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A message for academic reps in Scotland...

...including course reps, class reps, faculty reps.

Student representation during the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you to all reps for your pioneering work.

Discussions taking place in colleges and universities this year will impact on the learning experience of current students and future cohorts. Students in Scotland need their reps to speak for them.

Thank you for the pioneering work you have done as a rep this year, using new methods to tackle new circumstances. Your work has helped to ensure that the voice of students has been heard. It would not have happened without you.

During the pandemic, people across all sectors of society have worked tirelessly to keep systems and services functioning well. Many have demonstrated their commitment to overcome challenging circumstances.

Your work as a rep is part of this national effort. By representing the voice of students, you are helping safeguard educational opportunities for a generation who will be affected not just by the health crisis, but in several aspects of their lives.

Is it still important?

As we approach the end of this year's courses, the role of the reps has not yet finished, not quite!

As colleges and universities plan for next year, they will review the innovations of the past year in order to understand which of them were successful. If reps contribute to this conversation, this can make a positive difference to the experience of students in the years ahead.

What have you heard from your classmates during the year? Can you find one more opportunity to ask them? Can you use any of the platforms available to you to start a conversation?

Some things to remember

1. **Represent all the views** of your class mates. Consider which students have particular needs and may not have been heard. Can you reach those students, and ask for their feedback and concerns?
2. **Summarise feedback** into an easily readable form and send promptly to the relevant people. This may include your tutor, programme leader, student support services and/or students' association.
3. **Don't get overwhelmed** – whatever you manage can make a difference. And remember that your role is not to take on the problems of classmates, but to signpost them to the people who can help.



A word to reps from the NUS President

You're amazing. Thank you so much for everything you have done this year. It's been a year like no other, looking after our classmates and our education.

Reps are going to be equally important next year, as we return and recover. Your experience will be invaluable, so please do consider standing again next year if you're still around!

Thank you for all your work.

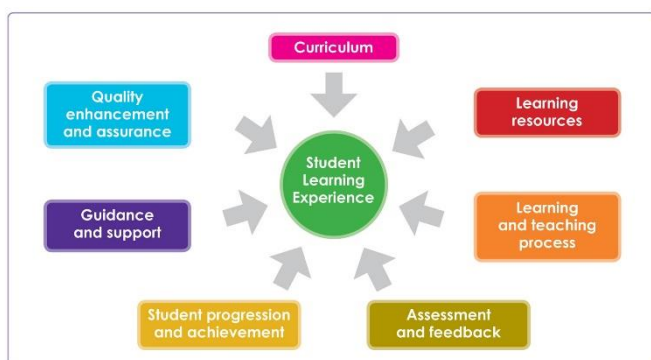


Matt Crilly, President of NUS Scotland

Completing your work as a rep – one final chance to report back?

Before you finish as a rep, can you collate one final summary of feedback for your college or university? What have students on your course been saying this year – could you produce a final summary for your course staff, and/or for the students' association?

The main focus for reps is the **Student Learning Experience**, summarised in the diagram below. In your course or faculty, how have these various components been affected by this year's special arrangements? What have students been saying about their experience of learning? Please pass on any student opinions, suggestions and concerns that will be useful for the college or university to hear.



For example, classmates may have raised topics including these:

- Online teaching
- Assessments
- Modules available
- Resources and equipment
- Lab and workshop access
- Concerns about next year

Volunteering again next year?

Finally, if your studies continue next year, please consider whether you would like to remain as a rep. Whilst of course there will be new volunteers, we also need some of our experienced reps to continue in the role, or alternatively to support the students' association in other ways.

For additional support or guidance, contact your students' association.