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IMPACT REPORT

SESSION 2023-2024



ENSA
EDINBURGH NAPIER
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ENSA - helping you to make the most of your student experience

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CEO

This year, 2023-2024, marks the final year of our three-year strategic plan, and I'm proud to say that we delivered on nearly all our strategic aims during this period.

This year, in particular, has been a great success due to our energetic and hard-working Elected Officers, supported by our creative and committed staff team. Officers and staff together delivered around 100 activities and events throughout the year, engaging students on each of the campuses, creating a more vibrant ENU community.

I'm also extremely pleased with our improved election turnout in 2024, which rose from 10.1% in 2023 to 13.4% in 2024. Also, our NSS score increased by an impressive 18% points from 2022 to 2023.

As I prepare to leave ENSA for my next career challenge, I want to thank all the ENSA staff and Officers for their hard work – and for making the Students' Association a warm and fun place to work. Where else could I work that involved candy floss, pub crawls, alpacas, pumpkin carving and colouring in?

I also want to recognise the professionalism and collegiality of the University staff I've had the pleasure to work with over the past 3½ years. I know that they share ENSA's unwavering commitment to improving the student experience.



Dee Bird
ENSA Chief Executive Officer



ELECTED OFFICERS



**GEOU
AKSHIL**
PRESIDENT FOR
SOCIETIES AND
COMMUNITY

It has been an honour to serve as President (Societies and Community). I am particularly proud to have enhanced the sense of community at Napier by supporting the development of 14 new (or re-formed) societies and offering a series of fun and inclusive events through my 'Happiness Project', including two highly successful celebrations, the Diwali Celebration and African Festival, both organised in collaboration with the Business School. I also led the further development of the Lions Gate Garden as part of my commitment to sustainability. Finally, I supported our Muslim students by improving signage for halal foods and, in collaboration with the Wellbeing Team, securing a dedicated prayer space.



**RYAN
CAIRNS**
CO-PRESIDENT
FOR SPORT AND
WELLBEING

My focus has been on fostering mental and physical wellbeing within our university community. Initiatives like Movember raised over £5500 for Men's health and Feel Fab Feb offered wellbeing events across all three campuses. My 'Give it a Go' programme bolstered ENSA's presence on campus, offering opportunities for students to try new activities for free. For sports, my focus has been on ensuring a smooth transition from old to new committees, enabling our clubs to grow and improve. Varsity showcased 11 sports, involving over 500 students in a spirited competition vs QMU. The Societies & Sports Awards Ball was priced 20% lower than in previous years and attracted 540 students.



**OPEYEMI
AKINDEHIN**
CO-PRESIDENT FOR
EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYABILITY

My main goal has been to increase awareness of university services among students. In cooperation with university staff from a range of services, I launched a series of Support Pop-Up Stalls for students to ask questions and seek advice on issues ranging from funding to housing to academic issues. I supported the new Learning & Teaching Consultants to improve representation at School level. I am also proud to have won an extended payment plan of up to 10 months for international students, and to have students' extra-curricular achievements recognised on HEAR. Finally, I developed a Discord channel to enhance communications for Reps and clubs and societies.

STATS AT A GLANCE

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS
(JULY 2023 - APRIL 2024)

32

SPORTS CLUBS

39

STUDENT SOCIETIES

385

PROGRAMME REPS

36

FRESHERS EVENTS

98

EVENTS IN TOTAL

13.4%

ELECTIONS VOTER TURNOUT

(based on eligible UK-based students)



12,874

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS*



2,417

X/TWITTER FOLLOWERS*



4,012

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS*



215,116

PAGE VIEWS AT NAPIERSTUDENTS.COM
(1 JULY - 16 APRIL)

*Numbers accurate as of 16 April 2024

WINS FOR STUDENTS

This year your Elected Officers secured the following wins for students:

- 1** ENSA Spaces for student activities on Sighthill and Merchiston campuses
- 2** Extended payment plans for international student tuition fees.
- 3** HEAR transcript recognition for Programme Reps and committee and Board members
- 4** A dedicated Prayer room at Craiglockhart
- 5** Raised awareness of university teams (Wellbeing, DLTE, Student Futures) through regular engagement and support stalls across all campuses
- 6** Food prices and halal signage properly displayed on all campuses

