

13th May 2020: Email sent to all college and university contacts in Scotland

sparqs' updates and signposts during the COVID-19 crisis

In addition to our usual batches of news articles, we will also be sending out regular targeted emails, to highlight sector news, guidance and resources to relevant groups within the sector. All the information sent out by way of these emails will also be accessible on our [COVID-19 hub](#) and will be recapped in our batches of news articles.

FAQ: College and University staff, students' associations and student officers (some of the HE content may also be useful to colleges)

1. We would like to draw your attention to the recent message from the Minister Further Education Higher Education and Science to students, stating that Scottish college and university students' work this academic year will be fully recognised and fairly assessed:

- [Minister for Further Education Higher Education and Science Message to students on fair assessment - 08-May-20](#)

2. There are four recent publications from **QAA UK** which are specific guidance documents looking in more depth at the biggest issues facing the sector during the COVID-19 crisis, and includes emerging practice now, as well as distilling practice that institutions can learn from for the future. Although produced by QAA UK for the HE sector, colleagues in colleges may find some of the content useful, particularly around work-based learning and apprenticeships:

- [QAA UK Securing Academic Standards and Supporting Student Achievement - 07-Apr-20](#)
- [QAA UK Thematic Guidance Practice and Lab-based Assessment - 07-Apr-20](#)
- [QAA UK Thematic Guidance Work-Based-Learning \(Including Placements / Partnerships / Apprenticeships / Study Abroad\) - 08-Apr-20](#)
- [QAA UK Thematic Guidance Accelerated Degrees - 08-Apr-20](#)

3. Finally, there have been several recent documents published that we would specifically draw university colleagues attention to, including an overview of 'No Detriment' policies and discussions around whether or not to include a COVID-19 statement on transcripts. We are aware that discussion on these topics are still ongoing in some universities and these guides may be particularly useful to support dialogue between student officers and institutional staff:

- [QAA UK 'No Detriment' Policies: An Overview - 24-Apr-20](#)
- [QAA UK Should Providers include a COVID-19 Statement on Degree Transcripts: Arguments for and against - 01-May-20](#)
- [Universities Scotland Fair Assessment at university during the COVID-19 pandemic - 06-May-20](#)

If you have any queries, suggestions of anything sparqs can do to help, or wish to discuss any forthcoming meetings or events involving sparqs' team members, please contact Eve Lewis, Director - eve.lewis@sparqs.ac.uk

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[See our homepage for details regarding sparqs' service during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

[Our 2020-21 Associate Trainer recruitment is open... deadline 12noon on 15th May 2020!](#)

**See our website for our [Strategic Plan 2019-22](#), [News](#), [Resource Library](#) and more
...including the nationally agreed [Student Engagement Framework for Scotland](#)**

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