

Student Engagement Staff Network

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Welcome!



 @sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Your sparqs team today...



Simon Varwell, Senior Development Consultant
(@sparqs_Simon)

Gloria Laurini, Development Consultant
(@sparqs_Gloria)



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Ok zoomers

- 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



12.00	Welcome and headlines
12.10	JISC mail and the Buddy Scheme
12.30	An introduction to QAA and the Tertiary Quality Project in Scotland
1.00pm	Break
1.10pm	Tertiary Quality Project: latest updates
1.30pm	Conclusions and next steps
1.40pm	Informal chat
2.00pm	Close



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Upcoming events

- 20th September – Tertiary Enhancement Topic event, Glasgow
- 22nd September – AI in college education event, Forth Valley College



Training programme



- CDN Management and Leadership programmes
- CDN Step Forward Researcher development programme
- Both potentially aimed at college staff/SA staff

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES 2023-2024					cdn	
	Management & Leadership	Step Forward	Researcher Development	Leadership	Further details	
1. Management & Leadership	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff
2. Step Forward	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff
3. Researcher Development	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff
4. Leadership	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff
5. Further details	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff	For staff



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

SQA working group



- SQA are seeking the support of a small team of college officers to help them understand the needs of college students who take Higher Nationals (HNCs and HNDs) and NQs (NAT5)
- We are looking for two or more college officers to help SQA understand the needs and perspectives of college students. The work involves participating in regular online meetings throughout the year with SQA and other sector stakeholders and contributing to discussions.
- If any of your college officers might be interested in this role, please ask them to contact justin.walker@sparqs.ac.uk



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Sparqs world



- Remember to check our [jobs board!](#)



- [sparqs' birthday](#) 5th October, sparqs Student Engagement Awards 2023 winners to be announced



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

(Re-)introduction to SESN

Simon Varwell, Senior Development
Consultant, sparqs



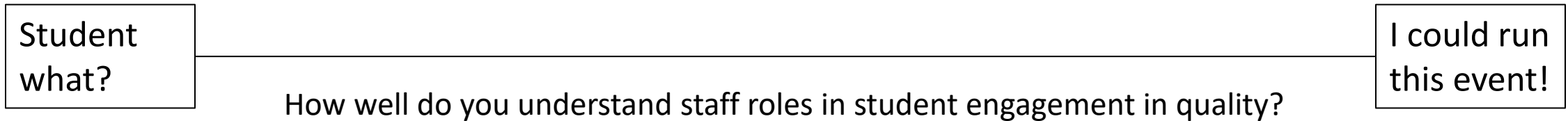
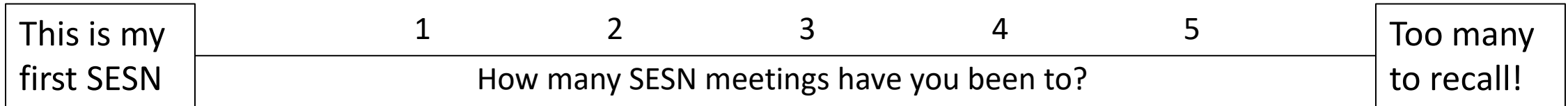
 @sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

What is SESN?

- Our Student Engagement Staff Network is your professional space.
- We meet a handful of times a year, to...
- **Learn** about new developments.
- **Share** your practice, experiences and challenges.
- **Develop** your capacities as a practitioner.



Use the annotation function...



Values



- V1** A belief in education as a positive, inquisitive and liberating force for wider societal change.
- V2** Placing the student voice at the heart of continuous enhancement and co-creation of the student learning experience.
- V3** Recognition of the centrality of equality, diversity, liberation and inclusion to student engagement.
- V4** A belief in students' associations as vital collective, democratic contributors to institutional life and students' experiences.
- V5** A commitment to transformative partnership as an underpinning aspect of work with staff and students.

Knowledge




- K1** The implications of the diversity and intersectionality of the student population in its demography, pedagogy and geography.
- K2** How institutions manage and develop learning and teaching.
- K3** The role of evidence and data in effective student engagement in quality enhancement and assurance.
- K4** The purpose, role and dynamic structures of students' associations.
- K5** How the national and international policy and agency landscape affects, and is shaped by, students.
- K6** Policies, theories and strategies relating to student engagement, feedback and partnership in quality.

