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Broadening the Scope of QA through Partnership with Students

Professor Tina Harrison

Assistant Principal Academic Standards and Quality Assurance

The University of Edinburgh



- The importance of student involvement, student engagement and the student voice to quality assurance and enhancement is widely recognised
- Whilst students are now included in mainstream QA processes, critics argue that their involvement still largely typifies a student-as-consumer model rather than a student-as-partner model.



‘partnership is a relationship in which
all participants are actively engaged
in and stand to gain from the process
of learning and working together’

(Healey et al. 2014, p.7).



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Student as
consumer

Student as
participant

Student as
collaborator

Student as
partner





Benefits of partnering with students

- Accountability and responsibility
- An increased sense of value, community and belonging
- Improved student welfare
- Enhanced employability
- Improvements in student attainment



Our commitment to partnership with students

- Agreed at highest level in our Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Student Engagement Statement since 2011
- Student Partnership Agreement launched 2017/18
 - Explicit statement of the ways we will work together
 - Sets out our values
 - Sets out our priorities for the current year
- The term ‘partnership’ reflects a mature relationship, based on mutual trust and respect



Benefits of the Student Partnership Agreement

- Serves to map and promote student engagement opportunities across the University
- Acts as a tool to reflect on the way in which staff and students interact and any improvements
- Used to monitor and review the effectiveness of student engagement
- Provides tangible evidence of the partnership between students and staff



STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT | Working in partnership

Student Voice:
'Two way street'

Working together on student feedback – value, share, consider, act and use.
Strengthening student representation structures

