Over the past year the Students’ Association has continued to help develop and widen support for Societies, student Social Enterprises and Volunteering. The Activities department remains to be open and accessible to students through their drop-in sessions, but also provide training, support and funding through a wide range of opportunities.

2018/19 has been an incredible year! There were over 300 Societies registered and 9 Social Enterprise projects which cater for a wide range of interests. Not to mention 12 incredible student-led Volunteering Societies, groups and projects clocking up 17,051 hours work with the wider community. 37 Societies were created including the Book Club, Foodie Soc and Marine Conservation Society, which just goes to show what a diverse range of pursuits we cater for. Pivotal to the student Social Enterprises has been our continued partnership with Edinburgh Innovations’ LaunchEd which help students successfully pilot their ideas.

As the Vice-President Activities and Services for the academic year 2019/20, I am really excited to get more insight into the unique and innovative work students do and the amazing events they put on throughout the year. However, I also want to widen students’ participation in extra-curricular activities and encourage students to get involved.

I look forward to developing how we recognise students’ admirable participation in university life through the Student Awards and the Edinburgh Award. In addition, I plan to expand the #WeAreEdinburgh profiles to ensure we celebrate our wonderful and diverse community here at the University of Edinburgh but also develop the communication channels, so everyone knows what events are on each week.

I can’t wait to work with such an incredible body of students and ensure we are providing the services they need as well as keep them informed about all the opportunities on offer. Please, do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything I can do to help. You can contact me by email at VPActivities@eusa.ed.ac.uk.
Number of students engaged in Societies:

- 12,747 Individual Members
- 23,834 Total Memberships across all Societies

Number of events organised by Societies: 6,000+

Office Bearers with HEAR recognition: 1,862

Funds awarded:

- Development Fund: £12,476
- Volunteering Impact Fund: £1,970
- Social Enterprise Start up Fund: £2,380
- Participation Fund: £27,842
- Give it a Go Fund: £3,000

Edinburgh Award Recipients:

- Edinburgh Award for Office Bearers: 64
- Edinburgh Award for Volunteering: 76
Our Year in Numbers

- **285* Societies**
- **1,800+ Committee Members**
- **150+** scheduled face-to-face meetings with Societies, with around 200 more ad hoc meetings throughout the year
- **23,834 Total memberships**
This report is based on figures of 285 Annual Reports. In reality, the Societies Team supported 306 Societies throughout 2018-19.

**Society Categories**

- **Academic**: 66
- **Advice & Community**: 4
- **Appreciation**: 22
- **Artistic & Creative**: 8
- **Campaigning & Awareness**: 20
- **Dance, Music & Theatre**: 46
- **Employment, Transferable Skills & Finance**: 14
- **Faith, Belief & Spiritual Development**: 11
- **Gaming & Roleplaying**: 11
- **International & Multicultural**: 45
- **Media & Broadcasting**: 5
- **Political**: 9
- **Physical and Outdoor**: 8
- **Volunteering**: 8

**Financials**

- **Between September 2018 and May 2019**, over 2,475 individual BACS requests totalling £689,655 were processed for Societies and Social Enterprises.

- **80 Societies** are sent monthly transaction lists of their Society banking account, totalling 560 throughout the academic year. Separately, another 765 transaction lists were distributed to Societies from individual requests through the online form-emails.

- **£133,944.87** was deposited via our office to Society accounts throughout the academic year.

**Society Financial Reporting**

Each year, our Societies submit financial reports covering their financial activity. This incorporates money raised from numerous sources, such as fundraising, membership sales, ticket sales for events, sponsorship, cost of assets, etc. It also covers costs incurred for their activities, such as venue hire, material costs, events costs, purchase of equipment, etc.

- **Societies generated a combined total of £1,229,937.86**
- **Societies’ expenditure accumulated to £1,142,672.23**
Office Bearer Training

For the second year, we have relied on an online training system through the Learn platform, we designed one area which contained specific trainings for the President, Secretary and Treasurer alongside the general training for all other Office Bearers. Using the adaptive release tool, each office bearer saw the content that was relevant to their roles. We also created a refresher training course for students who have been an office bearer before.

Societies Office Bearer Training

Over 1,400 students successfully completed the Societies office bearer training.

Annual Reports

This is the third year we have used annual reports to track the activity of our Societies, which has allowed us to further develop accountability within Office Bearer roles. Societies were also given the opportunity to shout about their achievements throughout this academic year.

