

Strathclyde Strategic Framework Alliance

2023 - 2024



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Introduction

During the challenges faced by society in recent years, the interactions between the Student Executive and University Executive Team have proven to be vital to ensuring the University of Strathclyde continues to provide a world-class student experience that reflects the current values of both Strath Union and the University.

Last year, the sabbatical officers of Strath Union and the Principal and his Executive Team worked together to create a new Strategic Alliance agreement which, for the first time, stated our shared intention of working in partnership and identified opportunities for collaborative work to achieve impact and value for our student body.

The first Strategic Alliance built on the StrathUnion strategic plan and the University's strategy Vision 2025. It sat alongside the pre-existing Partnership Agreement, which focusses on operational and structural detail, to give additional direction and focus to our shared endeavours.

In 2023-24, after extensive consultation with staff and students, we now look forward to the launch of the University's next strategy phase, Strathclyde 2030, and our whole Strathclyde community looks forward to celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the Award of our Charter by her late Majesty in 1964.

The priorities and actions in this second Strategic Alliance document highlight the continued ambition and intention to work more closely together on those strategic goals that are common to both organisations and are evidence of the commitment to our student body which we share.



Values

Both the University and Students' Union are values-driven organisations and our values are intrinsic to the work that we do and they epitomise what it is to be a 'Strathclyde'. Whilst the values of the two organisations differ in language, the intent is very much shared around delivering excellence for our students, staff and wider community and we work collaboratively to hold each other accountable for living our respective values and to leveraging these values for the benefit of the entire Strathclyde Community.





University of Strathclyde Values

People-oriented

Committed to our staff and students, providing opportunities and investing in their development.

Bold

Confident and challenging about what we do, and supportive of appropriate and managed risk in our decision-making.

Innovative

Focused on discovering and applying knowledge with impact, and encouraging creative thinking and new ideas.

Collaborative

Working together, internally and externally, with integrity and in an open, respectful way.

Ambitious

For our institution, staff and students as well as supporting the ambitions of our partners.



Strath Union Values

Speak Up

We confidently share our own voice and empower others to speak their truth.

Seize the Opportunity

We intentionally experiment and try new things to be the best at what we do.

Join Forces

We bring a can-do attitude and take shared responsibility to deliver greater impact together.

Back each other

We stand for diversity and inclusion and support each other to bring our full selves.

Governance

The current Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) is the responsibility of the Student Experience Committee (SEC), which is co-chaired by the Strath Union President and reports to the University's Education Strategy Committee (ESC).

The Strathclyde Strategic Alliance (SSA) reports directly to the two Executives (University ET and Strath Union Student Exec) with regular updates between the Student President and the Principal.

Executive Reporting on the SSA takes place at least once per semester at an Executive-to-Executive meeting. This document will be reviewed annually with a change in the Executive in the Students' Union to reflect changing priorities and agreed in the first Executive-Executive meeting of the academic year (typically September).

Goals of the Alliance



Through our collaboration we seek to deliver a world-class student experience, working together to deliver relevant University strategic objectives and aspiring to be recognised as the leading UK Students' Union offering an experience only obtainable at Strathclyde. Such an experience should be fully accessible for all students and reflect the needs, wants and desires of an ever-changing and evolving student body. Furthermore, we seek to empower the thriving and diverse community of Strathclyde students and to prepare and equip them for life at our University and beyond.

Key Themes & Deliverables for 2023 - 2024



The alliance agreement is designed to be implemented for the longer term, however, there will be annual deliverables and objectives that the University and Union will agree to work on together.



Wellbeing

- Improve quality of life for all at Strathclyde.
- Supporting students with information and services that encourage peer support, self-directed support and greater agency so that all students are thriving at Strathclyde.



Key Themes & Deliverables for 2023 - 2024 > Wellbeing

Objectives:

Deliverables

Improving access to support services and information on the services that are available to all students.

- Developing and launching the Strathclyde Flourish programme.
- Collecting data about any issues in referrals to support services and identifying possible areas of improvement to facilitate timely access.

Developing a sustainable peer to peer support network across the University at all levels of study.

- Supporting student-led mental health initiatives (e.g. Nightline, Hear to Listen) and pioneering a [Camerados](#) living room on Campus.

Embed StrathActive and intramural sport in our physical activity and wellbeing offering to support all students and staff at Strathclyde.

- Securing long-term funding to support StrathActive and ensure future growth for the Sports Union given increased activity levels.

