

About sparqs

student partnerships 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:

- Gives skills and knowledge to around 4,000 course reps each year.
- Trains faculty reps, senior student officers, student reviewers, and many others.
- Provides bespoke training materials for online/distance learning and international students, apprentices and students in supported education.
- Develops students to become trainers.
- Makes quality accessible for students.
- Emphasises partnership working with staff.
- Creates confident students with knowledge, expertise and transferable skills.

student voice support skills knowledge quality training 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 and guidance, e.g. Student Partnership Agreements and accreditation/reward.
- Help to involve students in preparing for reviews.
- Professional development resources and networking events for staff.
- Support for engaging students in curriculum design.
- Support to develop representation of diverse student groups.
- Support around developing and sustaining strong, effective students' associations.

training
structures
resources
strategy
consultancy
sustainability partnership

Supporting the Sector



We develop student engagement at a national level, through:

- Support for student reps who sit on national committees.
- Influencing developments around key learning and teaching issues, e.g. supporting student engagement in the Enhancement Themes.
- Responding to consultations and contributing to the development of national quality guidelines and resources.
- Ensuring students are able to respond to sector priorities, e.g. widening access, articulation and Developing the Young Workforce.
- Working closely with all sector agencies.

voice agencies
enhancement themes
national quality
dialogue committees

Developing a Culture



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

- Promotion of Scotland's Student Engagement Framework.
- Exploring different perspectives on student engagement in the quality of learning.
- Exchanging practice through conference participation, research and project work, across Europe and beyond.
- Sharing expertise and developing networks through international consultancy.
- Celebration and dissemination of good practice through our website, resource library, news articles, sparqs conferences and Student Engagement Awards.

awards
conferences
international
framework
resources
research
sharing
consultancy

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.
- Engaging 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 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 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.

About Us



We are funded by the Scottish Funding Council to advance education by promoting an environment where students are able to make a positive and rewarding difference to their own and others' educational experience. We support students to shape the nature of their learning and contribute to the overall success of learning provision, regardless of wherever and however they learn. Our team of staff have a significant amount of expertise in developing and supporting this work, through a range of research, training, events and consultancy. Students and staff within institutions influence our work through our advisory groups and we work in close partnership with a wide range of 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.

Website: www.sparqs.ac.uk
Email: info@sparqs.ac.uk
Address: 1 Papermill Wynd, Edinburgh, EH7 4QL
Phone: 0131 622 6599
Textphone: 18001 0131 622 6599
Twitter: @sparqs_scotland

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