

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2023/2024



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS

YOUR **union**
UWS



Section A

PURPOSE, APPROACH & VALUES

SPA: Purpose

We believe partnership should be at the heart of a 21st Century University. To reinforce this the Students' Union and the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) have agreed to annually review the Student Partnership Agreement (SPA). The purpose of this Student Partnership Agreement is to outline the areas in which UWS and the Students' Union will work together in partnership to enhance the student learning experience. The 2023–2024 agreement reinforces our commitment to working together to create a contemporary, inspirational, and collaborative learning environment where everyone is valued and has the opportunity to enhance the learning experience, both for themselves and future students.

SPA: Approach

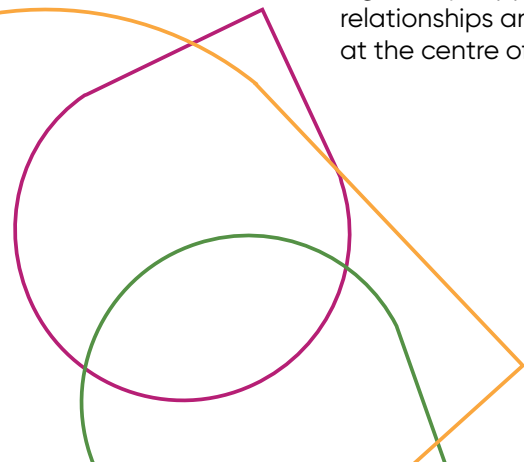
We agree that our partnership approach is based on mutual respect, trust, and genuine commitment to instil and enhance feelings of belonging and worth. Section A provides an overview of partnership opportunities at UWS and describes how all students can get involved. Section B identifies our agreed priorities and actions, which will be the focus of our shared activity across the next academic session. Section C provides an update on the successes achieved through our partnership.

