NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE

NESCol Students' Association

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE & NESCOL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

THE AGREEMENT

What is a Student Partnership Agreement?

Student Partnership Agreements (SPA) are a way in which Students' Associations (SA) and institutions can promote ways in which students can interact with staff at their institution to improve the quality of their student experience. Although there is a large focus on improving the learning experience and enhancing student courses, SPAs are an opportunity for SAs and their institutions to look at how they can improve the overall student experience. They're also an opportunity to agree a set of three to five priority areas upon which the SA and institution will work together, in partnership.

What does this mean at NESCol?

North East Scotland College (NESCol) and the NESCol Students' Association (NESCol SA) agree to work in partnership to achieve shared priorities outlined in this document. Both parties will work collaboratively to ensure that all students can get involved in actively shaping and influencing their overarching student experiences.

This SPA has been developed through various discussions and workshop activities involving students, sabbatical officers, senior management, curriculum & support staff and the College's quality team with input from SPARQs. Students will be updated on progress of the SPA projects throughout the year through use of activities, events and regular communication.
Through progressing the priority projects outlined in this document, NESCol and NESCol SA are hoping to strengthen student engagement across the College. By doing so, students will have more opportunities for personal development as well as increased involvement in shaping the College and the SA to work for them.

What is student engagement?

Student engagement involves students being actively involved in shaping the direction of the College, the SA, and their student experience. This can be done through engaging with events and activities, taking part in campaigns, being involved in surveys and focus groups, etc.
Student engagement is about:

- Delivering opportunities for students to take responsibility for their learning and contribute to a successful learning & teaching experience.
- Developing processes for students to feedback on their learning experience and for the College to hear what students are saying in relation this, so that students & staff can influence change.
- Providing students with responses to feedback so that they see their contribution is valued and is used to shape successful experiences for them, future learners & the College.
- Identifying and supporting opportunities for all students to be involved in wider College experiences.
- Encouraging personal and professional development opportunities for students & staff.

What is included in the Student Partnership Agreement?

Part A of the SPA provides an overview of the opportunities the College and the Students' Association provide for students to engage in their learning and the wider student experience. The Student Engagement Action Group (SEAG), comprised of students, college staff and the Students' Association approved the map of opportunities for students.

Part B of the SPA outlines the priority projects the College and the SA will conduct to enhance overall student experience and student engagement. These projects include both a College staff and an SA staff lead to ensure true partnership working throughout. Staff and students will be kept updated on the progress of these projects through bi-annual progress reports.

Engagement Opportunities Part A

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE

NESCol Students' Association

CURRICULUM & QUALITY

- CLASS REPS
- SURVEYS
- FOCUS GROUPS
- COURSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- CAMPUS SHOPS
- SPORTS DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
- CLASS FEEDBACK

LIBRARY PLUS

- LIBRARY EVENTS
- FOCUS GROUPS
- SURVEYS
- VENUE

STUDENT SUPPORT

- FOCUS GROUPS
- SURVEYS
- STUDENT EVENTS
- STUDENT GROUPS
- VIRTUAL CAFE

ACADEMIC TUTORS

- INITIAL SUPPORT
- REGULAR FEEDBACK
- 1:1 MEETINGS

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- SABBATICAL OFFICERS
- EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
- CLASS REPS
- PEER-LED REVIEWS
- SOCIETIES
- CLUBS
- FOCUS GROUPS
- SURVEYS
- REGIONAL BOARD MEETINGS
- AWARDS

Part B

North East Scotland College and NESCol Students' Association Student Partnership Agreement 2021-2022
Priority Projects Action Plan

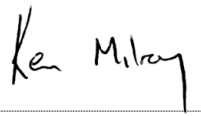
Project	Lead		Intended Impact	Key Actions	Complete By	Key Measures
	College	Students' Association				
Student Mental Health Agreement (SMHA)	Kirsty Pettitt	Meredith Brown	• Improved wellbeing provision for students at NESCol • Increased awareness of wellbeing provisions already in place at NESCol • Increased awareness of SA and Student Advice and Support team • Improved engagement between SA and other departments in the College • Increased involvement with externals such as Think Positive, Scottish Student Sport (SSS), and nearby Colleges and Universities	• Complete action plan for SMHA • Engage with Think Positive throughout the year to ensure we are on track to complete SMHA • Increase awareness of the SMHA with students and staff through promotion online and in person • Create student-friendly version of SMHA	May 2022	• SMHA action plan completed • Increased uptake of SA and SAST support • Regular 'Catch up' meetings with Think Positive and SSS • Student-friendly version of SMHA created and distributed to students

Class Representation Review	Shona Anderson	Sasha Brydon	• Improved class representation structure that enhances overall representation of students
			• Improved class rep and staff relationship that enables and encourages constructive feedback on courses and general student experience
			• Improved class rep and SA relationship that enhances overall outcome of feedback
			• Improved data collection of class reps to streamline the recruitment, implementation, and training of reps
			• Enhanced role of class rep, providing students with more opportunities for personal development
			• Increased awareness of class rep system to staff and students
			• Enhanced quality of student feedback gathered by reps and provided to College
				• Explore relationships with Academic Improvement Leads (AIL) to provide class reps with a key contact in the college for their feedback
				• Run focus groups with
				  • Students
				  • Reps
				  • Academic staff
				  • Support staff
				  • Senior staff
				• Create report with key outcomes of focus groups
				• Review SA constitution and make necessary changes to reflect updated class rep structure
					June 2022	• Focus group report with key outcomes/actions to be put in to place for A/Y 22/23
						• Constitutional review completed and approved through Regional Board

Healthy Body Healthy Mind (HBHM)	Michelle Burnett	Meredith Brown	• Provide students with opportunities to lead healthier lifestyles • Increased knowledge of award in students and staff • Create a baseline of activity for HBHM that will lead to further achievement in HBHM in following year • Improve engagement and partnership working between SA and other College departments	• Complete action plan for 'Training Towards' level of HBHM • Engage with SSS throughout award • Increase knowledge of award with students and staff through online and in person promotion • Achieve 'Training Towards' level of award	May 2022	• Achievement of 'Training Towards' level of HBHM • Active engagement from multiple College departments with the SA/ HBHM • Baseline of activity documented • Regular meetings with SSS
Student Engagement Framework Review	Alesia Du Plessis	Eilidh Fulton	• Achievement of 'Training Towards' level of HBHM • Active engagement from multiple College departments with the SA/HBHM • Baseline of activity documented • Regular meetings with SSS Increased staff engagement and awareness with Students' Association • Increased student engagement/awareness of Students' Association • Enhance staff engagement with students • Enhance student engagement with staff • Enhanced student provision through increased student feedback	• Implement staff sessions on student engagement • Provide staff with a toolkit for student engagement • Provide staff with information on the Students' Association • Enhance SA content on MyNESCol and NESCol website	June 2022	• Staff attendance at Students' Association sessions • Increase in staff engagement with Students' Association structures/campaigns i.e., class rep system, Sabbatical officers, HBHM etc. • Greater uptake of Students' Association roles with students

Sasha Brydon
Student President

Neil Cowie
Principal & Chief Executive



Ken Milroy
Chair of Regional Board