Societies’ Activities:

190 Societies meet weekly and many hold multiple events every week. Most Societies held between 5-10 events per semester.

39 Societies have reported on doing volunteering projects, giving back to the local community, and engaging with external partners.

Based on this, our Societies have held at least 6,000 events this year and the true figure is likely to be higher than this.

This year, 149 Societies have engaged in some form of fundraising activity, with 96 Societies donating the money collected to external charities.
Here are some examples of exciting things that our Societies are getting up to:

▲ **People & Planet** launched two new campaigns; one for the Legal Recognition of Climate Refugees and a campaign to promote cleaner, fossil free energy policy in Scotland. On November 21st, for People & Planet’s national Fossil Free day of action, the Society organised a climate march from campus to Holyrood to promote a just transition from Scotland’s current reliance on the fossil fuel industry. The march was really well attended, and the Society met politicians outside parliament and gained some useful contacts particularly amongst the Scottish Green MSPs.

▲ **Danns-Ed** held a standalone dance show, developing a contemporary dance performance within the context of the #NoExcuse anti-sexual harassment campaign in collaboration with the Students’ Association. This dance was performed at University Dance Performance, and at the Innovations Contemporary Dance Platform.

▲ This year, **PublishED** ran three events featuring industry professionals, including publisher 404 Ink and their author Chris McQueer.

▲ **Friends of the Postcard Association** have increased awareness and enjoyment of the old traditional way of people documenting their experiences. They have received many cards from all over the world and members have sent cards to students on their year abroad to wish them well.

**Reward and Recognition**

**Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)**

Once again, this year we used committee members’ annual reports to certify that only those who were actively engaged in their Society were recognised on the HEAR (Higher Education Achievement Record), ensuring the value of HEAR is maintained.

Over 1,862 committee members were recognised this year.
Mission statement
The Volunteering service helps students enhance their University experience by connecting them with the local community as well as UK based volunteering opportunities with Third Sector organisations, engaging them in rewarding volunteering opportunities. Volunteering offers a way for students to make a difference and help them achieve their goals. We also organise events, offer skills training, funding, and awards and recognition.

12 Volunteering Societies, Groups and Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; youth</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projects: 49

Number of hours volunteered this year
17,051
Total volunteers: 1081

- Total male: 309
- Total female: 638
- Unspecified gender: 134

Hours volunteered: 17,051

- Undergraduate: 802
- Non-students: 11
- Postgraduate: 152
- Unspecified degree status: 116

Partner organisations: 65

Beneficiaries: 4,533

Projects carried out in 45 areas across Edinburgh and Scotland

- 8% Projects for children and youth
- 22% Projects for the Elderly
- 61% Projects for General Public
- 2% Projects for Vulnerable Adults
**Total Spend of Volunteering Societies: £6,549.54**

**Volunteering Hub**

This is a platform where students can search and apply for volunteering roles, as well as record their volunteering experience and achievements, including activities, hours, skills obtained and awards gained. These tools support CV building for employability, encouraging long term thinking for post-university life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW volunteers</th>
<th>Total volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>854</td>
<td>2,630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW Organisations</th>
<th>Total organisations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications made</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1335</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Edinburgh Award for Volunteering**

- 57 Students who completed the Edinburgh Award for Volunteering

**Volunteering Impact Fund**

- £1,970 Was given out from the Volunteering Impact Fund

**Key Achievements**

- Expanded the recognition and award offer
  - Our Spotlight on Volunteering blog grew to feature 31 stories from student volunteers and partner organisations who work with them.
  - Launched a thank you card scheme – inviting partner organisations and student groups to thank students for the difference they make to their activities.
Team Volunteering
One-off volunteering projects benefitting Edinburgh’s communities in partnership with local organisations and offering students a way to volunteer without a long-term commitment.

Student Volunteering Week
For the first time ever, we participated in this national celebration of the impact of student volunteers which sees thousands of students around the UK engaging in community life through tackling social and environmental challenges, supporting local causes and volunteering in the community.

Students, the University, Social Enterprises and charities were encouraged to get involved.

Careers Fair: Volunteering and Third Sector Jobs
Third year collaborating with the University’s Careers Service to showcase paid and UK volunteering opportunities in the Third Sector for students.

“By far one of the best recruitment events in terms of organisation and calibre of students.”