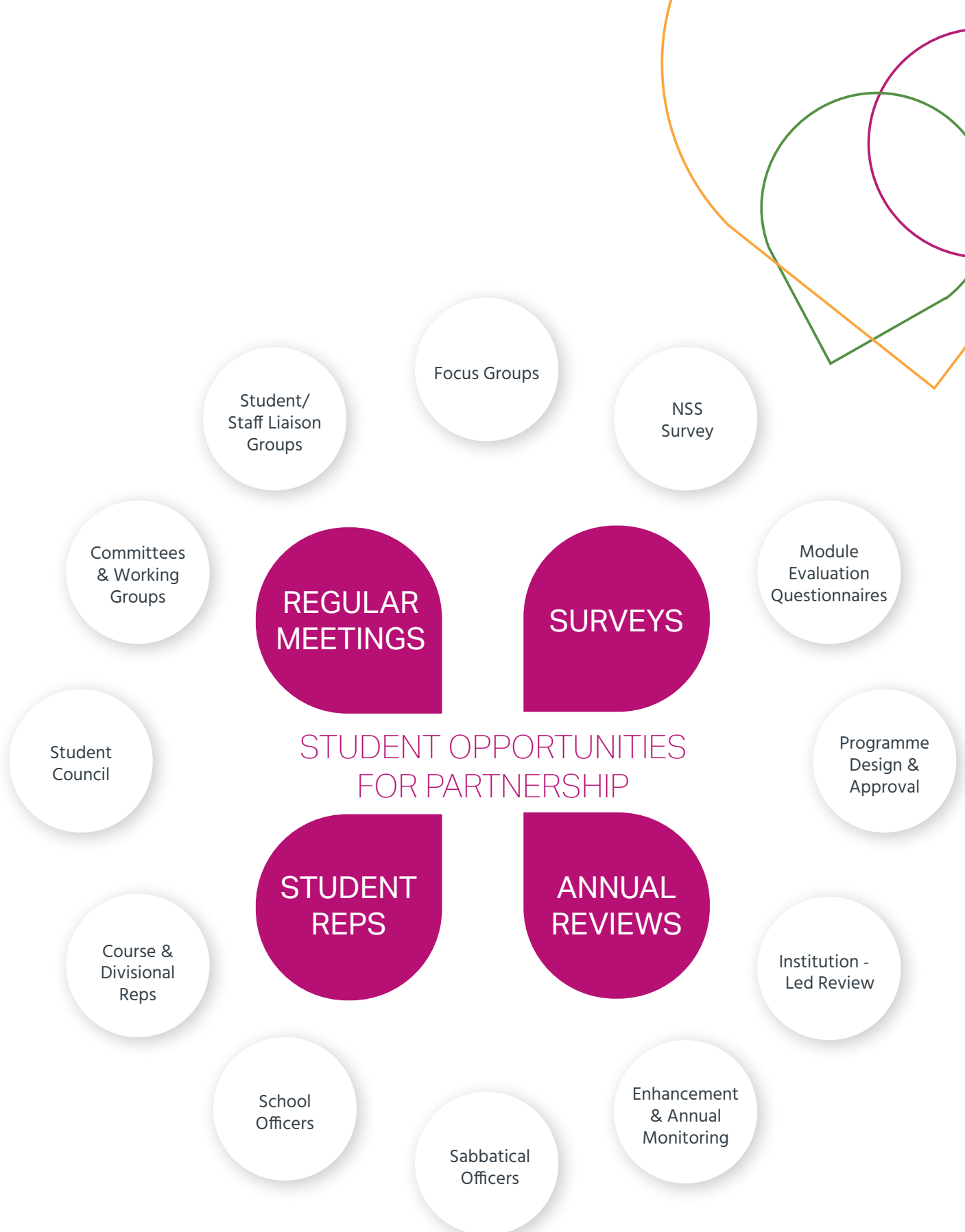
SPA: Values

The Students' Union and UWS believe that the SPA continues to be a powerful driver of positive change, promoting critical reflection and enhancement activity across the work and activity of the University. Through a united approach to partnership working, we actively draw upon the diverse perspectives, experience, and expertise available across the University. Our Partnership Agreement emphasises the significance and importance of the role of students in decision-making at UWS.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY PARTNERSHIP AT UWS?

The commitment to partnership can be clearly seen in the University's Strategy 2025 and Learning and Teaching Thematic plan. The University and the Students' Union also have a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out how the two organisations practically work together. This Student Partnership Agreement is written for all partners, including students, academics, professional service staff and senior managers, vigorously supporting a breadth and depth of reflection on our current relationships and practices. The 2023–2024 SPA explicitly places students at the centre of the enhancement work of our university.





Section B

PRIORITIES & ACTIONS

Education

We will continue to work together to keep developing the involvement of students in improving their educational experience at UWS. We will:

- Work together to ensure equity in learning and teaching design and delivery across all campuses, informed by all members of the UWS community.
- Contribute to ongoing efforts to develop an institutional strategy for an intersectional, decolonised, and anti-racist curriculum and environment that builds a shared understanding, language, and approach across the University.
- Work together to strengthen communication and engagement with the Student Representative system across UWS throughout the year, including a central integrated platform for training, knowledge exchange, quality assurance and enhancement activities.

Student Opportunities

We will continue to work together to ensure students have the opportunity to work in partnership and participate fully in life at UWS. We will:

- Proactively create and encourage connections between the university and students to develop and maintain social and academic opportunities within and across campuses, enabling further development of UWS graduate attributes.
- Work together to ensure that students know how to utilise a range of different communication methods to engage across campuses.

Mental Health/Wellbeing

We will support students' mental health and wellbeing, being mindful of the ongoing considerations including cost of living and return to campus after the coronavirus pandemic. We will:

- Ensure the range of health and wellbeing needs of students are understood, including signposting and increasing awareness of a wide range of support services in the student community.
- Enhance the accessibility of UWS and continue to provide a supportive environment, remaining mindful of the financial, digital, practical, and cultural barriers many of our students face.
- Foster a sense of community at UWS, encouraging one another to be good people.

Section C

SPA PARTNERSHIP SUCCESSES


The following section provides an overview of partnership achievements during 2022/2023 which are successes we will continue to build on as we progress this new partnership agreement for 2023/2024.

