



sparqs National Conference: International Delegates' Day

Thursday 28th May 2015, Edinburgh

Programme

09:00 – 09:30

Welcome and Coffee

09:30 – 10:30

Introductory Session

An introduction to sparqs, its history and current work. Additionally the session will look at the Student Engagement Framework for Scotland, its development and practical application for delegates in their own work. This sector-endorsed national framework offers an excellent overview of the practical opportunities for increased student engagement in quality. Other sparqs activities covered will include Student Partnership Agreements, engagement work with apprentices, work with articulating students who move from college to university and cultural development with the sector.

10:30 – 12:00

Developing Student Expertise

This session will introduce delegates to the range of training sparqs offers students, concentrating in particular on the core Course Rep Training module. This module is a 2-hour training session which is delivered across Scotland by a team of student trainers recruited and trained by sparqs. Last year we trained over 4000 students to act as course reps, the foundation of any representative system in education. The training is widely acknowledged to have raised the level of expertise of student representatives ensuring they are able to engage more effectively in learning and teaching enhancement activities.

We will also investigate ways in which delegates could adapt this training and method of delivery to suit their own circumstances and resources.

12:00 – 12:15

Break

12:15 - 12:45

Professor Peter McGeorge, University of Aberdeen

Led by the Vice Principal for Learning and Teaching at the University of Aberdeen, this session will explore the commitment to student engagement shown at the highest levels of the University sector in Scotland. This will include a particular focus on the work and impact of SHEEC - the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee - which sets the Enhancement Themes agenda for national progress in quality.

12:45 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:00

Making Change Happen

This session will look at the range of structures and activities that Scottish universities have developed to support the student voice in influencing learning and teaching developments from the classroom to university strategy level. Delegates will look at some real examples of how a combination of these activities have been used to make change happen and directly improve the Student Learning Experience.

15:00 – 15:30

Lauren Miller, Depute President for Education and Welfare, SAUWS

Lauren Miller was recently re-elected to serve a second term as Depute President for Education and Welfare at the Students' Association of the University of the West of Scotland (SAUWS). The session will examine the work done at SAUWS on behalf of students, and the wider national agenda as it relates directly to them. Delegates will have an opportunity to hear how the other topics covered today impact on student engagement directly.

15:30 – 15:45

Break

15:45 – 16:45

Ailsa Crum, Quality Assurance Agency Scotland

Examining the recent history of student engagement since 2003, this session will also look at the development of Scotland's ELIR (Enhancement-led Institutional Review) process for university review and the scope for student engagement within this. Delegates will be equipped with particular knowledge of this national work ahead of tomorrow's sparqs National Conference.

16:45 – 17:00

Closing remarks

The logo for sparqs features the word "sparqs" in a lowercase, rounded, teal-colored font. To the right of the text is a stylized starburst or asterisk symbol, also in teal, with five points of varying lengths. The logo is positioned in the lower center of the page.

sparqs