

# ENSA IMPACT REPORT

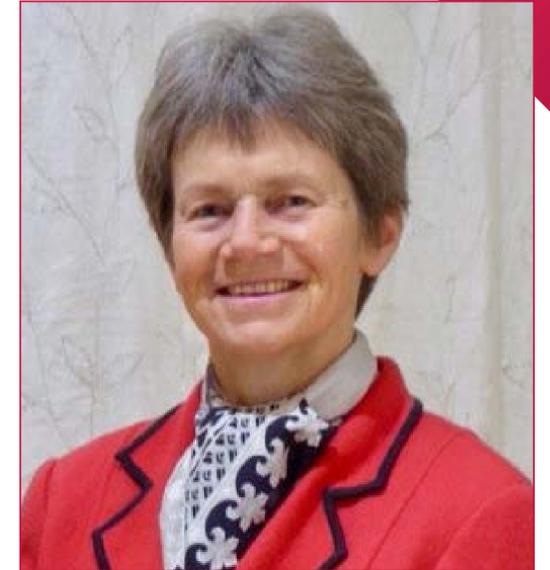
▶▶▶ SESSION 20/21 ◀◀◀

# ■ FOREWORD

I worked for ENSA from July to December 2020 as the Interim CEO. The campuses had closed in March 2020; all the ENSA staff were working from home. The team planned and delivered a fully online programme of events for Freshers Week in September, encouraged new students to join sports clubs and societies, supported the election of over 320 Programme Representatives, ran campaigns and continued to provide an advice service.

They coped with all the changing guidelines on student learning and on sports, activities and events. What a team! And now I'm the Chair of the Trustee Board, pleased to be able to guide and support ENSA in providing as good an Edinburgh Napier student experience as possible during the pandemic restrictions and as we plan for the future.

**DR JENNY REES** (*Chair of the Trustee Board*)



I'm a 3rd year BA (Hons) International Business Management student from Nottingham. I volunteer as a student lay trustee to improve my understanding of governance, gain valuable experience, and positively impact our University community.

**AIDEN KREMIN-PACEY** (*Lay Trustee*)



I'm a 4th Year BA (Hons) Social Sciences student. I decided to volunteer as a Student Lay Trustee because I wanted to play a part in ensuring that students are provided with the best possible student experience whilst at the University.

**EUAN HENDERSON** (*Lay Trustee*)



# ■ ELECTED OFFICERS

## **ANKIT DUGGAL**

ENSA Student  
President

Covid-19 has hit students hard and I have lobbied the University to provide more help for students experiencing digital poverty and financial hardship. I took part in the NUS campaign to secure additional funding for students' wellbeing, receiving £20,000 from the Scottish Government for services including mental health training. Events such as Holocaust Memorial Day have promoted an inclusive community and funding from Keep Scotland Beautiful allows us to develop more sustainable and nature-friendly campuses.



## **HELOISA FYFE**

Vice President  
for Reps and  
Volunteers

This year, I have focused on sustainability, representation, community and 'Promoting Positive Choices'. I am developing a Sustainability Charter, to ensure that sustainability underpins ENSA's work, and led the team which received the British Hedgehog Preservation Society's Bronze Award. I have created and received funding for a new Buddy System to help new students settle into University and my 'Promoting Positive Choices' working group has raised awareness around consent, safe sex, alcohol and drug use.



## **NIKHIL REDDY**

Vice President  
for Sports and  
Societies

My focus this year has been on student wellbeing. I led an anti-smoking campaign, a 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign and organised a free bike tour, alongside Ankit, to promote active, sustainable travel. I also led the 'Surviving Financially as a Student' group, to help students manage their money and find part-time jobs, as well as working with the University to ensure that ENSA training is included on students' Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).



# ■ COMMUNITY

*Creating a sense of belonging & inclusion*

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen a shift in how ENSA, and the student community in general, interacts and operates. Many of our sports clubs and societies have demonstrated resilience and creativity in keeping their existing communities active and building new ones, with five new societies and two new sports clubs joining us this year.

However, other clubs and societies have not been so lucky, suffering a sharp decline in membership, due to limited activity and public health restrictions, and the threat of financial instability, due reduced income and sponsorship.

In response, ENSA has committed £5000 from the £20000 of additional funding received from the Scottish Government, to create a Sports & Societies Recovery fund. This fund will provide an opportunity for our clubs and societies to apply for a grant to help them rebuild their membership, stabilise their finances and continue to provide an excellent range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activity.

## DIGITAL COMMUNITY CASE STUDIES:

By moving their meetings online and hosting 'A Podcast of One's Own' every two weeks, the **Edinburgh Napier Feminist Society** have continued educate and inspire students across the globe. Their collaborations with the BAME, Sustainability and Queer Napier societies, have also facilitated open and honest discussions across the student community.