Exhibitor quote

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No. of Team Leaders: 8
No. of Projects: 24
No. of volunteers: 87
Total hours volunteered: 104.5

54 Organisations attended - 4 more than last year
1,117 Students and graduates attended
The Social Enterprise service branched out this year beyond the pilot program, advancing the services offered by the Activities Department in partnership with Enterprise Services at Edinburgh Innovations to support student-led initiatives that aim to deliver businesses in a way that benefits the local community, wider society and the environment.

The service supported the Social Enterprise groups to increase their public profiles and engage with local businesses as the service held its first Social Enterprise showcase event in March 2019.

There has been a consistent level of student demand for the Social Enterprise service and we quickly exceeded our goal of the number of newly registered groups for this year. We currently have 6 new Social Enterprise groups bringing the total number of registered Social Enterprise groups to 10, with over 300 students involved representing a wide range of interests, as well as different stages of development.

### The Groups

This year we had 10 registered Social Enterprise groups delivering 14 projects collectively. 6 of these groups are newly registered:

#### Hearty Squirrel Food Cooperative

**Vision:**

To provide healthy, local, ethical, organic and Fairtrade food to students and staff, as well as a unique and informative experience for our volunteers while promoting food sustainability, running food workshops, and supporting other groups in accordance with cooperative values.

**Projects:**

- Sells homemade soup, dried goods (nuts, grains), eggs and bread sourced from local producers via a stall on campus.
- Provides volunteering opportunities.

**Key achievement:**

- Increased food turnover significantly.
- Offers work placement in preparation of employment for a young man with learning disabilities.
- Started selling online through the Students’ Association website.

#### Edinburgh Health & Fitness

**Vision:**

Increasing health and fitness by providing affordable access to high-quality services, within a supportive community, for students and staff of the University as well as others in the local area.

**Projects:**

- Offers highly discounted fitness and nutrition classes in partnership with professional trainers and local charities.
- Open to both students and elderly community members, subsidized by special training packages offered to companies in Edinburgh.

**Key achievement:**

- Grown a stable and engaged community of members.
Created mutually beneficial partnerships with other fitness and health-related brands in the local area (British Heart Foundation, Dec McLaughlin Nutrition), as well as with other societies in the university (Edinburgh Women in Business).

Our Speakeasy

Vision:
- Engaging communities and bringing neighbourhoods together through the medium of storytelling.

Projects:
- Hosts storytelling events at different venues where people can read their stories to an audience.
- Collects handwritten stories through collection boxes stationed throughout the University of Edinburgh campus and the city more broadly.

Key achievement:
- Gathered a consistent audience base through hosting regular events.
- Developed a sustainable business plan.
- Started merchandise development.

Enactus

Vision:
- Aims to empower people to improve their livelihoods in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable way.

Projects:
- Edinburgh Candle Company
  - Women with barriers to traditional employment get microfinance loans from Enactus to purchase candle-making equipment, are trained accordingly on how to produce candles.
  - Enactus purchases the candles from the women and resells them both online and in stalls, and is in process of developing a store contract.
  - Candles are also sold online to be picked up from the Activities Office.
- Slurp Soups
  - Enactus gathers waste food items and works with beneficiaries to create recipes and make soup.
  - Slurp then distributes the soup at StreetWise to rough sleepers, with intentions to begin distributing flasks for keeping things warm on the street.
  - This is also funded via sales of reusable grocery bags.
- Palma Soap
  - Mosquito-repellent soap making and selling in Malawi, the Philippines, Scotland and the Dominican Republic in partnership with local charities.
  - In the Dominican Republic, profits fund university education for locals.
  - Sales of soap in Scotland subsidize soap makers in Malawi.
  - Sales of soap in Scotland allowed online and can be picked up from the Activities office.
- Sanitree
  - Cooperative in India will make and sell reusable sanitary pads within the community using a microfinance loan from Enactus to purchase materials.
  - Recently opened a new cooperative in Jaipur.
- Bean Bag
  - Commercial project/creative agency in the process of developing a support base through pro bono work
  - Logos, web design, social media portfolio building
- Refermee
  - Funding certification trainings for 16+/youth for referees

Key achievement:
- Improved the lives of over 5,000 individuals both in the community of Edinburgh and around the world.
- Ensured projects were sustainable enterprises that could scale to achieve a greater impact.
- Franchised Palma Soap in 3 new countries.

