

Introduction to Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership (Screencast) #4

Transcript

0:01

Welcome to our introduction to Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership.

0:05

We'll be referring to this as the Partnership Ambition from now on, and you can access a copy of it using the QR code shown on this slide or from the homepage of the sparqs website.

0:18

This slide shows the acronyms that we refer to in this resource and we've also shared another QR code to our sparqs Acronym Buster and you may find this helpful as you navigate terminology within the Scottish tertiary sector.

0:33

So in this short overview we plan to explain why you need to know about the Partnership Ambition, how it links with Scotland's Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework or TQEF, what is it, how should or could it be used and it's recommended role with an annual Self-Evaluation and Action Planning or SEAP for institutions.

0:58

So let's start by outlining why you need to know about the Partnership Ambition.

1:03

Firstly, it's a sector wide reference point which underpins Scotland's shared emphasis on a student-centred approach and the importance of working in partnership to enhance learning and teaching practises within tertiary education.

1:17

It articulates a holistic ambition for student partnership across the Scottish tertiary sector and it describes our joint commitment to working with students and enables people to see their responsibilities and roles within this.

1:31

It's a key reference point within Scotland's Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework, or TQEF, which are the quality arrangements for Scottish colleges and universities.

1:41

And lastly, it's a tool that provides challenge and structure to help explore ways we can develop partnership working across Scotland.

1:51

This image provides more detail about the TQEF, and the framework is founded on a set of 6 shared principles that have been used to shape its development, and which underpin and permeate every aspect of it.

2:04

These principles are Enhancement and Quality Culture; Externality; Data and Evidence; Student Engagement and Partnership; Supporting Student Success and Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

2:19

And at the core of these shared principles is the desire to deliver better outcomes for our students and to place them at the heart of the framework.

2:28

And Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership was developed to underpin the TQEF principle of Student Engagement and Partnership.

2:37

So what is Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership?

2:41

Well, the resource itself includes 3 key elements, namely a holistic ambition statement, a set of features and a set of underlying principles.

2:51

You can see the full ambition statement for Scotland on this slide, or you may prefer to download the full resource to read it through.

2:59

The ambition is aspirational, and it's recognised that whilst there's significant good practice across Scotland we'll require continued enhancement activity to achieve our ambition, and that this will be a journey for individual institutions and the sector as a whole.

3:15

So it's about maturing what we do already and what we're already very proud of in Scotland, and it's about change and making a positive difference.

3:25

A fundamental aspect is that it's about all students, no matter who they are, what experiences they bring with them, what barriers they might face or where and when they study.

3:35

They've all got important views to bring and if we harness these views, we'll meet the challenges of the future.

3:43

Trust and mutual respect are key elements as both staff and students have expertise and it's it's about creating an environment where we use both of these.

3:52

And importantly, it's about moving beyond just listening to students to get feedback from them.

3:57

It's about sitting down together to understand the challenges and design solutions together.

4:04

So we've described the ambition statement within the Partnership Ambition, and this is underpinned by both Features and Indicators of Practice.

4:13

So each of the 8 features is represented as a puzzle piece in the Student Partnership jigsaw.

4:19

And it's when all of these Features are present that student partnership as an approach is able to flourish.

4:27

And each of the 8 Features then has Indicators of Practice layered beneath them.

4:32

And you'll see these in detail within the resource itself.

4:36

We've illustrated this with an example for the Indicators of Practice relating to Diversity of Student Voices.

4:44

The Indicators of Practice are intended to enable each feature of student partnership to be explored further.

4:51

They're not designed to be a checklist.

4:53

Rather, they're examples of practice which institutions, students' associations and other teams can use to inform their strategic planning processes and to help them identify their current practice and opportunities for development.

5:08

So how should or could the Partnership Ambition be used?

5:12

You'll see detailed guidance within the resource itself, but in summary, as we've already said, it's a key sector reference point and not intended to be a checklist.

5:22

And in terms of supporting institutions with the TQEF, the Ambition, Features and Indicators form a sector reference point for institutions to use when they're asked to evidence how they work in partnership with students.

5:36

This could be as part of their annual SEAP submission, or as part of the cyclical Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review or TQER visits.

5:46

The Partnership Ambition is also intended as a practical tool for embedding partnership working across activities and processes.

5:53

It can be used at institutional and programme level and possibly module or course level, and it's a useful tool for carrying out a high level evaluation of partnership activities.

6:05

Alternatively, you might choose to use a specific feature and or group of indicators that you want to explore in more detail in terms of mapping or strategic planning.

6:17

And there are also various other potential uses which we'll be capturing in separate case studies from a variety of Scottish institutions.

6:24

So look out for these.

6:27

So we've already mentioned that the Partnership Ambition plays a role in supporting institutions with their annual SEAP preparation and submission.

6:36

SFC's guidance on quality for colleges and universities includes an annex dedicated to SEAP.

6:42

And this outlines how the Partnership Ambition should be utilised by institutions, particularly when evaluating the TQEF principle of Student Engagement and Partnership.

6:52

And further details around the role of the partnership ambition within SEAP are explained in one of our other sparqs resources.

7:01

So in summary, we hope that this short introduction has explained why you need to know about the Partnership Ambition, how it links with the TQEF, what it is, how it should or could be used, and the role it plays in Self-Evaluation and Action Planning or SEAP.

7:20

And we leave you with some questions to consider in terms of what next.

7:24

So we recommend that you download Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership and read it in full, and we then encourage you to consider the following questions.

7:35

So how could the Partnership Ambition support your practise?

7:38

How could you embed it into strategic planning for your programme, your students' association or your institution?

7:45

Which feature or jigsaw piece would you prioritise and why?

7:49

Which features or jigsaw pieces might students and staff at your institution prioritise and are they different and if so, why?

7:49

Which features or jigsaw pieces might students and staff at your institution prioritise and are they different and if so, why?

7:59

And whatever your role, we hope that you find this and our other resources helpful as you engage with quality arrangements within the Scottish tertiary sector.