

About sparqs

student participation in quality scotland

Supporting Students

Supporting Institutions

Supporting the Sector

Developing a Culture

Supporting Students



We provide support to students at all levels of engagement in shaping the quality of their learning experience. Our support:

- Makes quality accessible for students.
- Emphasises partnership working with staff.
- Gives skills and knowledge to around 3,000 course reps each year.
- Trains faculty reps, senior student officers, student reviewers, and many others.
- Develops students to become trainers.
- Creates confident students with transferable skills.

training
support
skills quality
ideas
knowledge
course reps

Supporting Institutions



We help universities and colleges develop the best possible structures and cultures for student engagement. We provide:

- Support on developing structures and training for reps.
- Resources on accreditation and reward.
- Guidance on creating Student Partnership Agreements – helping staff and students to work as partners to enhance learning.
- Help to involve students in preparing for reviews.
- Professional development resources for staff about student engagement.
- Support for engaging students in curriculum design.

structures
resources
strategy
consultancy
training
cultures

Supporting the Sector



We develop the student voice at a national level, through:

- Support for student reps who sit on national committees.
- Enabling students to engage in national work such as Enhancement Themes.
- Facilitating dialogue between staff and students on key topics such as public information or college regionalisation.
- Working closely with all other sector agencies.

voice
dialogue
enhancement
quality agencies
themes
regionalisation
committees

Developing a Culture



We lead and facilitate discussion and research on engaging students in quality, such as:

- Promotion of Scotland's Student Engagement Framework.
- Reports on key aspects of student engagement.
- Sharing practice through conference participation, research and project work, across Europe and beyond.
- A vibrant resource library supporting the sharing of practices, resources, research and more.

engagement facilitate sharing international discussion
resource library participation research framework

About Us



The role of students in shaping learning and teaching is key to the quality arrangements for Scottish colleges and universities. sparqs is the agency, funded by the Scottish Funding Council, responsible for supporting this work. Our team of staff based in Edinburgh and Inverness have a significant amount of expertise in developing and supporting this work.

We work with all Scotland's colleges and universities, and with their students' associations through a range of research, training, events and consultancy. Students and staff within institutions influence our work through our advisory groups and we enjoy significant support from a wide range of partners, including several sector agencies.

To find out more about our work, please visit our website, follow us on Twitter, read our publications/resources and sign up to our news articles. Please get in touch if you have any queries, or to arrange a visit to your institution or organisation.

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Principles and Values



The work of sparqs is built on the principles that:

- Both students and institutions are more successful when they work together in partnership.
- Work with students is not just about seeking their feedback for problem solving, but on working together to develop solutions and build strategies to meet the challenges of the future.
- Students and staff working together in this way will help colleges and universities continually strive to provide the very best experience possible.

Our work seeks to:

- Recognise the expertise students can bring to enhancement activities and the significant contributions students have made and continue to make.
- Explore the nature of partnership between students and their institutions and support developments that help utilise this partnership for positive change.
- Ensure the diversity of student voices is heard and the educational experience enhanced with their needs in mind.
- Champion and encourage innovation which meets the needs of individual institutions, continuing to secure Scotland as a centre of excellence.

scotland trainers student
engagement diversity
learning governance
training skills
partnership
participation
colleges
sparqs
quality
resources Universities Scotland
universities
Education
Scotland
The
Higher
Education
Academy
Scottish
Funding
Council
NUS
Scotland
QAA
Scotland
Colleges Scotland
students' associations
teaching
College
Development
Network
change enhancement
research national
events consultancy
discussion representation