



Partnership agreement

Glasgow Kelvin College Students Association and Glasgow Kelvin College

This document sets out the partnership between
Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin
College Students' Association

Glasgow Kelvin College
Academic Year 2017/18

Introduction

This document sets out the partnership between Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin College Students' Association. The engagement, involvement and representation of students (both individually and collectively) is critical to the success of Glasgow Kelvin College and the Students' Association, and the advancement of the aims of the Board both at a college and regional level.

What is a partnership?

The terms 'partner' and 'partnership' are used in a broad sense to indicate joint working between the students and staff. Partnership working is based on the values of:

- openness;
- trust and Honesty;
- agreed and shared goals and values; and
- regular communication between the partners.

It is not based on the legal conception of equal responsibility and liability; rather, partnership working recognises that all members in the partnership have legitimate but different perceptions and experiences. By working together to a common and agreed purpose steps can be taken that lead to enhancements for all concerned. The terms reflect a mature relationship based on mutual respect between students and staff.

Part A of this agreement outlines the general approaches to student engagement and partnership working between Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin College Students' Association 2017-2020.

Part B outlines specific project aims to be jointly undertaken during academic year 2017/18.

The College and the Students' Association will work together to ensure students have a positive college experience and are able to feed into college quality processes, to enable change within not only their course but the wider working life of the college. Working through these means ensures goals can be achieved in a timely and effective manner.

The purpose of this agreement is to highlight activities undertaken to improve the student experience through the partnership between Glasgow Kelvin College (The College) and Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association (GKCSA). It does not replace other strategic documents, and the activities are not limited by the document – both parties actively encourage student involvement in improving and shaping their education. This agreement is complimentary to all other local, regional, and national partnerships. Part B should be reviewed and agreed annually, before the beginning of the academic year to incorporate manifesto pledges of incoming officers. The agreement will be signed by the President of GKCSA for the year, and the Principal of the College.

Glasgow Kelvin College Student Association Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Student Association shall be to:

- advance the entirety of the learner experience of its members;
- provide the facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations, which will improve their conditions of life by enabling or assisting them to participate in the intellect, social and other activities of or connected with Glasgow Kelvin College, of which they have need by reason of their being learners;
- act as a channel of communication between its members and the College Board and Management teams within;
- pursue any matter whatsoever of interest to its members;
- represent the views and interests of learners in the college and the wider community; and
- represent the students in disciplinary procedures.

Glasgow Kelvin College Ethos

Glasgow Kelvin College's ethos derives from its commitment to Excellence, Progression and Enterprise. It seeks to provide learning opportunities of the highest quality, which engage learners from the widest range of backgrounds, and support their progression to employment or to further study. It seeks to develop enterprise in individuals – as a core skill for learning, life and work; and to support enterprise in both organisations and communities – by developing the capacity of both employers and employees and of community representation.

The ethos is an inclusive one, and is developed through a series of commitments:

- commitment to the priority of the needs of the service user;
- commitment to quality and innovation;
- commitment to ethical curriculum design;
- commitment to improving access and equality of opportunity;
- commitment to learner engagement and customer care;
- commitment to staff involvement;
- commitment to collaborative working;
- commitment to de-centralisation and outreach;
- commitment to sustainable development; and
- commitment to high standards or governance.

A strong and mutual respectful partnership with the Students' Association will enable the College to reach their commitments through effective engagement of students.

Our Community

Glasgow Kelvin College and GKCSA are proud of the contribution the college makes to the local community. Our mission is to develop skills and personal attributes in our students for the benefit of the whole community in the North East of Glasgow and the surrounds. Our student body is central to that mission. Both Glasgow Kelvin College and GKCSA value the diversity of the student population here, and work to make sure everyone feels welcome and supported. All staff and students should interact in a way which helps create an inclusive, pleasant and welcoming environment for all. Students at Glasgow Kelvin College are represented collectively by GKCSA. GKCSA represents the views and interests of all students to the college and other decision makers, and works in partnership with the college to secure the best possible student experience.

