ABOUT THE STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION
Information for University Staff 2017/18

The Students’ Association coordinates student representation and ensures that students are part of decision-making at all levels of the University. Staff at the University play a key role in working with the Students’ Association to support student representation!

1. STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION ELECTED REPS

In March each year, the Students’ Association holds elections for the next academic year’s representatives. Every student at the University has the chance to run for a position, including one of the five sabbatical officer positions (President, Vice President Education, Vice President Welfare, Vice President Community, and Vice President Activities & Services). Other positions include School Reps, Liberation Officers, and Section Reps. In October, the Students’ Association holds by-elections to fill postgraduate School Rep positions, the new university-wide Postgraduate Taught Rep and Postgraduate Research Rep roles, and any other unfilled positions. These elected Reps, and particularly the School Reps and Vice President Education, work to support Class Reps in each School.

Since the University partners with the Students’ Association to support student representation, it’s important that Schools promote the elections so that all students know they can stand for positions and so that all students are encouraged to vote for their representatives.

2. STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION GROUPS AND STRUCTURES

Student Council is the ‘parliament’ of student democracy at Edinburgh University Students’ Association. Elected Reps are required to attend so that the students they represent are democratically represented at Student Council. Any student can propose a motion to be discussed at Student Council and any student can attend if they wish.
3. STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION STAFF

The Students’ Association has over 350 part-time student staff members, and over 150 full-time staff members who work across various teams including representation, peer support, activities, finance, marketing, catering, bars, and retail.

The Students’ Association’s Academic Representation team includes the Vice President Education, two full-time staff members, and three part-time student staff members who support representation and engagement at School, College, and University levels. In addition, staff within the wider Representation and Democracy team support Student Council, welfare and equality, sustainability, and internationalisation.

4. STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLAN

In order to provide a sound base for our strategic planning, and with the University's support, in 2014 we commissioned the largest research exercise the Students’ Association has ever undertaken. Over 3,500 of our students were involved.

*New vision: We believe all students at Edinburgh should have the power to shape their own future and enjoy a vibrant and cohesive student community without prejudice or marginalisation*

- **Goal 1:** Students will experience a dramatic increase in personal contact with the Students’ Association team
- **Goal 2:** All students will enjoy a high quality academic experience supported by the Students’ Association
- **Goal 3:** Students will choose the Students’ Association as a part of their everyday student life
- **Goal 4:** Every student will be encouraged and supported by the Students’ Association to develop their interests and shape their future
- **Goal 5:** Students will know that the Students’ Association understands their priorities and responds effectively

To read the entire Strategic Plan, please visit [https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/about/strategic/](https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/about/strategic/)

5. SECTOR-LEADING WORK

In 2015, Edinburgh University Students’ Association won the National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland award for Best University Students’ Association. In 2016, the Students’ Association won Campaign of the Year at the Herald Higher Education Awards and was shortlisted for the NUS UK Education Award and Officer Team of the Year Award.