



University  
of Dundee

2022-2025

# Student Partnership Agreement

Student Representative Council



[dundee.ac.uk/spa](https://dundee.ac.uk/spa)



# Introduction

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The University of Dundee and Dundee University Students' Association (DUSA) work in partnership to support and enhance our student experience.

The Student Partnership Agreement or SPA is a co-operative framework for delivering measurable and tangible improvements to our student experience. It is a joint statement that outlines our mutually agreed priorities and the actions we wish to achieve together. The priorities will remain constant for the next 3 academic years, and the actions will be updated annually to reflect progress.

It is recognised that both organisations have many goals that they wish to achieve, this statement does not seek to articulate them all, it focuses on a core set of achievable and measurable actions that we believe we can deliver together and that our community will benefit from, and, can be part of achieving.

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# Student Partnership Agreement



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# Where are we now?

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Both organisations have experienced significant change since the last SPA was developed. New strategic plans have been developed and launched by both DUSA and the University under new leadership teams. The pandemic has brought significant organisational challenges, and has impacted our community in many ways both personally and professionally. Recent feedback from our students indicates many are less satisfied with their experience, don't feel connected to a community and are unsure about how they can use their voice to create change.

This SPA has also been developed at a time of important political, societal, environmental and cultural shifts, with much needed global recognition being brought to social justice, the environment, and democratic engagement.

In developing this new SPA both organisations recognise that this is an opportunity to work together to enable our community to;

- Reflect on our collective experience over the past three years.
  - Consider what we want our future to be.
  - Work together to achieve meaningful goals, that will bring real change to our student experience here at Dundee.
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# Our Priorities

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The priorities included in the SPA are aligned to the University Strategy, DUSA's Strategic plan and the manifesto of the DUSA Executive team. They have been identified following a series of workshops and discussions that explored a wide range of activities and priorities and we worked together to select three that will be taken forward in the coming years.

We believe these three priority areas recognise our recent challenges and will provide a valuable foundation on which we can continue to build on in the coming years.

These priority areas support our community to work together, to value each others contributions, and to ensure the student voice is strengthened to support an effective partnership.

Working in partnership is key to the success of the SPA, and the priorities and actions that we have identified. We look forward to working together to achieve these goals and providing updates to the community on the actions we are taking.

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## Engaging our Community

We recognise that our community, the well-being of our students and staff, and the experiences we have form an important part of our identity here at the University of Dundee. We want to work together, as partners, to re-engage with our community.

## Student Learning & Research Experience

The experiences of our students, across our undergraduate, postgraduate and research communities is at the heart of what we do. The equity of our degree programmes is a key foundation to the quality of those experiences, the access to opportunities, and of supporting greater opportunity.

## The Student Voice

Students and staff are co-architects. The success of this model is rooted in our working in partnership. The institution actively listens and responds to the student voice. The student voice will come in many forms; supporting engagement and active participation will be key to our mutual success.



# Our Actions

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2022-23

## Engaging our Community

Redevelop our approach to supporting students & staff to work together to support academic success.

## Student Learning & Research Experience

Reinforce the equity of recognition of our degree programmes.

## The Student Voice

Work together to support the School President system to be a success.

Actions for 2023-24 and 2024-25 will be developed annually.

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# How we will measure success

**Redevelop our approach to supporting students & staff to work together to support academic success**

Launch of the pre-matriculation module (phase 1) in Autumn 2022 to all students.

Advisee meetings have taken place as outlined in the Adviser of Studies Handbook and Research Degrees Quality Code.

Student satisfaction scores improve across the following surveys – semester Pulsecheck survey, National Student Survey (NSS), Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)

**Reinforce the equity of recognition of our degree programmes**

A record of all student awards and prizes across all Schools and Directorates has been established, to support greater communication of student success across programmes/Schools.

Opportunities for taught students to develop their experience of research offered across all Schools in both credit-bearing modules and through informal development opportunities.

Student satisfaction scores improve across the following surveys – semester Pulsecheck survey, NSS, PTES, PRES Survey (PRES)

**Work together to support the School President system to be a success**

Information provided to all students and staff to raise awareness of the role of School President.

All Schools have elected School Presidents in place following the elections in Spring 2023.

At least 75% of School President positions are contested in Spring 2023.

Publishing of a School President 'survival guide' produced by out-going School Presidents.

# Next Steps

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Approval by UoD	18 October 2022
Approval by DUSA	22 November 2022
Action Update	January 2023
Action Update	May 2023
Action Update AY2023-24	June - August 2023
Consultation on New Actions	September 2023

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