

## Glossary for College Education Officers 2017

### Quality terminology

**Quality** - In the context of being a student representative, quality refers to the standard of everything to do with learning, teaching, assessment, and the additional support to ensure this happens within an institution. When quality is referred to it usually means “how good is this?”

**Quality Assurance** – Quality assurance approaches aim to ensure that existing standards are met. It is about asking “Are you doing what is expected of you?”

**Quality Enhancement** - Quality enhancement is about how learning and teaching can be improved. It is about asking “How can you make what you’re doing even better?”

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**College Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey (SSES)** – the SSES is an annual survey for college students run by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). There are ten questions in the survey that relate to students’ satisfaction with their college experience. The final question is about how the students’ association influences change at the college.

**Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations in Scotland** – The Framework sets out how colleges and students’ associations can work in partnership, with the support of sector agencies and NUS Scotland, to develop strong and effective students’ associations. For more information see the [Framework](#).

**Gender Action Plan (GAP)** – Gender Action Plans were established in 2016 by the Scottish Funding Council to set out targets to tackle the long-standing problem of gender imbalance within colleges and universities. From 2017, each institution is required to publish an annual GAP, detailing its own plans for meeting these targets. Student engagement in developing GAPs is essential to ensure colleges are bold and creative in their approaches, and that they put the needs of their students at the centre of the process. For more information see [NUS Scotland’s Student Engagement in Gender Action Plans Checklist](#).

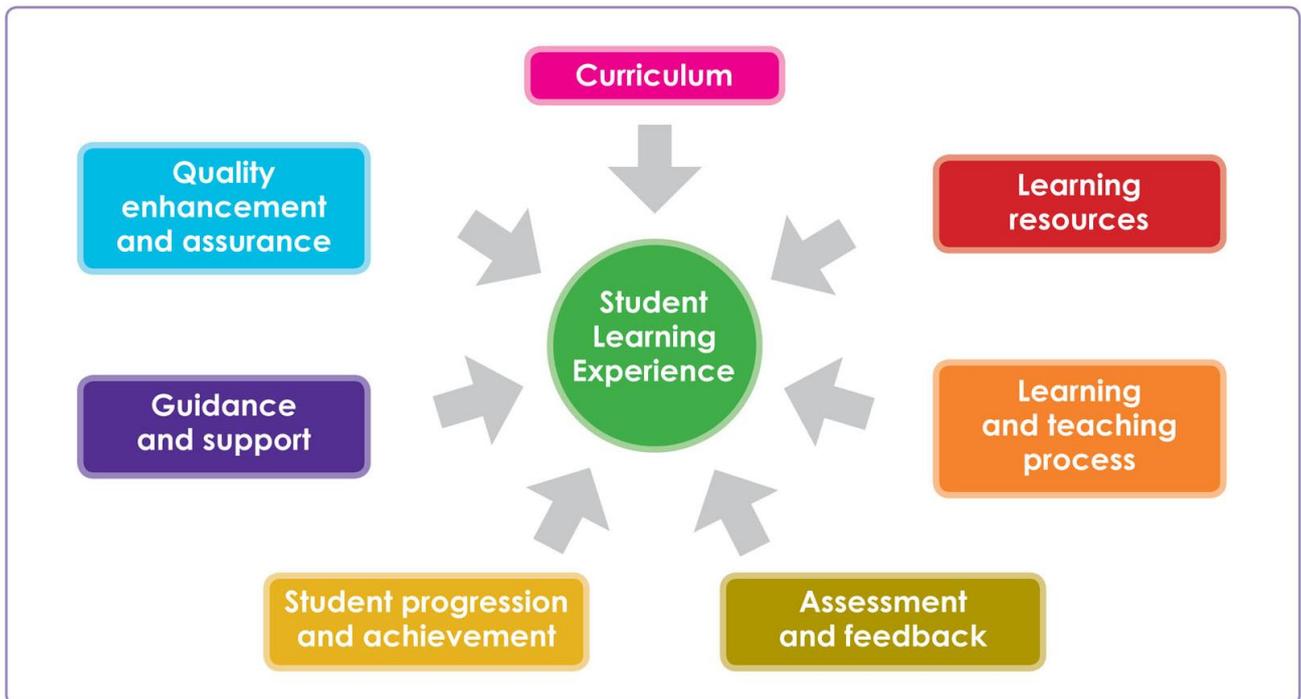
**How Good is Our College? (HGIOC)** – HGIOC is the new college quality framework published in December 2016. Under the new framework, colleges are moving to a self-evaluative model of review with external validation provided by Education Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council. Active student engagement in college evaluation processes is a key part of the new arrangements, and the framework is designed to support colleges to engage learners, staff, and partners in working together to continuously improve and enhance the student experience. For more information see the [How good is our college? framework](#). As part of the new arrangements, each college will produce an annual **Evaluative Report and Enhancement Plan**. Colleges are expected to demonstrate how learners have been engaged in the development of these documents. More information about how this process works is set out in [The arrangements for assuring and improving the quality of provision and services in Scotland's colleges](#).