To find out more please visit www.glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

PART A

Student representation

Effective student representation will ensure that students are enabled to express their views and opinions through a variety of different mechanisms to shape the life of the college:

- student responses to feedback surveys and focus groups;
- course team meetings;
- class representative meetings;
- student representation on college Committees and the Board of Management, and its standing committees ;
- Strategic Planning days;
- facilitated discussions;
- Education Scotland reviews; and
- external verification events.

Each class shall have at least one class representative who will act upon the classes behalf to feedback to GKCSA and other relevant bodies to ensure any issues are dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. Class reps shall also meet at least once a term at the Student Representative Council to address any ongoing issues/ratify GKCSA policy. GKCSA will then engage in the college policy and procedures to facilitate change where required and recommended.

Fair student representation on committee's both internal and at board level shall be encouraged by both parties and where ever possible all barriers including timetabling and transport to venue will be removed by the college when organising meetings/committees to ensure student participation.

Students shaping the Life of the College

Learner engagement is one of the three key principles on which college quality arrangements are based. College staff are increasingly involving learners in shaping and agreeing how they will learn. Learners provide feedback on how well learning and teaching approaches, programmes and college services meet their needs. Colleges are using feedback from learners to make improvements to programmes and services. Staff are involving learners in working together to enhance and enrich the learning experience and the work and wider life of the college. Managers are involving learners in the planning and decision-making processes at college level, through meaningful involvement of learners in cross-college groups, standing committees of the Board and other college committees.

The College and the Students' Association have agreed to work in partnership to raise awareness and participation in the Students' Association during session 2017/18, together they will:

- engage learners in class rep meetings to gather information of student views and to disseminate information from the college, region and national SA activities;
- promote SA activities to increase engagement within SA clubs & societies; and
- work in partnership to engage students in college and community activities.

Glasgow Kelvin College and Glasgow Kelvin College Students' Association have agreed to work together on the following issues over the coming year, we will undertake equality impact assessments on any policies which arise from this work.

PART B

Employability

The College takes the view that the learning experience can, and should, be designed to help learners enhance their employability and enterprise skills – both through experiential learning, inside and outside the formal College curriculum, and through supported career education, planning and management. It particularly recognises the value of meaningful work experience.

Ensuring that students recognise the relevance of the skills in the world of work.

The College and Students' Association will:

- promote the importance of employability skills and work placement opportunities;
- support opportunities for partnership in project working throughout the college; and
- support the student ambassador role to promote my world of work and recognise employability skills development through college activities – Gazelle, embedding employability skills/units into college courses

Gender Action Plan

To support the Scottish government initiative to address gender imbalances in traditional routes of learning. The College has produced a gender action plan to target the gender imbalances within the curriculum, as highlighted by admissions and enrolments data. The College and the SA will:

- work in partnership with schools, employers and other associations to promote programmes which aim to address gender imbalance in line with the agreed outcomes;
- support the college gender action plan activities; and
- facilitate support groups for students where there is gender imbalance.

Health and Wellbeing

The time our learners spend at college emphasises the importance of promoting health and wellbeing in the wider areas of the college and beyond. Investing in health and wellbeing campaigns can have positive outcomes both for learners and staff and the college. Studies have shown there is a relationship between the psychological wellbeing of our learners and positive organisational outcomes, such as reduced levels of sickness, stress and absences as well as enhanced productivity and performance within their courses. The College and the SA will:

- encourage learner participation on the Health and Wellbeing group within the College;
- work with external organisations to promote the importance of good mental and physical health; and
- encourage learners and staff to participate in any organised social events that promote health and wellbeing.

Overall statement

Glasgow Kelvin College and the Student Association agree to work together to investigate and address any issues arising from student feedback, as required throughout the year. Glasgow Kelvin College agrees to support the Student Association to fulfil their role to represent the student body.