Education

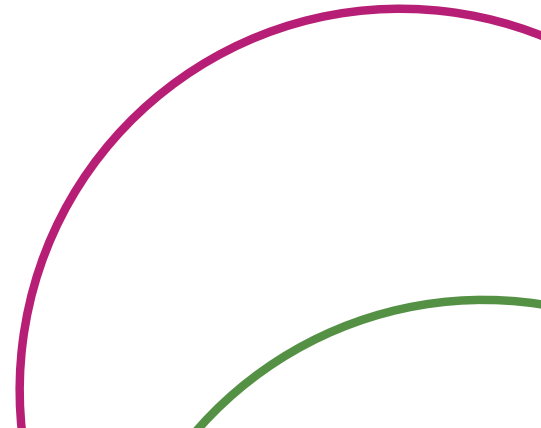
- The Student Partnership Forum has continued to provide a space for student feedback, set up as a student-centred space to discuss and inform developments in UWS learning experiences.
- UWS senior managers have attended each Student Council to introduce their roles and services and tap into the views of students.
- For the first time in a significant amount of time, the Academic Quality Committee (AQC) has had a full cohort of Student Officers from all 4 Schools. 8 Student Officers in total were part of the AQC for 2022-2023 academic year and were invited to attend all of the Committee meetings as well as briefing meetings with the Chair ahead of every full meeting.
- UWS students significantly contributed to the success of the Institution's recent Quality Enhancement Standards Review (QESR) event which happened in March. Students were asked to provide feedback and participate in meetings with the representatives from The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Scotland, and the honest and reflective feedback was well received by the reviewers.
- A timetabling survey was sent out to students and used to explore how hybrid learning and delivery was working for them, and the results have been used to enhance this approach.
- Union Sabbatical Officers executed a series of events in October as part of Black History Month with UWS staff, alumni, and students to promote and recognise black people's contributions to the innovative, medical, economic, sport, and cultural development of the UK and the world.

Student Opportunities

- Society members and student reps received recognition from UWS on their volunteering role from the UWS Volunteer Recognition Award.
- A 'Life After University' event in March was designed by Union Sabbatical Officers to equip postgraduate international students with the tools and skills needed to succeed in the professional world. A panel of experts made up of staff from the University, Students' Union, Black Professionals Scotland, and JP Morgan shared practical insight on topics from networking and career planning to job searching.
- Careers Service, Alumni team, and Union Sabbatical Officers worked together on the design and delivery of a careers support event, 'Building Your Future', where career professionals, UWS alumni, and a range of academic and professional staff offered a range of workshops, presentations, and networking opportunities for final year students and recent graduates on Paisley Campus in May.
- UWS Paramedic Society provided free CPR Training as part of an event for 'World Restart a Heart Day'. The society offered CPR training on the day to students and staff on the street at the Lanarkshire campus.

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- UWS Physics & Astronomy Society hosted a guest lecture event with Professor Martin Hendry "Listening to Einstein's Universe: The dawn, and exciting future, of gravitational-wave astronomy". Students were invited to the Paisley campus to hear from a senior member of the team who detected the very first gravitational waves.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- The Student Mental health agreement for 2022/2023 was signed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching & Students) at UWS and the Vice President of Welfare and Wellbeing at The Students' Union. The agreement is a partnership between the UWS and the Union, part of the NUS Think Positive Student Mental Health Agreement Project.
 - The Students' Union have held social walks in partnership with International Student Support where students can come along for a walk and chat informally with advisors.
 - The Students' Union and UWS worked together to introduce free sanitary products with the 'Hey Girls' campaign in March, enabling students to order products and have them delivered to their home, all free of charge.
 - A student mental health day was held in March where UWS Counselling and Wellbeing team, along with The Students' Union Advice Service and Sabbatical Officers worked together to inform students of all the support available to them both at stalls on campus and on social media. The team also carried out activities to encourage students to talk about what methods they use to reduce stress and to post them for other students to see
 - Paws Against Stress events have been held across Paisley, Ayr and Lanarkshire campuses, allowing students 20 minutes to sit and interact with the trained therapy dogs and their handlers. The events are timed to coincide with the end of the term and when students submit and complete assessments, with Student Services signposting students to the events.
 - Supported by The Students' Union Advice Service, UWS Funding and Advice executed The National Association of Student Money Advisers' (NASMA) National Student Money Week in February and March. Staff were present on each Scottish campus running events related to the theme for this year's money week: Navigating Numbers, Coping with the Cost of Living
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THE AGREEMENT

This partnership agreement communicates our commitment to continue to work in partnership to enhance and improve UWS for all members of the University.