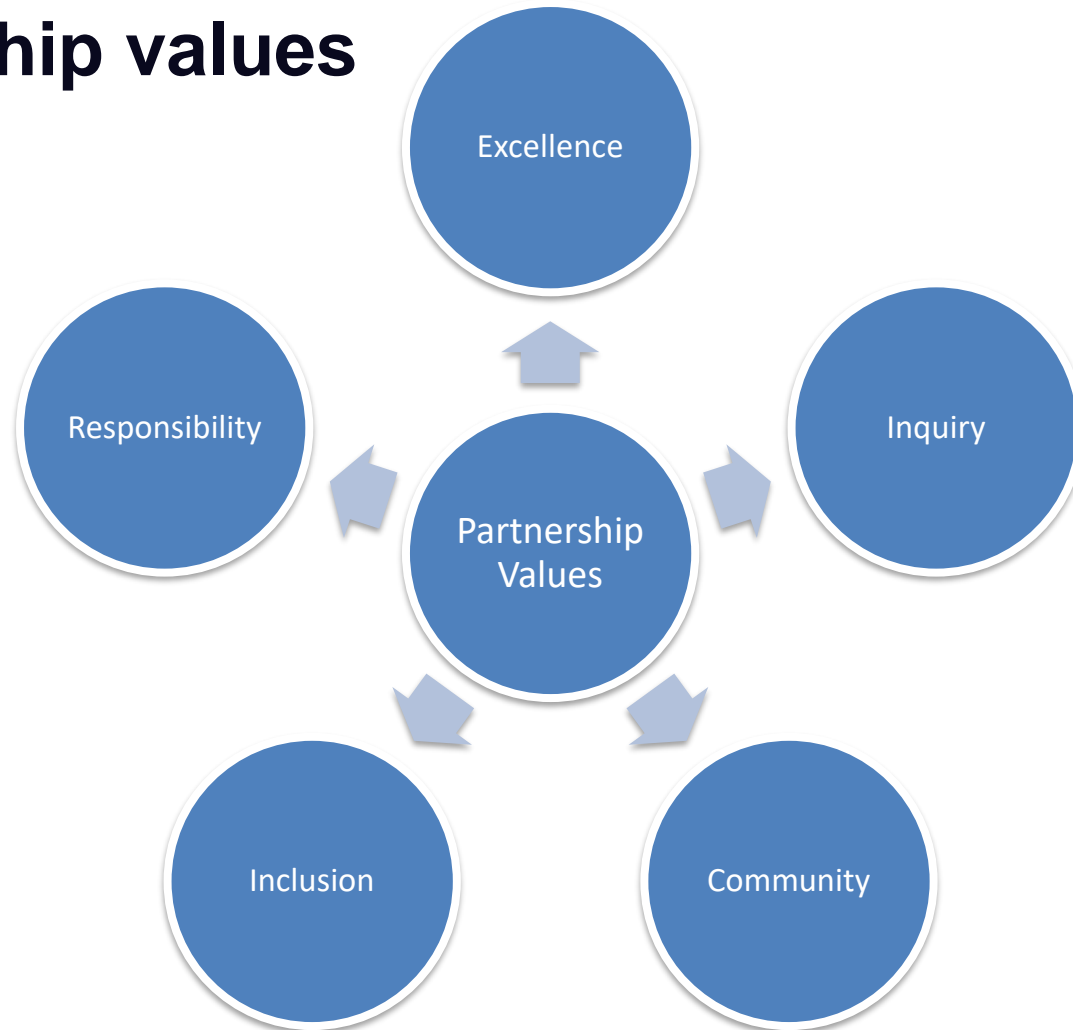
Academic Support

What's available? Who does what?
How to access?
Facilitating students to **engage!**

Promoting positive mental health & wellbeing

Mental health **training and guidance.**
Growing peer support networks.
Engaging with mental health awareness events.

Partnership values





Partnership priorities

Ensuring the Student Voice is Central to Co-Creating a High Quality Student Experience

- Working together on student feedback – value, share, consider, act and use
- Strengthening student representation structures

Stenghtening the Effectiveness of Academic Support

- What's available
- Who does what?
- How to access?
- Facilitating students to engage

Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Mental health training and guidance
- Growing peer support networks
- Engaging with mental health awareness events



How the priorities were identified

- Conversation with students and staff throughout academic year 2016-17
- Feedback from students through the main institutional/national surveys
- Consultation with students via the Students' Association Reps Forums
- Consultation with staff via key committees and groups
- Alignment with the University's Learning & Teaching Strategy and the Students' Association's Strategy

Partnership in practice

- To ensure ownership of the priorities we offered small project funding
- 27 submissions made for funding
- 14 projects funded in 2017/18
- 11 projects funded so far in 2018/1





10 Tips to Stay Well

- School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- Based on research evidence in psychology

10 TIPS TO STAY WELL

Move every



Get a
good night's
sleep

Try
something
new



Take
a walk

Note down



things
that go
well



talk
with
old
friends



Enjoy the
meadows



See
the sea

Pet a
furry
creature



Reach out
before things
get tough

Where to go for help

Student Support Office (SSO)

Speak to the SSO for support and advice about academic or pastoral matters. Please drop in and have a chat. You don't need an appointment. *You can find them in Dugald Stewart Building G.03.*

Student Counselling Service

If you think you would benefit from one-to-one support then you can self-refer to the Student Counselling Service. They also have a wide range of self-help materials on their website. www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling

University Chaplaincy

The Listening Service operates through the University Chaplaincy, for students or staff of all faiths and none who want to touch base on any concerns or anxieties, or are looking for a timely or purposeful conversation. The Chaplaincy also provides free wellbeing activities: yoga, mindfulness, Tai Chi, and houses a welcoming social drop-in and calm spaces for all members of the University. www.ed.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Student Disability Service

If you have a chronic illness or disability that affects your studies, you can get support and advice from the Student Disability Service, including specialist one-to-one support through the Mental Health Mentors programme. www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

Students' Association Advice Place

Get free, impartial and confidential information on a wide range of academic and welfare issues (academic, accommodation, crime and safety, harassment and complaints, money and funding, health and well-being) from the Advice Place. www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/advice

Nightline

Nightline's student volunteers are trained listeners, and are there if you need someone to talk to, or need signposting on to other support services. *Phone 0131 557 4444 from 8pm to 8am during term-time, or go to www.ednightline.com.*

Big White Wall

Online mental health and wellbeing support resource, provides 24/7 peer and community support, including group and 1:1 peer therapy, as well as self-care resources. *Go to www.bigwhitewall.com university and register with your University email.*

Created by students and staff in PPLS, as part of the Student Partnership Agreement // Designed by chikaboo-designs.com

- Postcards were given out in Welcome Packs for all incoming first year students in 2018/19
- "10 Tips" Posters displayed prominently around the School
- Featured in Year Organisers' Welcome Talks





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Chemunity website



- Easy to use online resource which collates relevant information for chemistry students
- Somewhere to share experiences
- A place to give feedback

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