

# National Education Officers' Network (NEON)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
10am–1pm

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## Your sparqs team today...

**Simon Varwell**, Senior Development Consultant (@sparqs\_Simon)

**Gloria Laurini**, Development Consultant (@sparqs\_Gloria)

**Patrycja Mitrut**, Development Consultant (@sparqs\_Patrycja)

**Justin Walker**, Development Consultant (@sparqs\_Justin)



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# Zoom

- You can use your audio or the chat box to speak.
- Mute your microphone when not talking.
- To speak, type \* in the chat window or click the “raise hand” icon.
- If you are having any tech issues, post a comment in the chat.
- **Please change your display name to your own name and institution.**



# Agenda



10.00

**Welcome**

10.15

**Virtual Café**

11.00

**Identifying actions for your practice**

11.30

**Break**

11.45

**Digital Engagement**

12.45

**Conclusions**

1.00pm

**Close**



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# SQA Announcements 2022



For NQ qualifications – Nat 5s, Highers

[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)    <https://ushare.education/>

This week:

**Exceptional  
Circumstances**

In a fortnight:

**Appeals (PRS)**

Tues 08 March:

**“Scenario 2”**

- Support measures for NQ learners
- SQA Website and YouShare
- Centres advised in advance



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# Student Engagement:

How the Student community  
can shape widening access and  
participation activity

**Tuesday 29 March 2022**

**11am - 12.45 pm**

**[www.fairaccess.scot/events](http://www.fairaccess.scot/events)**

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# Mapping PGR provision across Scottish HE institutions

Key questions:

- What types of PGR degrees exist across HEIs?
- How do they differ in terms of the training opportunities they offer?
- Does training take place internally at programme, school, college or institution level?
- Does training take place externally , such as at national graduate school level or with industry partners?

For a better understanding of the Scottish PGR landscape because PGRs should be strategically invested in for the future of the UK



## How you can get involved

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- Group interviews will be taking place in March
- Welcome PGR students, PGR students reps, staff who work closely with PGR students to participate

Interested in participating or forwarding along to your networks? I'm collecting availability on this doodle poll - [Availability](#)

Maggie Mroczkowski  
PhD Intern at SFC  
[mmroczkowski@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:mmroczkowski@sfc.ac.uk)

## Job opportunity

Digital inclusion internship at Edinburgh University

<https://inclusionScotland.org/jobs/dumbiedykes-digital-inclusion-internship-with-the-university-of-edinburgh-deadline-10-am-on-monday-14-march-2022>



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# That's Quality 2022 (provisional dates)



- That's Quality Colleges one day on-line event - w/c 13<sup>th</sup> June
- That's Quality Universities one day on-line event - w/c 11<sup>th</sup> July or 18<sup>th</sup> July
- That's Quality joint in-person event - 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of August OR 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> August



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# Virtual Cafe

You!

Patrycja Mitrut, sparqs

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What challenges did you encounter in your role?  
How did you overcome them?



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What worked? Anything you are proud of?  
Why?



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Is there anything you would have done differently?



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If you are leaving your post this year, are there any projects you would like to see continued?



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# Identifying actions for your practice

Simon Varwell, Senior Development Consultant



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# Virtual Café themes



- A full handover is **crucial** to become effective and knowledgeable.
- But how do you hand over a relationship?
- Personal growth and self-reflection in the role: skills, confidence, experiences.
- Impacts:
  - Representing diversity of student experience.
  - Building strong relationships.
- Lots of advice and work for your successors!



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# What does this mean for...



- Your handover to your successor?
- Your future career?



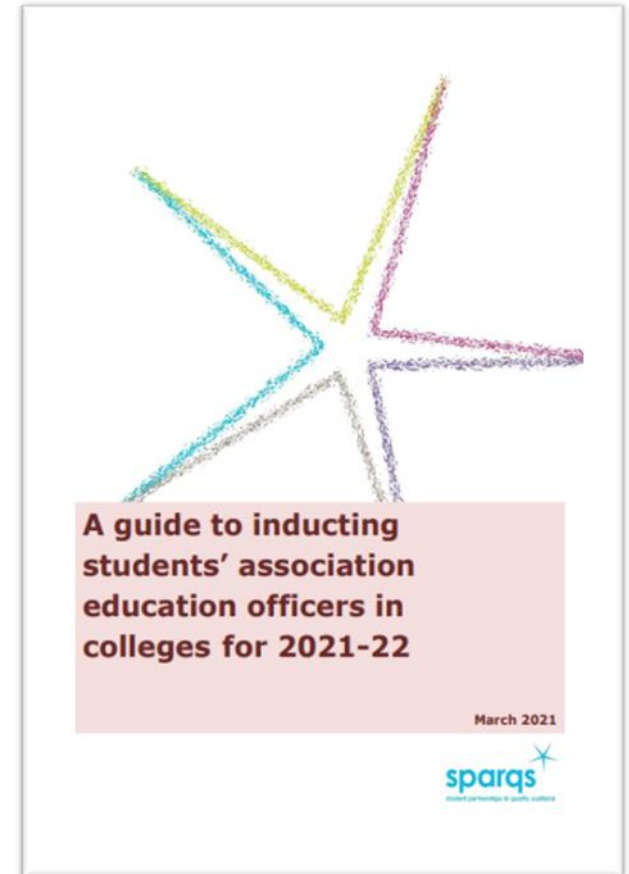
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# Thinking about handover



