

Trustee Additional Information

About sparqs

sparqs is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which was established in 2003, gained charitable status in December 2015 and is funded by the Scottish Funding Council. Its purpose is to ensure students are partners in shaping the quality of learning, making positive change to their own and others' experience, however and wherever they learn. It aims to foster a culture of partnership between students and staff which enables the Scottish education sector to respond to challenges and realize its ambitions to provide the best possible experience for each and every student.

sparqs:

- Supports students to develop the skills, approaches and expertise that enable them to be instrumental in enhancement activity and decision-making.

and

- Supports institutions, sector agencies and decision-making bodies to embed effective and innovative practices that enable them to harness this student expertise

sparqs focuses on supporting all student voices to be heard, and for those voices to have a positive impact on learning, helping ensure all students, whatever their background, can access education, progress and achieve their potential. We identify settings where capturing the student voice will enhance decision-making, particularly where this voice is not currently heard well and where it will help address challenges such as transitions across the learner journey, widening access, inequalities and retention and success.

About the Board

The Trustee Board has 6 members including the chair and a student trustee, who provide vital governance support to the organisation. Some Trustees have reached the end of their terms of office and as a result, we are looking to recruit a minimum of two Trustees. But given we are a small board we are keen to recruit more to help add richness to the skills and experiences the Board brings us.

We are a highly responsive small organisation which involves students, members and the organisations we work with in shaping all our decisions. We do this through our two Advisory Groups, one each for the college and university sectors and ensuring that all our boards and committees have student members. In the past these groups have been key in making sure that participants from across the diversity of the

students and institutions we work have had input directly into our strategic planning process through our formal committee structures and through a range of interactive events. The Board's responsibility in developing a new strategic plan, benefits from this engagement and uses it to support its decision making.

Other information about who we are looking for

We are looking for people who are committed to what we do and the values we hold to join our volunteer Board of Trustees to support the governance and strategic development of sparqs.

We would love to hear from candidates who have not taken on a Trustee role before as well as those with previous experience. A board benefits from valuable technical skills such as HR, Legal, and marketing but board members do not have to be senior professionals in such fields. Having a good knowledge of some of the issues a small charity might need to deal with in these areas and appropriate understanding of risk and where to seek help are equally valuable. Applicants could be early in their career as a HR or finance professional, for example, alongside having experience of being a student representative.

Working in a diverse sector and with diverse students, we are keen to receive applications from people of all backgrounds and with all different kinds of life experiences.

The board would benefit from applicants who have experience of one or more of the areas below (but not limited to):

- Small charity management and the needs of student led organisations,
- Student engagement within the University sector.
- Sources of funding, in an international setting post Brexit and/or expanding funding bases
- Post 16 education or similar fields in an international environment

Applicants may have other valuable skills not listed above.

The role profile for Trustees gives detailed information about the formal duties of a Trustee. sparqs will provide training and support to develop you in the role and we ask that you have a commitment to what we do and the values we hold.