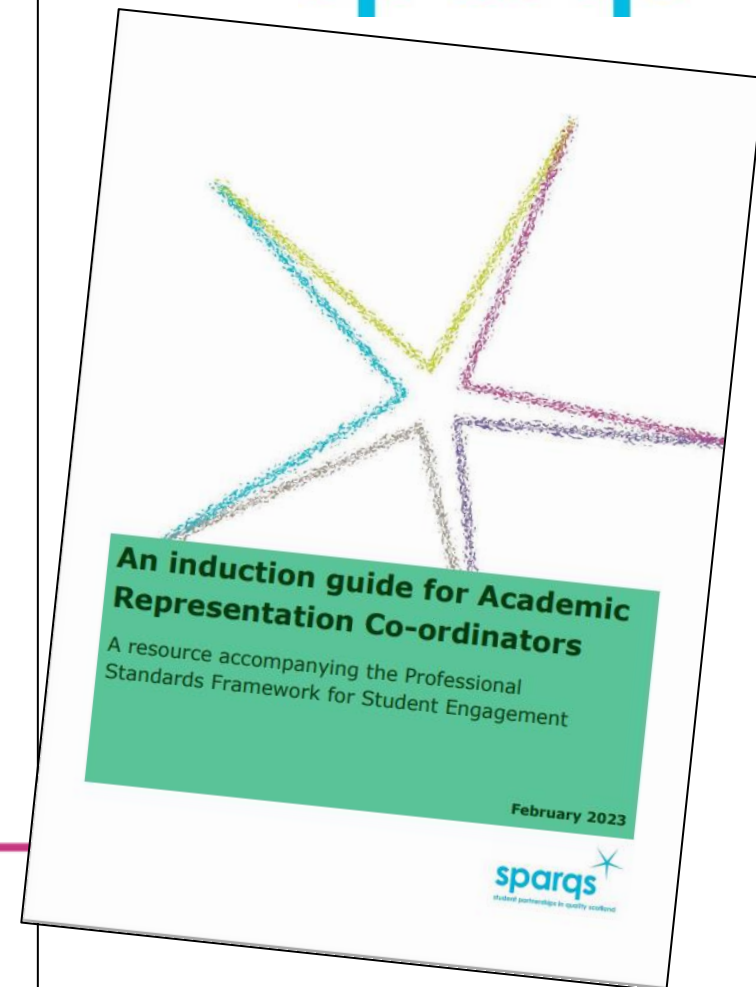
Activities



- A1** Empowering all students to own and shape their learning.
- A2** Supporting and enabling academic representative systems.
- A3** Facilitating and promoting the recognition of student engagement activities.
- A4** Working with, supporting and developing student officers as they engage in strategic decisions about learning and teaching.
- A5** Informing and advising decision-makers on students' views and priorities.
- A6** Enabling the generation and use of data about the learning experience.
- A7** Championing partnership-based collaborations between staff and students.
- A8** Acquiring, sharing and applying knowledge about student engagement policy and practice.

© 2022 sparqs is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registration number SC046172

 Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial 3.0 [licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/).
You are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work, so long as you attribute sparqs.



The SESN Jiscmail list: your forum



1. [Sign up](#) (or check you're on).
2. Post an email to say hi!
 - A quick line about your role.
 - A current question or challenge.
3. Reply to one email (or more!) with something you can share. Remember you can "reply all".



The SESN buddy scheme is back!



“It was a lovely idea to set up a buddying scheme because the world of student engagement can feel awfully lonely. It sometimes feels like you and your colleagues against the world, and I think expanding our networks to other associations is always for the better.”

“I have found all of these meetings to be incredibly useful, as I am still quite new into role and new to Students’ Associations it’s been invaluable to see how other institutions work and how they are working with their student community.”


“I found these talks to be so beneficial, especially as during a lot of this time I was without a manager, so I really enjoyed talking through ideas.”



@sparqs_Scotland
#sparqsSESN

SESN buddy scheme for 2023-24



 sparqs Student Engagement Staff
Buddying Scheme 2023/24

Last academic year sparqs launched the SES Buddying Scheme based on feedback from our SESN members. You can find out more about SESN here: <https://www.sparqs.ac.uk/institute.php?page=545>. The aim of this scheme is to put you in touch with another practitioner who shares many of the same challenges and questions in their role. By having a buddy, you have the opportunity to connect with someone who have a mutual interest in student engagement and is working either in a college or in a university in Scotland. You will have the opportunity to learn from other contexts and this may lead to cross-institutional collaborations, should you wish to.

It is up to the pair to decide how often you will be in touch, whether you want to meet in person or only online. sparqs suggests you could meet at least twice per semester, with an initial meeting to set up goals, understandings, talk about expectations from the scheme.

sparqs will receive the information you share on the form and use them internally to select a matching buddy, based on your answers. Details will not be shared externally.

Deadline for submitting an application is **Monday, 2nd October 2024**. The scheme will last one academic year, until the end of **May 2024**. After taking part in the scheme, you will be asked to fill in a quick self-reflection piece, which will provide evidence for sparqs to evaluate and to improve the scheme.

1. Full name

2. Email

3. Which institution do you work at?

4. How long have you worked in your current position?

- [Sign up via the form](#) by 2nd October. You'll then be allocated a buddy.
- Meet four times, twice a semester (online or, if you can, in person).
- Write a short reflection towards the end of the year, to help us evaluate and share outcomes.