ScotQuan (Newly registered Social Enterprise Group)

Vision:
- Increasing statistical literacy by providing businesses with quantitative data analysis and presentation at rates reflecting the business’ ability to pay; discounted rates for charities etc.

Projects:
- Collaboration with Societies to crunch quantitative data for the Societies team.

Key achievement:
- Registration as a Social Enterprise Group.
- Development of a sustainable business plan.

The Noisy Movement (Newly registered Social Enterprise Group)

Vision:
- To raise awareness and make noise about issues that students care about.
**Projects:**
▲ This Is Not Consent – merchandising effort raising awareness of rape culture via reusable shopper bag sales.
▲ New project about men’s mental health – merchandising effort raising awareness of men’s mental health via water bottle sales.

**Key achievements:**
▲ Registration as a Social Enterprise group.
▲ Successful bag sales.
▲ Collaboration with Sports Union for future campaign with water bottles.

**R Sustainable (Newly registered Social Enterprise Group) Vision:**
▲ To raise awareness of and support sustainable fashion brands while reinventing fast fashion in a sustainable way.

**Projects:**
▲ R Sustainable Fashion Show – fashion show raising awareness of sustainability in the fashion industry, showcasing sustainable fashion, and fundraising for OneCherry.

**Key achievements:**
▲ Successful delivery of second R Sustainable Fashion Show in partnership with external organisations.
▲ Fundraising of £300 for OneCherry online charity shop retail app.
▲ Registration as a Social Enterprise Group.

**Conscious Change (Newly registered Social Enterprise Group) Vision:**
▲ To connect students to sustainable products and services and promote sustainable practices among students. They run workshops that teach students how to make their own products that are completely sustainable. Also, their social team keeps students informed about how to improve their day-to-day environmental impact.

**Key achievements:**
▲ Hosted 7 sustainable workshops for students this year.

**180 Degrees Consulting (Newly registered Social Enterprise Group) Vision:**
▲ To help third-sector non-profit organisations to tackle various challenges such as marketing strategies, financial sustainability and overall efficiency within business operations. By utilising the untapped capabilities of well-informed students; thinking out of the box and producing creative solutions to complex problems, they are able to provide affordable and accessible consulting services to their clients. In addition to the benefits the clients will gain, the students who engage with this will obtain professional experience.

**Enco (Newly registered Social Enterprise Group) Vision:**
▲ Enco is a student led environmental consultancy that will target SMEs. They offer a carbon footprint report using the online tool “Compare your Footprint”. Following the report they offer advice to SMEs on how they can reduce their footprint.

**Highlights of the Year:**
▲ Showcase of 10 projects delivered by 7 groups to external professionals.
▲ Increased registered groups by 6, more than doubling total group numbers and exceeding recruitment goals by a wide margin.
▲ Portfolio diversification – groups now represent fashion, publishing, sustainability, finance, data analytics, fitness, culinary and retail industries.
▲ Supported group collaboration with other groups and external organisations; examples: EHF collaboration with the British Heart Foundation, Our Speakeasy presence at the R Sustainable Fashion Show, ECC contract with a retailer to sell candles.

**Finance**
According to the financial reports submitted by our groups:

- Social Enterprises generated a combined total of £30,320
- Social Enterprises’ expenditure accumulated to £26,885
Social Enterprise Start-up Fund

The Start-Up Fund provides discretionary funding to Social Enterprise groups or projects. The fund is intended for early stage projects and new businesses that require financial support to kick start their activities, with the objective of reaching a point where the activity is self-sustaining and generates its own income.

The Start-Up Fund went live in October and granted £2,380.36 to 7 different projects

Social Enterprise Showcase

The Activities Department organised a showcase event that allowed groups to present an introductory pitch to an audience of University professionals as well as CEOs and founders of social enterprises in Edinburgh, after which there was time for networking. This was a pilot event aimed to create a sustainable provision to support student-led Social Enterprise projects on campus and collaboration with local businesses.

Ten of our projects presented at this event with an audience of around 60, including third sector founders, CEOs and University of Edinburgh staff. These interest groups were selected based on research into the Edinburgh and wider Scottish social enterprise industries, with at least two potential external partners in attendance for each group/project. These CEOs and founders represented culinary, merchandising, design, sustainability, and finance industries.