**Outcome Agreements** - Outcome Agreements set out what colleges plan to deliver in return for their funding from the Scottish Funding Council and how the institution meets Scottish Government priorities. Outcome Agreements are negotiated between the institution and an SFC Outcome Agreement Manager. Priority areas for Outcome Agreements are related to access; retention and progression; employability and skills and college governance. There is an expectation that students are involved in the Outcome Agreement Process. For more information on Outcome Agreements see the SFC's [Guidance for the development of College Outcome Agreements: 2017-18 to 2019-20](#).

**Student Engagement Framework** - [A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland](#) (available in the Resource Library on the sparqs website) is a document endorsed and owned by all the sector agencies and representative bodies in the college and university sector. The Framework consists of five key elements of student engagement, and six features of effective student engagement. It offers a coherent and detailed way of understanding student engagement that can be helpful to institutions and students' associations as they attempt to develop and plan their student engagement activities.

**Student Partnership Agreements (SPAs)** - Student Partnership Agreements are a way in which students' associations and institutions can promote how students can interact with staff at their institution to improve quality. They're also an opportunity to agree a set of three to five priority areas upon which the students' association and institution will work together, in partnership. More information about SPAs is available in the [sparqs Student Partnership Agreement Guidance](#) (available in the Resource Library on the sparqs website).

**Student Learning Experience (SLE)** - the [SLE](#) (developed by sparqs and a key component of Course Rep Training), refers to all elements of a student's experience during their time at their institution. There are 7 different elements: Curriculum, Learning Resources, Learning and Teaching Process, Assessment and Feedback, Progression and Achievement, Guidance and Support, Quality Enhancement and Assurance (*available in the Resource Library on the sparqs website*).



## **Sector Agencies**

**sparqs - student partnerships in quality Scotland** - is a development agency that exists to assist and support students, students' associations and institutions to improve the effectiveness and engagement in quality assurance and enhancement in institutions across Scotland. More information can be found at - [www.sparqs.ac.uk](http://www.sparqs.ac.uk)

**Scottish Funding Council** - a public body which distributes money to colleges and universities on behalf of the Scottish Government. They are ultimately responsible to the Government for the spending of this money, and so they oversee the quality of learning and teaching provision to ensure that standards are high. More information can be found at - <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/>

The SFC's **College Quality Arrangements Steering Group** brings together representatives from a range of sector organisations to oversee the quality arrangements for colleges within Scotland.

**NUS Scotland** - a confederation of students' associations across Scotland whose purpose is to promote, defend and extend the rights of students as well as to develop and champion strong students' unions. More information can be found at - <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-scotland/>

**Education Scotland** – The national body responsible for assuring the quality of colleges and schools in Scotland. They conduct external reviews in colleges. - <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>

**Colleges Scotland** - Colleges Scotland is the representative body of Scotland's college institutions. More information can be found at - <http://www.collegesscotland.ac.uk/>

**College Development Network (CDN)** – is an agency that supports the development of Scotland's colleges. They provide training events and networks that bring together college staff to share best practice. More information on what they do is available on the CDN website - <http://www.collegedevelopmentnetwork.ac.uk/>