An introduction to QAA and the Tertiary Quality Project in Scotland

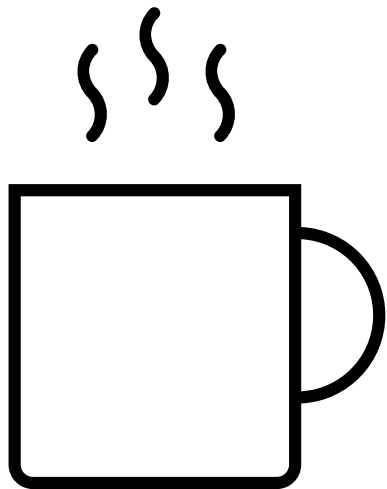
Caroline Turnbull and Debra Macfarlane,
QAA Scotland



 @sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Break

**Please stay connected,
and be back at 1.30pm**



**@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN**

Tertiary Quality Project: latest updates

Gloria Laurini, Development Consultant,
sparqs



 @sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN



Shaping the common approach - management of co-creation and integration of workstreams



Using data and evidence to understand, evaluate and improve student outcomes



Strengthening institutional monitoring, self-evaluation and reporting on quality



Evaluating and enhancing the student learning experience and student partnership



Tertiary sector enhancement activity

SFC has set up a series of 5 workstreams to help shape different parts of the tertiary approach.

Workstream 3: institutional monitoring & self-evaluation



- This workstream will deliver a template **Self-Evaluation and Action Plan (SEAP)** for the college and university sectors.
- The draft templates and accompanying guidance will be tabled at the next Tertiary Quality Steering Group (TQSG) meeting for scrutiny and feedback, prior to being **piloted in a small number of institutions in Autumn 2023**.
- The workstream leads will work together with SFC and pilot institutions to support the initial completion of the draft SEAP and gather feedback to inform and refine the final version.
- The final template will be made available to institutions in **Spring 2024**. All institutions will be required to use the new template to submit a self-evaluation and action plan by the **30th of November 2024**, reflecting on the 2023-24 academic year.



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Workstream 2: using data and evidence



- Currently developing a **key question set** that can be used to assess, manage, enhance, and report on the quality of teaching and the student experience.
- Broadly these relate to **access; retention; completion; success; progression; student feedback; student outcomes; learning gain; and success.**
- Once this initial work is completed, further consideration will be given to how the key data set can be used to support institutions in completing the Self Evaluation and Action Plan.



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Workstream 4: student learning experience & student partnership



- The Student Learning Experience (SLE) model and accompanying questions have been finalised and will be published at sparqs' birthday party on **5th October**.
- Over the next year, we will develop **supporting guidance** to facilitate institutions and SAs to use the model in practice.
- **Descriptors of student partnership in quality processes** are being created for the end of September. These will be used by institutions piloting the SEAP.



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

How you and your officers can get involved



- Join our Tertiary Quality Student Expert Group.
 - The group is comprised of mostly students – SA staff can also put themselves forward for the group, but we may need to restrict numbers if the percentage of staff becomes too high.
 - Email Megan.Brown@sparqs.ac.uk if you'd like to join.
- Attend SESN and NEON throughout the year.
- Attend sector events from QAA Scotland and SFC – sign up to our newsletter.



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Conclusions and evaluation

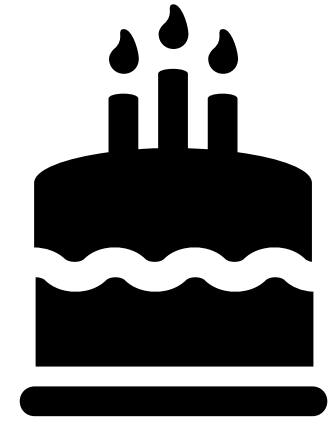


Our next SESN meetings

1. In person, a all-day joint SESN/NEON/JAG 5th October, before sparqs birthday celebrations. Link to register:

'Planning for the year ahead' with JAG/SESN/NEON – 5th October 2023

2. On Zoom, Thursday 29th November, 10am to 1pm.



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

NEON meetings



- Education officers to sign up for **NEON**, first meeting next week, **Monday 18th September** on Zoom, 11am to 1pm
- In person joint SESN/NEON/JAG on 5th October
- On Zoom, 6th December 10am to 1pm



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Before you go...



Would you find useful, and/or would you have the time, to meet online for a one-hour drop-in session in the months when we do not have a structured SESN meeting?

YES (using annotate stamp put a green ✓ in the box below)	NO (using annotate stamp, put a red ✗ in the box below)



@sparqs_scotland
#sparqsSESN

Last thing, promise!

- Complete the [evaluation form](#) (select “September”).
- Sign up to the [sparqs newsletter](#).
- Remember to send an email to the [sparqsSESN Jiscmail list](#) by the end of today!



Informal chat, over to you