

Student Partnership Agreement

The University of Aberdeen and its Students' Union are committed to working in partnership to develop an annual Student Partnership Agreement (SPA). The agreement outlines how we can, through a collaborative approach, enhance our university so students feel part of a supportive community and benefit from an outstanding educational experience including broad co-curricular offerings.

The agreement will support both the UOA and Students' Union strategies and will be informed annually by student consultation through the Students' Union, the Aberdeen Student Experience Survey (ASES) and the NSS to ensure we prioritise the areas which resonate most strongly with the student body. To support continuity, each outgoing Sabbatical team will review the feedback to create the SPA and hand over to the incoming team to take forward. It is recognised that there will be many other priorities and project areas requiring partnership working out with the SPA.

The purpose of the SPA is not to create additional projects or work but to champion partnership working and collaboration through business as usual activity, existing and new projects which are being taken forward under other working groups, committees, and governance structures.

The SPA sets our joint commitment to agreeing shared goals and principles, by

- fostering an environment for open and ongoing dialogue between students and staff, and
- embedding transparency and honesty throughout
- recognising and being respectful of different approaches to ensuring the best Aberdeen student experience

Student feedback and consultation has shaped our focus and priorities for the **Academic Year 2023/24**. We are committed to enhancing the **inclusive** environment and positive culture at the UOA, supporting students to maintain positive **mental health**, manage problems and support the prevention of mental ill health. We will support students' **career success** through a range of opportunities to exploring options, develop skills and connect with employers.

Both partners have agreed to build mechanisms into operational planning to ensure that the opportunity for partnership and student consultation is prioritised and considered. This included operational action plans, project initiation documents, committee agendas and task and finish groups. Commitment leads have been identified and will champion partnership working, encouraging others to ensure that we are continually exploring the opportunities to work together, where we can, for the good of the student body throughout the academic year, recording progress on an ongoing basis using the [online form](#) to aid reporting and keeping track of partnership working and outcomes.

In the context of the SPA partnership work should be consider broadly, reflecting any projects that the Students' Union and any area of the University of Aberdeen collaborate on. This could happen at various levels such as:

- Collaboratively designed project
- A jointly run project
- Jointly governed
- Student informed
- Coordinated communication
- Jointly measured

A SPA steering group will meet three times in the academic year (October, February and May) to review ongoing process, consider the SPA annual report and commitments for the year ahead.

Commitment	Officer Lead	SU Staff Lead	UOA Lead
Mental Health	Sai Shraddha S Viswanathan	Ellie Dick	Anna Goldhawk
Inclusion	Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo	Scott Carle	Rebecca Rodger Jones /Clare Matysova
Employability	Rhiannon Ledwell	Danielle Grieve	Tracey Innes

Reporting examples

Commitment	Project/partnership activity	Partnership/ Student Consultation	Governance	Outcome and Impact (to be completed Feb 2024)
Mental Health	Student Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMHA working group. (VP Welfare, student members Mental Health Group, AUSA staff member, Mental Wellbeing engagement Officer) Student Focus Groups Mental Health Working Group (VP Welfare, AUSA staff member, Mental Wellbeing engagement Officer) 	Mental Health Working group	Library Wellbeing space – focus group consultation with students (Feb 23)
	Student Wellbeing Training Club and Society induction training Enhanced access to wellbeing training materials and opportunities	Collaborative project – Wellbeing and Engagement Manager, Activities Manager Mental Wellbeing Officer, Mental Health Group	Mental Health Working group	
Inclusion	Coordinated programme of inclusive engagement activity	Events and Engagement Working group – Student Liberation forums, AUSA president, University Engagement and inclusion Officer <i>TBC – AUSA Staff member</i>	Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee	<i>i.e. Remit and composition has been amended to support more inclusion</i>
	365 Campaign			
	Student with specific experiences			<i>i.e. Buddy scheme New Liberation forum</i>
Employability	Build on the culture of partnership	Rector and VP Communities, EIC	Employability Entrepreneurship Committee	