Signed on behalf of
University of the West of Scotland



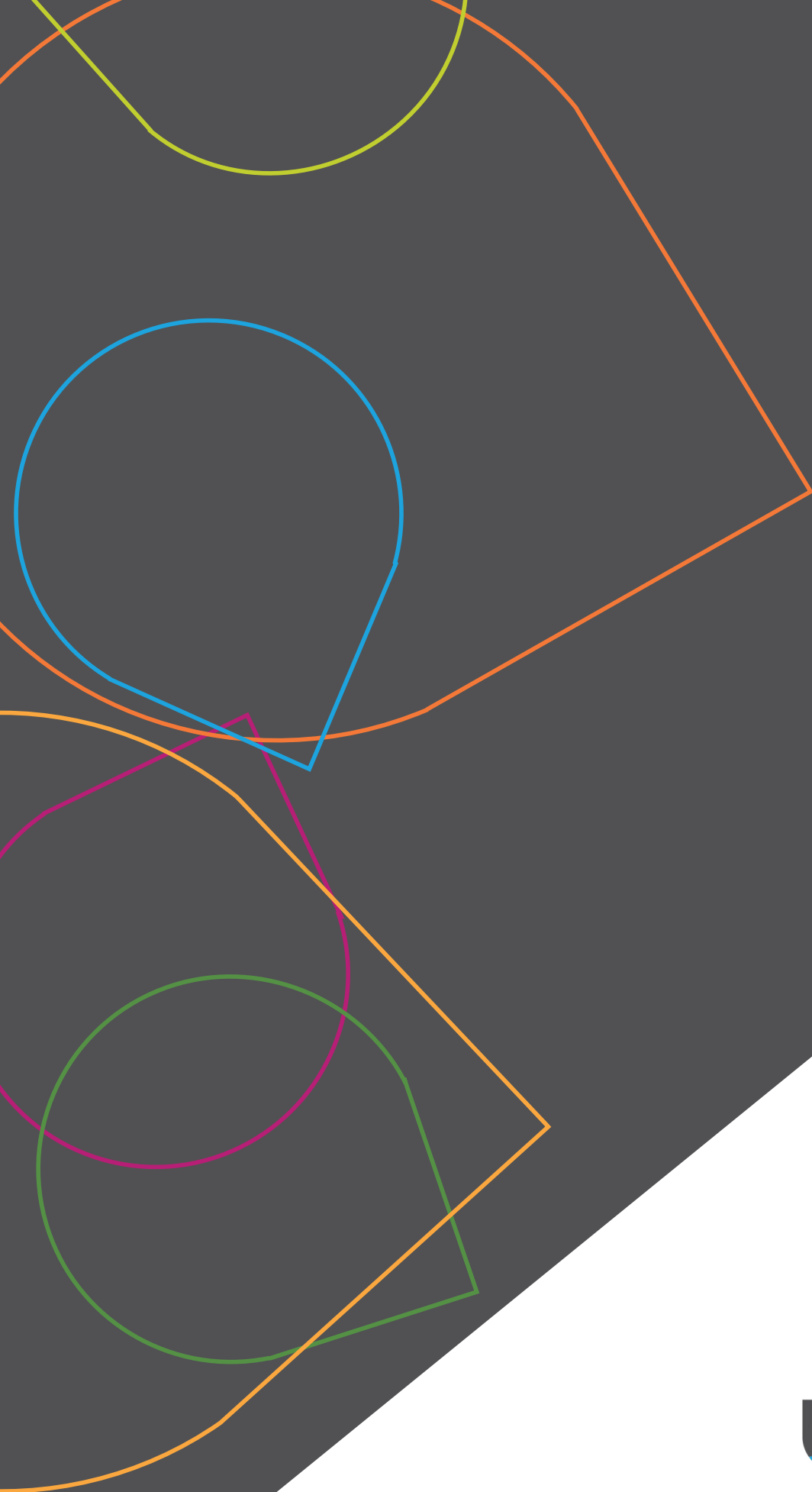
UWS Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Signed on behalf of the
Students' Union of UWS



Students' Union President





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