

Visit the [sparqs' COVID-19 hub](#) for more information and support

Congratulations!

Well done! You have become the course rep for your class. Thank you for taking on this vital role. Never before has the work you are about to do been as important.

You may be feeling daunted about the role, and the impact that COVID-19 has had on the student learning experience. Try not to worry though, there is support in place to help you navigate this new online learning environment, and to allow you to become the best course rep you can be. Remember, this is new for everyone, no one has any more experience of being a student or a course rep during COVID-19 than anyone else.

Richard Lochhead, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, said:

“Thank you for choosing to represent your classmates, at this critical time in your education in Scotland. The country’s vast network of course student reps play a vital role in ensuring everyone’s voice is heard, and we are fully supportive of the great work they do. This academic year is, of course, like no other with so many different aspects of student life having to adapt to the COVID-19 crisis. So your duties as a rep have become even more crucial, in getting messages across to fellow students and providing valuable feedback, given the unprecedented times we are now living in.

Your efforts will ensure no one will miss out on the learning they need. I also hope you yourself will enjoy and benefit from the experience.”

Why is being a course rep so important?

2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have brought about the biggest changes education has ever seen. The speed of these changes has meant that often there has not been time to consult students on how best to develop and deliver these courses in the new environment. These changes will affect different students in many different ways. This is where course reps are essential. Institutions will be relying on you to reach out to **all** the students you represent to find out what is working and not working, then work with staff to make changes and support the institution to react quickly. Every student, whatever their background, level or type of study, deserves the best possible experience of education and the opportunities that education opens for them. You are contributing to safeguarding those opportunities for your classmates.

This contribution will not only help your institution but also the Scottish education sector as a whole. An entire generation of students has been impacted by COVID-19 and the legacy will be felt for many years. The information that you provide, and the changes that are made as a result, are part of a larger jigsaw that will see the future of education in Scotland potentially changed forever. Your role is to make sure that these changes are changes for the better.

Matt Crilly, NUS Scotland President, said:

“Thank you so much for taking on the role of course rep. We’re in the most challenging of circumstances and course reps are undoubtedly more important than ever before. As the majority of learning moves online, it is vital that the quality of education students receive remains unchanged, and your feedback will be central to achieving this.

Good luck!”

What next?

You will be given the opportunity to undertake training for your course rep role. This training is crucial for your understanding of the role, but also to equip you with the skills and tools you will need to represent the views of your class. We know that the role of a course rep is different this year, and as a result, training has been updated to reflect this. You will learn how to be a course rep online, and how to discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on students in relation to their learning experience.

Your students’ association or institution will be in touch soon to give you information about the training, or you can get in touch with them directly to find out more.