

University of Dundee Student Partnership Agreement 2018-19

The University of Dundee and the Dundee University Students' Association (DUSA) work together to develop an annual Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the purpose of enhancing student engagement and improving the experience of our students. The SPA details agreed priorities for each academic year.

The priorities identified for AY 2018-19 are set out below. They are aligned with the University Strategy and the DUSA manifesto, and certain key themes have been carried over from previous years in recognition of the need for continuous improvement in those important areas.

1. Employability

We currently have a strong track record in the employability of our graduates¹, and recent research has shown that this is improved by access to credit-bearing careers education and engagement with extra-curricular activities. Further work is required to continue to grow and develop opportunities for extra-curricular engagement, and to ensure that the skills gained from these are appropriately recognised and communicated to prospective employers.

We will work together to ensure that Dundee Plus continues to meet the needs of our students in the recording of their achievements to enhance employability. We will also build on the work from DUSA during 2017/18 and take a partnership approach to the further development of Open Badges and other systems to recognise and record students' achievements. In addition, we will continue to provide opportunities for extra-curricular activities (volunteering, societies and social challenge events) and promote the value of participating of such activities.

Performance indicators:

- Take-up of Dundee Plus
- The further development of systems for recognising and recording students' extracurricular achievements by DUSA and the University
- Number of students engaging with societies, volunteering and social challenge events

2. Student representation and engagement

A key theme of the 2017/18 SPA was improving our approach to student representation and engagement. Although we were working from a position of strength, with considerable progress being made, further work is still required to enhance our approach to training for representatives and extend the reach of representation to better engage distance learners and postgraduate students.

We will further develop the online training packages so that they have more interactive content and video material. We will work towards hosting the training packages on the VLE to help with visibility and monitoring of take-up and engagement with training. We will continue to develop the Student Voice Support Officer role so that in-School face-to-face training is improved.

We will continue to work with sparqs on enhancing representation for postgraduate students. We will also take forward the actions arising from the Distance Learner Representation Working Group which include: raising the profile of DUSA to distance learners; making more

¹ DLHE statistics for the 2016/17 graduating cohort show that 96.4% of leavers are employed or undertaking further study and 82% are in graduate level employment or further study.

explicit the expectation that all distance learning programmes must provide opportunities for the student voice to be heard; promoting the use of the sparqs toolkit for engagement with distance learning students; raising the profile of distance learning at the Learning and Teaching committee; and developing a Student-Led Teaching Award (SLTA) for distance learning tutors.

Performance indicators:

- Online training packages for student representatives to include more interactive content
- Training packages hosted on the VLE
- Successful pilot of a training programme for postgraduate representatives
- Feedback from student representatives
- The production of good practice case studies on representation and engagement for distance learners and postgraduate students
- Nominations for the SLTA for distance learning tutors

3. Community and welfare

As our student community becomes more diverse it is more important than ever that we work together to ensure that all of our students have a sense of belonging and are provided with appropriate support to enable them to succeed. This goes beyond academic support which was a key theme of our SPA for AY 2017/18 where we did work to improve our academic adviser system. Student welfare and pastoral support is the priority for this year and we will work to promote greater engagement with Student Services and DUSA's Hive. In addition to promotion of support services, we will also undertake a systematic analysis of the take-up of support and advice provided by Student Services and DUSA as part of our plan to undertake a series of thematic reviews that focus on student support. Finally, we will work in partnership to make sure that our campuses and are safe and welcoming places for all students.


Performance indicators:

- Swipe card entry to DUSA using matriculation cards with 'banned' status being flagged
- Utilisation of the Equally Safe toolkit developed by the University of Strathclyde
- Review of existing data on the take-up of support and advice from Student Services and DUSA
- Planning for thematic reviews of support for students (including Professional Services and DUSA)
- Improvement in retention and progression statistics (with a breakdown of specific student groups that include widening access, domicile, disability, BAME)

A key component of our annual partnership agreement between students and staff of the University is a commitment from the University and DUSA to work together to address student feedback as required throughout the year. The University agrees to ensure that DUSA has the support required to fulfil its role, and DUSA agrees to ensure that it fulfils this role responsibly in making the student voice heard.

The University and DUSA are committed to the continual development of this partnership agreement which is reviewed jointly on an annual basis.

Signed on behalf of the University



Professor Sir Pete Downes

University Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Signed on behalf of DUSA



Sofia Skevofylaka

President of DUSA

Date: 7/12/18