“I wish I’d known at the start of the year...”

“Next year, it is really important that my successor...”







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# Thinking about your future



“Given what I have achieved and learned as education officer, I’d be good in a role that involves...”



### Suggested opportunities for former students' association education officers

As you leave your education officer role, and sabbatical life more generally, what next? If your studies are complete you might be wondering where your career will go, but you may also want to continue working in the same field and apply the incredible skills and experiences you've gained over the past year.

You'll be departing your post having worked in a wide range of areas, such as learning and teaching development; education policy (both institutionally and nationally); governance and trusteeship; strategic planning; democracy, representation and stakeholder engagement; partnership building; equality, diversity and inclusion; welfare and rights; and much, much more.

Moreover, due to the ongoing pandemic during 2020-21, you've been involved in crisis management; public health responses and information; working digitally; and developing rapid systems of decision-making, engagement and feedback. Many organisations are really keen for these sorts of skills and experiences, especially in young graduates, and there is also a huge demand for more young people to be involved in public sector governance. That all means you have so much to offer the job market, as well as wider society, through governance roles and other voluntary positions.

If you've enjoyed working in this field, then the following job portals, training opportunities or voluntary role directories might be worth exploring.

<b>Roles in Institutions and agencies</b> – Keep an eye on the job pages and social media accounts of <a href="#">universities</a> , <a href="#">colleges</a> and sector agencies, policy bodies, consultancies or civil service, who will have dedicated recruitment pages.
<b>Get into Governance</b> – An online course run by the College Development Network to help you consider applying for a college Board of Management.
<b>Scottish Government Public Appointments</b> – You've probably sat on your college Board of Management or university Court this year, and they are just two examples of governing bodies accountable to the Scottish Government for a huge range of public services and agencies.
<b>CDN's college vacancies directory</b> – Containing jobs from colleges in Scotland.
<b>Committee of University Chairs' vacancies portal</b> – With positions in university governing bodies in Scotland and across the UK.
<b>www.jobs.ac.uk</b> – A portal for jobs in colleges and universities across the UK.
<b>su.careers</b> – A directory run by NUS containing vacancies for staff and trustee roles at students' unions across the UK.
<b>Goodmoves</b> – A jobs directory for the voluntary, charity and civil society sectors run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). <a href="#">Third sector interfaces</a> (TSIs) in your area may have jobs listed locally.
<b>Local authorities</b> – Your experience of working in a democratic organisation means you might be interested in jobs in a local council... or you might even want to stand for election as a councillor!
<b>Changing the Chemistry</b> – A charity who aims to work with boards in all sectors to improve and promote diversity. They provide coaching and mentoring for prospective board members, run events and activities, and promote board vacancies.

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# Final tips

- It's not too early to start planning your handover.
- Get advice from your staff, your institutional senior managers, board or Court, careers office, mentor...
- Keep in touch with sparqs in the coming months.