The **Edinburgh Napier Built Environment Society** has enhanced the experience of students through our Livestream platform. The digital world also creates a wide range of interactions with alumni and external companies, who may not have been available in person, and builds stronger links for the future.



# WELLBEING

## *Supporting students' mental and physical health*

Student wellbeing remains a top priority for ENSA. The global pandemic has given rise to new student issues, including digital poverty and isolation. It has also exacerbated others, such as financial and accommodation problems.

The ENSA Advice service provides free, independent and confidential advice and support. It has assisted many students in crisis, helping them to access food banks, providing money advice and supporting them with funding applications, alongside representing and advocating for students on issues such as academic misconduct, accommodation issues and fee payments.

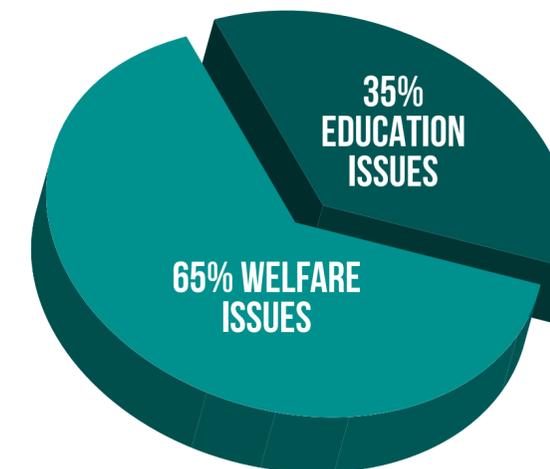
ENSA's Full-Time Officers have been working with teaching staff from across the University

to facilitate informal 'Coffee & Chat' drop-in sessions. These allowed students to raise issues in a relaxed atmosphere, to help reduce the 'stigma' of needing, and asking for, additional help and support.

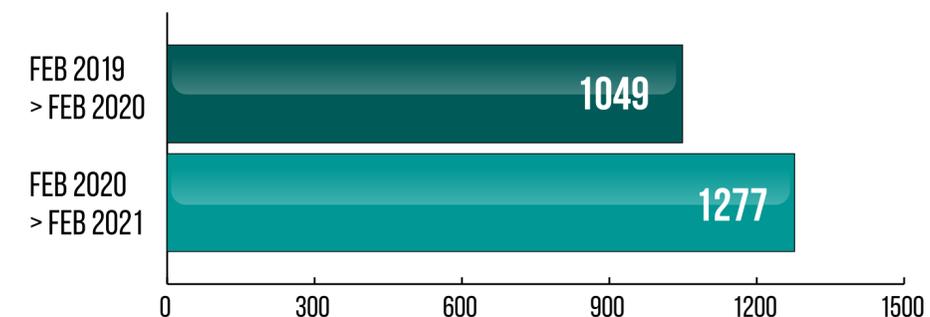
Ensuring students can maintain their physical and mental health has also remained a focus for ENSA, and we are working towards a Healthy Body Healthy Mind Award, in recognition of this work.

ENSA has committed funds to train staff to deliver Scottish Mental Health First Aid and Student Minds Mental Health courses to students, as well as providing guidance, sanitisation equipment and a robust 'Track & Trace' system to ensure students can access Covid-safe sport, where possible.

ENSA ADVICE - TYPES OF CASES 20/21



ENSA ADVICE - NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS



Our clubs have also embraced digital sports participation, with fully online sessions from our Dance and Cheerleading clubs. Our Triathlon and Athletics clubs also collaborate to provide weekly online fitness sessions.

# ■ EMPOWERMENT

## *Empowering students to make change*

Empowering students to bring about positive change for themselves, their communities and the environment is central to many of ENSA's campaigns and events.

Although public health restrictions have required our events and campaigns to be held online, we have still seen a good level of student engagement, particularly as we have been able to facilitate more evening events, to fit better with students' other commitments.

Our work to promote diversity, inclusion and wellbeing across the University, has seen campaigns for:

- Black History Month
- Disability History Month
- LGBT+ History Month
- Interfaith Week
- Climate Change
- Mental Health Support
- Exam/Assessment Support
- International Women's Day

Our Feel Fab Feb campaign has continued to inspire students to look after their mental and physical health, with 65 wide ranging activities, live streams, drop-in events and healthy living tips and resources.



Our collaboration with the Lion's Gate permaculture project has received £3000 of funding, from Keep Scotland Beautiful, to develop sustainable and nature-friendly spaces at all three campuses.

As part of our 'virtual' Freshers week, we hosted over 30 online events, including quizzes, 'watch parties', and 'live streams' from University services and teams, as well as drop-in sessions hosted by our sports clubs and student societies.