The groups each presented their projects for 2 minutes and then networked with the external partners over food and drinks, with hopes that the networking would lead to collaboration between Scottish social enterprises and possible mentorship for our groups from external professionals. Our hope was to facilitate further community engagement for our groups and bring value to the social enterprise community through collaboration.

A few success stories from the event:

This event led to collaboration between Our Speakeasy and R Sustainable as well as putting ScotQuan in contact with other groups interested in using their services and facilitating talks between Slurp Soups and Hearty Squirrel about cooperation in future.

New Developments

▲ Web hosting services are now offered to Social Enterprises in line with Societies and best practice.
▲ Development of Office Bearer Training in line with Societies best practice, ready for delivery in future.
▲ Registered 6 new groups.
▲ Created new Marketing, Banking, and Insurance guides for Committee Members.
▲ Created Start-up, Established, and Re-Registration Handbooks for our groups.

The Start-Up Fund went live in October and granted £2,380.36 to 7 different projects

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In previous years, the Students’ Association has held the Activities Awards and Impact Awards, recognising student achievements across Societies, Volunteering, Representation, Peer Learning & Support and Global Students.

This year colleagues from the Activities, Peer Learning and Support, Representation and Global Students teams, collaborated to build our new Awards scheme, The Student Awards.

On Thursday 4 April we held the inaugural Student Awards. Staff and Students gathered in celebration of incredible student achievements across the University of Edinburgh. From volunteers making a difference to innovative group projects, and from one of a kind events to great leadership and support, the Student Awards recognised a wide breadth of activities from our members.
We offered 13 Award categories, and the winners were:

1. Community Mental Health and Wellbeing: WellComm at King’s
2. Student-Staff Partnership: Coaching for Academic Success and Wellbeing
3. Contribution to the local community: Kate Samuel – Volunteer with Smart Works
4. Contribution to the global community: Edinburgh Global Partnerships
5. Place for all: History Society
6. Unsung Hero: Ryan McCuaig – Badminton Club (EUBC)
7. Outstanding Contribution to the Student Experience: Isabella Stevens-Mulroe – Classics Society
8. Student Leadership: Laura Boxleitner – School Representative for School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
9. Fostering Student Communities: Jewish Society
10. Creating Change: Fatima Seck – Decolonise the Curriculum conference; Contributed to the BME Freshers’ Guide; Co-founded the Black Studies Short Programme
11. Creativity and Innovation: Abhijit Bajracharya – Leader of Anatomy Workbook project
12. Commitment to Sustainability: Ryan Gilmour – Created ‘Discover Sustainable Edinburgh’ walking tour and the ‘Winds of Change’ project
13. Student collaboration: Tandem Language Exchange Programme
Organised by Edinburgh University Students’ Association, Give It A Go is a week-long programme of events and tasters, aimed to encourage students to sample a range of activities – most of them for free – and to give them an opportunity to get involved with activities they may have otherwise missed.

The majority of events organised are student-led and include Society and Sports Club tasters, with the Students’ Association and other collaborating partners also running events and sessions during the Give It A Go week.

A total of 135 events were programmed over the span of the week, compared to last year’s 103 events. This is an increase of 31%, demonstrating further growth compared to last year’s already strong events programme.

In the 2018/19 academic year, Give It A Go took place in the beginning of semester 2, from 14 – 20 January, building on last year’s very successful campaign.

This year’s objectives were to grow Give It A Go further, namely by:

▲ Increasing the number of events held
▲ Maintaining and, where possible, increasing event attendance
▲ Collecting feedback from attendees and event hosts to inform future plans for the project.

Summary of the key performance indicators and campaign highlights:

▲ 31% increase in the number of events held compared to the previous year
▲ Average event attendance increased by 9.2%
▲ Positive engagement from the Sports Union resulting in a diverse offering that features sports, alongside Society, and Students’ Association events
▲ Sample of respondents providing attendee feedback grew by 91%, resulting in a more accurate representation of audience behaviour and perceptions

▲ Attendee event enjoyment increased from 4.51 to 4.63 (+2.7%) on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is maximum enjoyment
▲ 100% of respondents to the event organiser feedback would recommend taking part in Give It A Go
▲ 57.1% of respondents to the event organiser feedback indicated an increase in membership numbers as a direct result of Give It A Go.
Our Activities Offices are at:

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The Pleasance | 60 Pleasance | Edinburgh | EH8 9TJ

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