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A message for academic reps in Scotland...

...including course reps, class reps, faculty reps.

Student representation and COVID-19

During the current health emergency, the need for effective student representation remains high.

Discussions taking place in colleges and universities will impact on the learning experience of current students and future cohorts. Students in Scotland need their reps to speak for them.

Thank you for the work you have done as a rep this year. The cumulative effect of the work of this year's reps has ensured that the voice of students has been heard. This would not have happened without you.

In recent weeks, the way that society depends on all our work has been clearly demonstrated. We have witnessed the commitment of many to overcome challenging circumstances.

Your work as a rep is part of this national effort. By representing the voice of students, you are helping safeguard educational opportunities for a generation who will be affected not just by the health crisis, but in many aspects of their lives.

Is it still important?

As we approach the end of this year's courses, the role of the reps has not yet finished, not quite!

Colleges and universities will design and implement changes in the coming months that will impact students for many years. Your work now as a rep can make a positive difference to the experience of students in the years ahead.

What have you heard from your classmates recently? Can you find one more opportunity to ask them? Can you use any of the platforms available to you to start a conversation?

Some things to remember

1. **Represent all the views** of your class mates. Consider which students have particular needs and may not have been heard. Can you reach those students, and ask for their feedback and concerns?
2. **Summarise feedback** into an easily readable form and send promptly to the relevant people. This may include your tutor, programme leader, student support services and/or students' association.
3. **Don't get overwhelmed** – whatever you manage can make a difference. And remember that your role is not to take on the problems of classmates, but to signpost them to the people who can help.

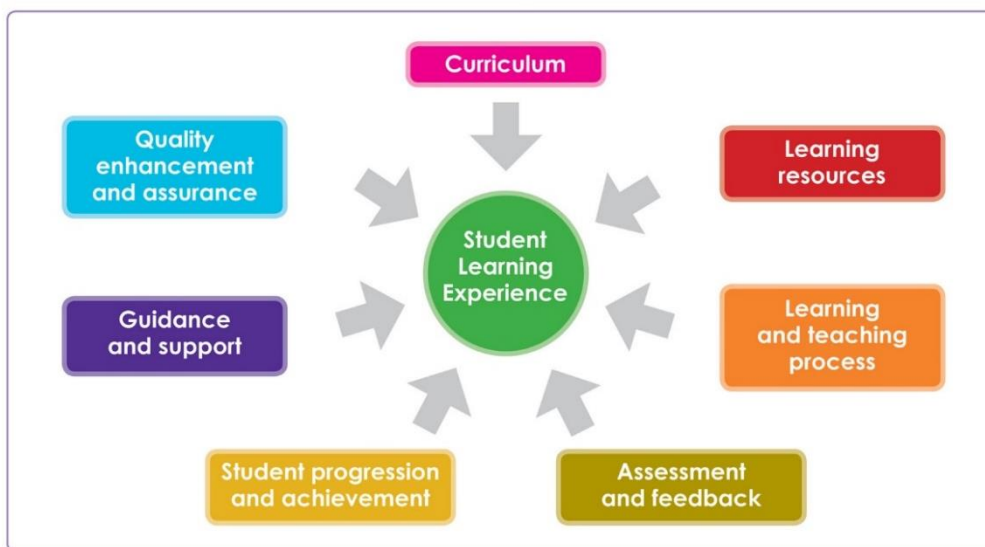


Your work as a rep

The main focus for reps is the **Student Learning Experience**. In your course or faculty, how have these various components been affected by new arrangements made in response to COVID-19? Please pass on any student opinions, suggestions and concerns that will be useful for the college or university to hear.

You may find that classmates raise topics like these:

- Online teaching
- Assessments
- Availability of modules
- Concerns about next year
- Questions that students need answered
- Access to resources, materials and equipment



Three quick tips

1. **Follow any guidance** you have received from your institution or students' association on the work they currently need you to do.
2. Find out how your class found **recent arrangements** for teaching, study, research and assessments. What has gone well, and what could be improved? Can you compile a concise list of views and opinions, both positive and negative?
3. In addition, find out about any **concerns** your classmates have, in relation to this year or next.

Volunteering again next year?

Finally, if your studies continue next year, please consider whether you would like to remain as a rep. Whilst of course there will be new volunteers, we also need some of our experienced reps to continue in the role, or alternatively to support the students' association in other ways.

For additional support or guidance, contact your students' association.