



International Practice Scotland

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Students in National Reform: Optimising
stakeholder dialogue



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Student Engagement - not a new thing



- 1986 – NUS produced first class rep training pack.
- 1990's – professionalisation of student academic representative function.
- 1996 – 30 SU staff supporting educational representation.
- Mid 1990's – enterprise in Higher Education project led to more staff development and further focus on training.
- 1994 Act – attack on student unions which helped strengthen the movement
- 2002 – Quality Enhancement Framework – student engagement a key pillar.
- 2003 – sparqs.



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1990's

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Scottish Quality Enhancement Framework



Enhancement Led Institutional review.
Institutional Led Subject review.
Student Engagement.
Enhancement themes.
Public Information.

Underpinned by QAA Quality Code(including subject
benchmarks)and
external examiners plus external quality measures,
e.g. professional accreditation.



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Student Engagement in QEF



- Joint ownership of the arrangements
- Full members of External review panels
- Members of internal review panels and internal quality partners
- Student Engagement actively investigated in external review
- Enhancement themes and other national developments



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'The university and the SRC might want to reflect upon how they could most effectively work together to help sustain a partnership that actively contributes to the development of a policy for the enhancement of student learning'

-University of Glasgow ELIR 2004



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'Partnership has delivered significant development in policies and provision, all of which contribute positively to the student learning experience'

Glasgow University ELIR 2010



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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOSqOFWH0Iw>



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Who are we?



- **s**tudent **p**artnerships in **q**uality **S**cotland
- Full-time staff in Edinburgh and Inverness
- Works with all institutions and students' associations in the university and college sector. Provides international consultancy.
- Scottish Charity - members all sector agencies
- Main Funding – Scottish Funding Council
- www.sparqs.ac.uk



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Our **Vision** is of:



Students making a positive and rewarding difference to their own and others' educational experience, helping shape the nature of learning and contributing to the overall success of Scotland's universities and colleges.



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To make this **Vision** a reality our **Mission** is to



Ensure students are able to engage as partners in all levels of assurance and enhancement activities including:

- Commenting on and shaping their own learning experience.
- Taking an active part in formal student engagement mechanisms, including quality processes and strategic decision making.
- Shaping the development of the student experience at national level.



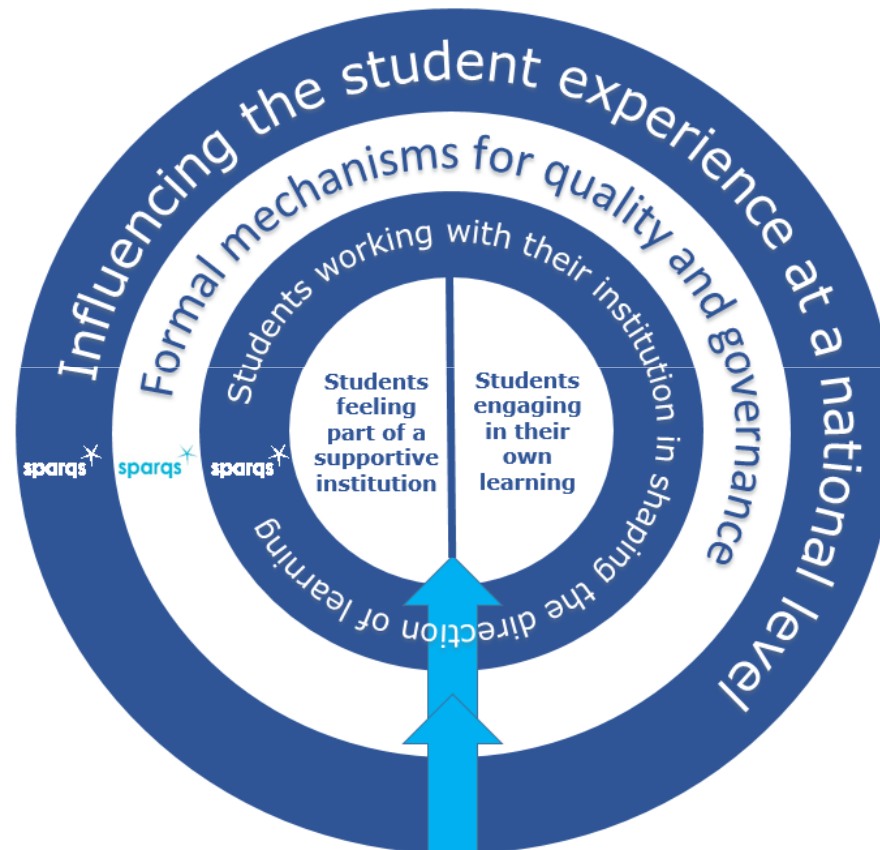
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Student Engagement Framework

**Focus on
enhancement
and change**

Appropriate
resources
and support

Responding
to diversity



Valuing the
student
contribution

A culture of
engagement

**Students
as
partners**

Impact



- 14 out of 18 Universities had S.E highlighted as positive practice in ELIR 3
- Student Partnership Agreements 'a way to strengthen the partnership working between students and staff
- Vice principals defended the Scottish approach to Student Engagements as part of their opposition to Teaching Excellence Framework



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Learning and Teaching dialogue



- Graduate Attributes
- Assessment and Feedback
- Student Transitions
- Gender Action and equality issues
- Academic Calender
- Best Practice in Learning and Teaching
 - dissemination of practice from Student led Awards



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Not just Scotland!



- National Level - NStEP – National Student Union, Quality Agency, Higher Education Funding body
- Institutional level - Artesis Plantijn University College – Senior Staff member (quality/learning and teaching) Student engagement staff support and student representatives
- Develop student expertise **AND** develop institutional capacity to use that expertise



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