

Representation and Student Support Team

The Representation and Student Support Team provides support for student representatives, including our four sabbatical officers, on a range of activities, projects and campaigns; runs a number of projects to enhance the student experience, including our annual Teaching Awards, the TANDEM language scheme, Peer Proofreading; and provides individual welfare and academic information support and advice through the Advice Place.

The Advice Place



The Advice Place offers a friendly and professional walk-in advisory service for students that is informative, independent and confidential. The service is provided by professional staff, including specialist welfare and academic advisers and trained volunteers. We currently deal with around 15,500 enquiries each year. Enquiries are predominantly around

funding, financial concerns, academic issues and housing, but we deal with a wide range of issues. We can also provide information about a variety of other services and information providers, including University support services and local and national support organisations on issues such as debt counselling and sexual health. Students contact us by simply walking in or making an appointment at our offices, and can also access services by e-mail, telephone or through our web pages at www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/advice

We ensure that student representation projects and campaigns are informed by relevant trends in enquiries received through the Advice Place service. Examples of recent campaigns and representation work of this nature include Moneyvember and Wellbeing Week, and the establishment of our Peer Proofreading scheme.

Representation to the University of Edinburgh

EUSA enjoys a constructive relationship with the University, with students represented on committees at central, College and School level. We support and train a network of class reps across the University and work to increase student engagement at all levels. We are heavily involved in a number of strategic projects with the University, including the Enhancing Student Support project, which aims to transform academic and pastoral support at the University. EUSA is facilitating the development and expansion of peer support across the University as part of this project. We also developed EUSA Global, to complement Edinburgh Global, the University's internationalisation strategy. This has given us the capacity to develop a range of projects and activities supporting international students, and bringing home and international students together. These have recently included an international buddies scheme, a Welcome Home event for students who have studied or volunteered abroad, the launch of an online tool for students to

share their hints, tips and questions about studying at Edinburgh, and hosting a TedX conference here at Edinburgh.

Other current activities relating to student representation and support include the development of a Postgraduate Network to facilitate postgraduate engagement with EUSA, developing our support and communication with Online Distance Learners (an expanding group within the University), supporting and promoting our new democratic structures, developing a new Accommodation Experience Forum with Accommodation Services and campaigning for fairer international student fees.

Activities Team

Our Activities team is based in Connect, EUSA's drop-in centre to help students make the most of their time at university. Connect provides a range of opportunities for students to get involved both on campus by joining a society, or off-campus by volunteering in the local community.

Connect supports over 200 student societies, (Astronomy to Juggling, Animation to West Coast Swing dancing, and everything in between), and our Volunteering service, which sources volunteering opportunities for students to apply for through an online interactive service, as well as offering advice and support with their volunteering through EUSA. We also run eVOLve Wednesdays which give a team of students the chance to try out different kinds of volunteering. EUSA supports the Edinburgh Award, which enables students to reflect on the experiences and skills they have developed, and gain recognition for this from the University.

