
Community and Inclusivity	Reduce feelings of isolation and enhance the Napier community spirit.	Develop a Buddy System for peer support.	ENSA President Societies & Community	ENSA-led with University support
	Actively promote diversity and inclusion.	Offer events relevant to specific Schools or campuses.	ENSA President Societies & Community	ENSA-led with University support
	Ensure that the University environment is welcoming to all students.	Support the implementation of the recommendations made by the BAME short-life working group	VP Learning & Teaching + University Inclusion Committee	University-led with ENSA support
	Ensure that new students are well supported (transition support).	Respond to the needs of the following groups of students: BAME, LGBTQ+, care experienced, WP, international, PT, student carers & parents, commuting students etc.	ENSA President Societies & Community + Head of Support Services & Academic Registrar	Joint ENSA & University
	Explore how we hear and respond to the needs of the diverse student body.	Review student voice activities and ensure these are accessible to all students and provide all with the opportunity to influence change.	VP Learning & Teaching + Quality & Standards Manager	University-led with ENSA support

¹ Progress towards some of the objectives listed commenced during the SPA development phase in 2020/21.

Priority	Goal	Objectives 2020/21-2021/22	Responsible for objective	Responsibility
Education and Representation	Improve and facilitate the online Programme Rep system.	Digitise the Rep system	Head of Support Services & Academic Registrar + ENSA Deputy Manager	ENSA-led with University support
	Enhance Rep communication with classmates.	Develop effective tools to enable Reps to communicate with others, learning from institutional good practice in place, e.g. use of MS Teams.	ENSA Co-President Education & Employability	ENSA-led with University support
	Improve and enhance the operation of SSLCs.*	Review and refresh SSLC guidance to students and staff: Introduce routine monitoring of SSLC effectiveness.	ENSA Co-President Education & Employability + Quality & Standards Manager	Joint ENSA & University
	Recruit more Programme Reps and enhance support for student Rep recruitment as a University-wide effort, supporting efforts of ENSA and Programme Leaders.*	Highlight the University's support for the Rep system to help Programme Leaders understand the valuable role Reps play and the importance of running elections.	ENSA Co-President Education & Employability + Quality & Standards Manager	Joint ENSA & University
	Enhance training and support for student Committee members.*	Introduce annual training for student members of Academic Board sub-committees.	VP Learning & Teaching + Quality & Standards Manager	University-led with ENSA support

Priority	Goal	Objectives 2020/21-2021/22	Responsible for objective	Responsibility
	Enhance Rep training and support.*	Develop additional Rep training modules: gender-based violence/active bystander training, inclusion and diversity; Add relevant sections to Rep training for students at collaborative partners/TNE and Global Online students.	Co-President Education & Employability + ENSA Student Communities Development Coordinator	ENSA-led with University support
	Ensure that there is equitable access to support and opportunities.*	Review student engagement in academic co-curricular opportunities and identify and address barriers to participation.	VP Learning & Teaching + Quality & Standards Manager	University-led with ENSA support
Employability	Provide meaningful ways for students to engage in shaping their career development through volunteering and placements, increasing their awareness of opportunities through improved communication and support.	Promote external and internal volunteering opportunities through Student Futures, MyNapier and ENSA.	ENSA Co-President Education & Employability (with ENSA Social Media Team) + Head of Student Futures	Joint ENSA & University
Sustainability	Encourage students to take sustainable actions.	Integrating climate change in the curriculum: promote sustainability module.	VP Learning & Teaching + Head of DLTE	University-led with ENSA support

Priority	Goal	Objectives 2020/21-2021/22	Responsible for objective	Responsibility
	Raise awareness of opportunities for students to participate in sustainability campaigns.	Offer and promote opportunities to get students involved in sustainability campaigns and initiatives: Hedgehog Friendly Campus, Sustainable Society, Lion's Gate.	ENSA President Societies & Community	ENSA-led with University support
	Integrate sustainability in all decision making.	Create an ENSA sustainability charter.	ENSA President Societies & Community	ENSA-led with University support
Wellbeing	Improve student mental and physical wellbeing.	Increase awareness and effective communication of student wellbeing support services.	ENSA Co-President Sports & Wellbeing + Head of Wellbeing & Inclusion	Joint ENSA & University
	Increase participation in 'Active Health' activities	Offer a programme of recreational sport to reach more students.	ENSA Co-President Sports & Wellbeing	ENSA-led with University support

*Align with ELIR action plan

Version	Date	Details
1	April 2021	Approved by USAF
1.1	May 2021	Revised in accordance with LTASEC recommendations
1.2	May 2021	USAF member against each objective