In January, our 'Welcome Back Week', saw another 15 online events, offering students further opportunities to engage and interact.



# ■ EDUCATION & REPRESENTATION

*Enabling students to shape their university experience*

ENSA continues to support students to shape their own university experience, through our Full-Time Elected Officers, our Programme Rep network and the ENSA 50 (a diverse group of students focusing on bringing about positive change in students' lives).

Our Programme Rep network has remained active this year, with over 320 Programme Reps completing our online training, which has been reviewed and redeveloped in partnership with the University Quality and Enhancement team.

Our online Rep Forums have also been well attended and have highlighted many new issues for students, particularly related to the impact of Covid-19 and online learning, such as concerns around work placements, obtaining practical skills and how students can access additional support, financially and academically.

These issues have informed the work of our Full-Time Elected Officers, who have lobbied University management to make sure they are considered and addressed.

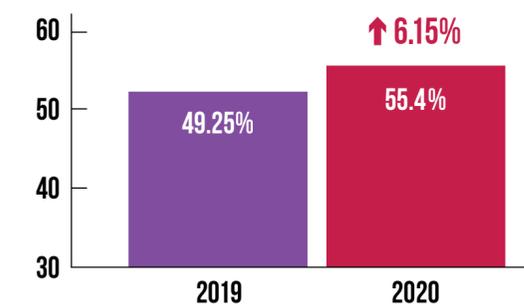
Our first Student Council of the year, held at the end of November, saw the University Principal and Vice-Principal join our 'breakout rooms', to speak directly with students and gain valuable insight into the issues they face and the impact of the pandemic on the student experience.

The ENSA 50 have also identified three key areas of focus and have formed working groups to target each of these - Surviving Financially as a Student, Promoting Positive Choices and Supporting Student Communities - each led by one of our Full-Time Elected Officers.



**National Student Survey**

*Q26: The students' association effectively represents students' academic interests*



**5** *Up 5 places to 9th out of 18 in Scotland.*

# ■ EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ENSA's annual Excellence Awards invite students to nominate the staff and students that have made their student experience truly 'excellent'. With awards across a wide range of categories, from teaching staff and academic support to on-campus services and inspirational students, the Excellence Awards celebrates the best of what Edinburgh Napier has to offer.

Our Awards for 2019-20 received over 250 nominations from students but, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were unable to announce the winners until the new academic year. Although we couldn't present certificates to the winners in person, we were lucky enough to be able to share short videos from most of our winners across our social media channels.

## **BEST LECTURER/TUTOR**

David White (*Accounting/Financial Services & Law*)

Avril Hendry (*Health & Social Care*)

Mark Ross (*Applied Sciences*)

Andrew Frayn (*Arts & Creative Industries*)

Bill Buchanan (*Computing*)

Jon Stinson (*Engineering & The Built Environment*)

Stephen Robertson (*Management*)

Ellis Urquhart (*Marketing, Tourism & Languages*)

## **MOST INSPIRING TUTOR/LECTURER**

Clare Trodden

## **BEST ACADEMIC SUPPORT/PDT**

Elaine Thomson

## **SCHOOL ADMIN/ TECH STAFF OF THE YEAR**

Fiona Black

## **BEST ON-CAMPUS SERVICE**

JKCC Helpdesk

## **BEST SUPERVISOR FOR RESEARCH**

Duncan Carmichael

## **MOST INSPIRING STUDENT**

Katerina Dufkova

## **BEST PROGRAMME REP**

Mary Rudaleviciute



# ■ TRANSFORMATION

## *ENSA is undergoing change*

This year has seen many changes within ENSA, including the recruitment of a new CEO, Dr. Dee Bird, and five new trustees joining our Board, including our new Chair, Dr. Jenny Rees.

Alongside these changes in management and governance, the development of a new Constitution aims to modernise and streamline ENSA's democratic structures, giving a broader, more diverse range of students more opportunities to engage with ENSA and make their voices heard. And, like other organisations, Covid-19 has required us to re-think how we deliver our services and undergo a digital transformation.

The ENSA staff team have proven themselves to be resilient, resourceful and adaptable in response to the global pandemic and new 'virtual' ways of working, which have presented some unique challenges, and opportunities, for ENSA.

Although moving online has meant a reduction in the number of students engaging in some of our activities, compared to traditional in-person events, we have experienced an increase in engagement in other areas, including Rep Forums and Student Council, as well as successes with new digital systems, such as online Programme Rep registration and 'live streaming'.

Our new Strategic Plan for 2021-24, aims to build on our successes and create a clearer shared vision of what we aim to achieve and how we measure our success. We are also building a stronger partnership with the University, for the benefit of students, through the new University and Students' Association Forum (USAF).