Sustainability

- Instill a sense of duty to contribute to a sustainable future, both for present and future generations. This commitment extends beyond campus, shaping lifelong learners who champion sustainability in their personal and professional lives.
- Empower students through an environmentally sustainable university experience, fostering wellbeing, knowledge and leadership for a greener future with a focus on sustainably effective policies and procedures that have the students' futures in mind.



Key Themes & Deliverables for 2023 - 2024 > Sustainability

Objectives:

Deliverables

Ensure Strathclyde is sector-leading and living out its values with regards to sustainability and ethical investment.

- A University Ethical Investment policy is finalised and operationalised as part of the sustainability contribution of the University in the context of the University's wider work around ESG during this next strategic cycle.

Embedded sustainability education for all staff and students – through curriculum or induction.

- Define route map to universal provision of content, using existing credit-bearing modules where appropriate.

Adequately resourcing the Students' Union to deliver on sustainability objectives for the student body and in partnership with the University.

- Explore resources required to deliver sustainability objectives – through a full-time Sustainability Coordinator or otherwise.

Student Community

- No student has to face homelessness during their stay at Strathclyde University as this impacts their mental health and academic performance.
- The University and Union acknowledge students' struggle while studying in these times and should continue initiatives that have supported students in the past whilst pioneering new initiatives.
- Students and staff work in partnership to improve the student experience at Strathclyde and move from excellent to outstanding.



Key Themes & Deliverables for 2023 - 2024 > Student Community

Objectives:

Deliverables

University support on housing for every registered student.

- Joint Union and University Housing Policy.
- Pilot new initiatives to tackle rogue landlords.
- Establish potential for a Student Guarantor scheme available for qualifying students without UK-based guarantors.

Mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on Strathclyde Students.

- Extend Hardship funding to international students.
- Campaign for Free Bus Travel for all University students with NUS Scotland and lobbying local and national politicians.
- Continue campaign for post-graduation council tax relief.

Sector leading representative system adopted across all Faculties and Departments.

- Upgrade Strath Reps to ensure it is future-proofed, supported and fit for purpose.

Build the existing student community and tackle loneliness and isolation.

- Implement a sustainable buddy system with support from Faculties around recruitment and training.

Creating more available spaces to support student activities.

- Undertake a project to identify areas that the Students' Union could access to support the growing number of clubs and societies.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, Accessibility (IDEA)

- Empower students from diverse backgrounds to pursue leadership roles and equip them with knowledge, skills and experiences. Deepen students' knowledge on equality, diversity and inclusion and encourage them to take inclusion into account in their decision making.
- Actively improve accessibility across the campus and in education, ensure students are not excluded from their learning due to any of their protected characteristics, caring responsibilities, mental health and any experience of trauma.



Key Themes & Deliverables for 2023 - 2024 > Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, Accessibility (IDEA)

Objectives:

Deliverables

Ensure all our diverse student groups have the relevant skills, outside of their degree, to feel inspired, thrive and flourish in the future.

- Enhance and grow the programme of activities that supports students to develop transferable skills and build confidence to prepare them for the world of work.
- Nurture an inclusive curriculum by actively engaging with decolonisation and decarbonisation work in education.

Provide alternative ways for students to access their learning utilising cutting edge technology, e.g. AI., where necessary for inclusion.

- Ensure a multitude of tools for students to support their learning, catering for diverse needs (e.g. audio recordings, transcripts).

Actively improving accessibility on campus, ensure students can get round campus with minimum effort and time.

- Improved communications, signposting and wayfinding around route closures, alternative routes and forewarning.

Equity of experience for January start students.

- Assessing staff capacity and workload to ensure even distribution throughout the year and adequate academic and support staff across all departments and professional services to meet the needs of students' regardless of start date.
- Ensuring January starts have the same experience as those starting in September.

These objectives will be enabled by:

- Adhering to the values and commitments set out in the Student Partnership Agreement, the M.O.U. with Strathclyde Sport, the Student Mental Health Agreement and the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Agreement.
- Effective and purposeful resource-sharing and communication between Strath Union and the University of Strathclyde.
- Shared communication strategy around how we inform the student and staff bodies about our shared work.



Strathclyde Strategic Alliance 2023 - 2024

SIGNED:

Professor Sir Jim McDonald,
Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde

Eva Curran,
Strathclyde Students' Union President 2023 - 2024

DATE:

15/11/23

