

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.

SPA Goals and Activities for 2022-2023

Community and Inclusivity

Goal: Foster and sustain an environment which is welcoming and supportive of all students and in which everyone feels a sense of community and belonging.

Activity: Work with key groups across the University-ENSA community to run events and activities that provide all students with opportunities to engage. Support the University's strategic objectives to enable student success through inclusive approaches which encourage participation and sense of belonging (e.g. ENSA Buddy System and School Action Plans).

Education and Representation

Goal: Enhance student representation, recognising that a strong representation system is the cornerstone of effective student-staff partnership and essential to ensuring the quality and enhancement of the student experience.

Activity: Work with Schools to strengthen approaches to student voice, including the operation of SSLCs and student engagement activities, and continue to develop and support specialist roles including student quality panel members and student committee members.

Employability

Goal: Provide meaningful ways for students to engage in shaping their career and skills development through volunteering, placements and internships, and increase their awareness of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

Activity: Promote external and internal volunteering and employment opportunities working with Schools and the University departments, and support students in understanding and articulating the skills they have gained to strengthen their employability.

Sustainability

Goal: Improve our collective awareness of sustainability, ensuring that students understand how they can contribute during their time at University and beyond.

Activity: Working together, strengthen the integration of sustainability in the curriculum and encourage students to take sustainable actions through campaigns, supporting key ENSA and University strategic objectives.

Wellbeing

Goal: Collaborate on initiatives to raise awareness of mental health supports, challenge stigma around mental health and to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of students.

Activity: Working with key departments, contribute to the objectives of the Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA), identify actions to increase student awareness of wellbeing support and develop recreational sport activities so that more students can take part.