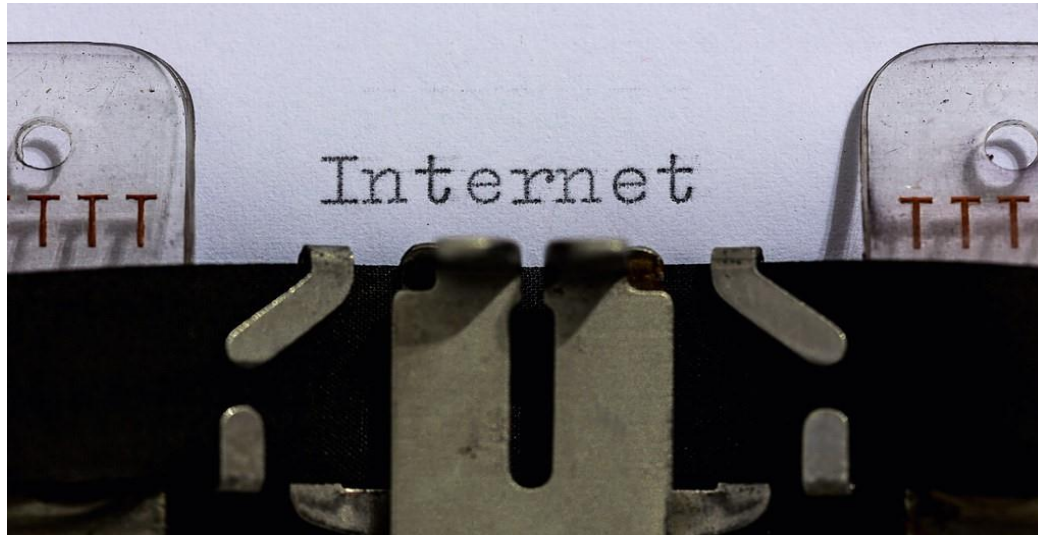




# Break

**11.30 – 11.45**

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# Digital Engagement

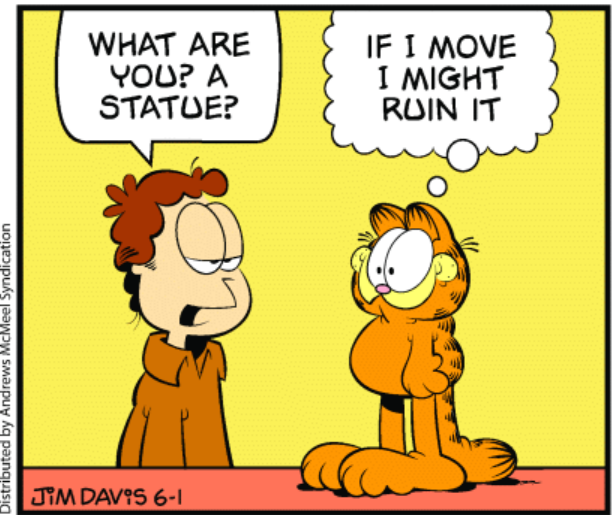
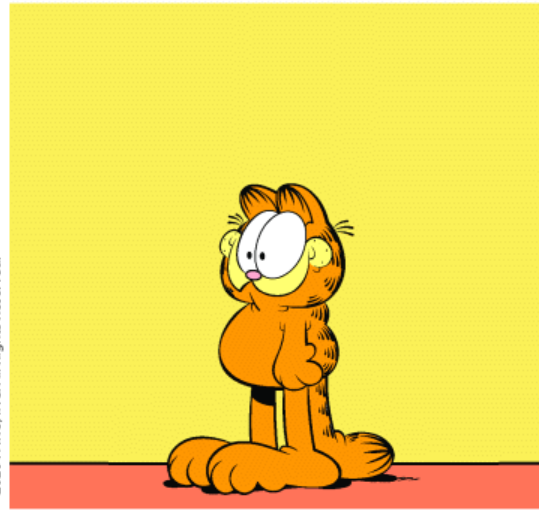
Angela Grindle, Fife College



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# Conclusions

12.45

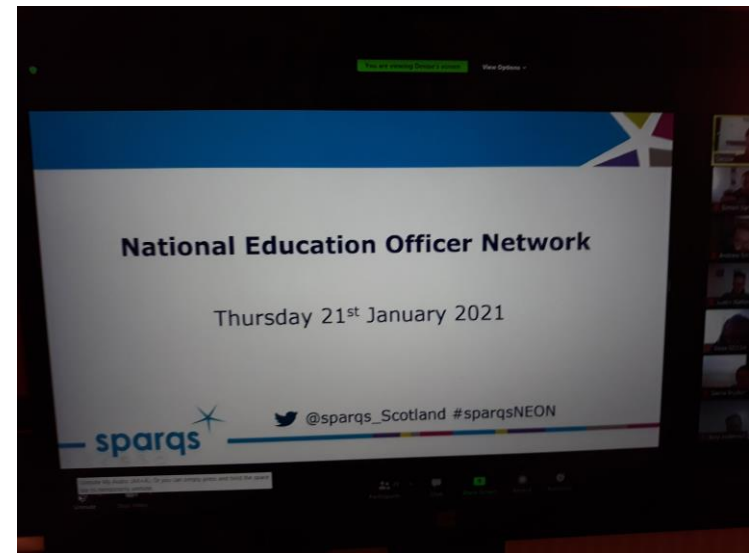


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# Forthcoming NEON meetings



- Meetings will be on...
  - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April
- Sign up to [NEON's Jiscmail](#).



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