

 **sparqs Conference – 23rd March 2017**
Celebrating the impact of the student voice on quality enhancement
Venue: Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh

Programme

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- 09:00 – 09:45** **Arrival and registration** ~ refreshments available
- 09:45 – 10:00** **Welcome and introductory remarks**
Eve Lewis, Director of sparqs
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Formal conference opening**
Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science
- 10:15 – 11:00** **Keynote session**
Rebecca MacLennan, Scottish Council for Development and Industry
Vonnie Sandlan, NUS Scotland President
Adam Gajek, European Students' Union
~ Student engagement from three different perspectives: Rebecca will look at how the experience of being a sparqs Associate Trainer has been applied in her future career; Vonnie will speak about how student engagement can impact on the success of the widening access agenda; and Adam will consider issues from a European perspective and look at the importance of student engagement in developing ideas around citizenship and participative democracy.
- 11:00 – 12:15** **Breakout Session 1 – Workshops and Presentations**
- 12:15 – 13:00** **Lunch** ~ including an opportunity to visit the poster sessions
- 13:00 – 13:15** **Welcome back** ~ Video and an outline of the afternoon programme
- 13:15 – 13:45** **Keynote session**
Stewart Hay, former deputy head of Anderson High School in Lerwick, Shetland, and founder of The Global Classroom
~ Stewart's presentation will explore learning partnerships, global learning and the use of technology and an international project involving students as researchers.
- 13:45 – 15:00** **Breakout Session 2 - Workshops and Presentations**
- 15:00 – 15:15** **Break** ~ refreshments and another opportunity to view the posters
- 15:15 – 16:30** **Breakout Session 3 - Presentations**
- 16:30 – 16:35** **Conference summary/closing remarks**
- 16:35 – 17:00** **Drinks reception and canapés**
- 17:00 – 18:30** **Student Engagement Awards Reception**
Hosted by Mike Day, Director of Devolved Nations and Internationalism, National Union of Students
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