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Scottish Conference Cup: Tennis made it all the way to the Trophy Finals

BUCS League Winners: Netball won their division

Varsity Cup Winners: Napier won the biggest Varsity Cup to date against Queen Margaret University, with 11 teams competing. Final score 9-2.

| FOCUS ON SOCIETIES

This year, ENSA supported the development of a number of new societies including: African Students, Anime and Manga, Conservation Volunteering, Disabled Students Society, Film, Indian Community, Jamm-In Music, Rock and Metal, Social Affairs, Sustainability, and Tabletop.

The African Students Society was launched with a big bang at Craiglockhart at the hugely successful African Festival, which they helped to organise.

Conservation Volunteering was started in January this year with the aim of connecting students with nature through volunteering days and educational workshops. Since its inception, the society has planted over 100 trees, removed invasive species, planted hundreds of wildflowers and erected a bug hotel.



ADVICE SERVICE

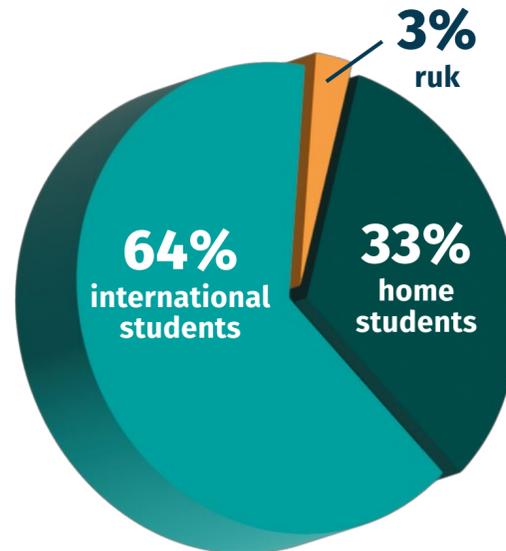
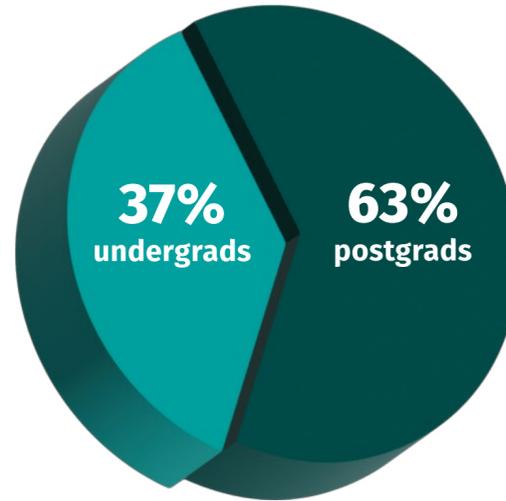
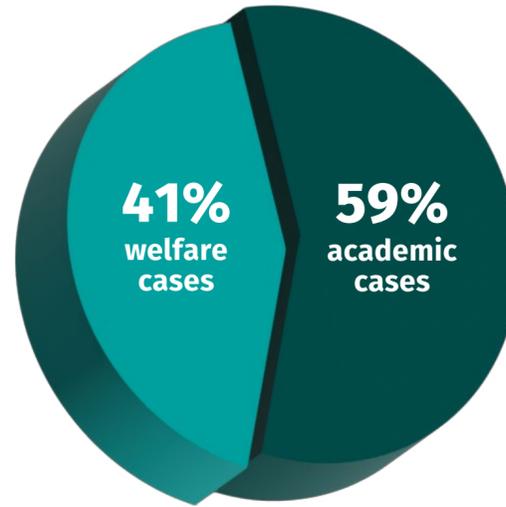
ENSA Advice offers a free, independent, impartial and confidential advice and guidance service for all Edinburgh Napier University students in matters related to education and welfare.

“ What do students say about ENSA Advice? ”

“The advice I received gave me strength and hope to continue my programme.”

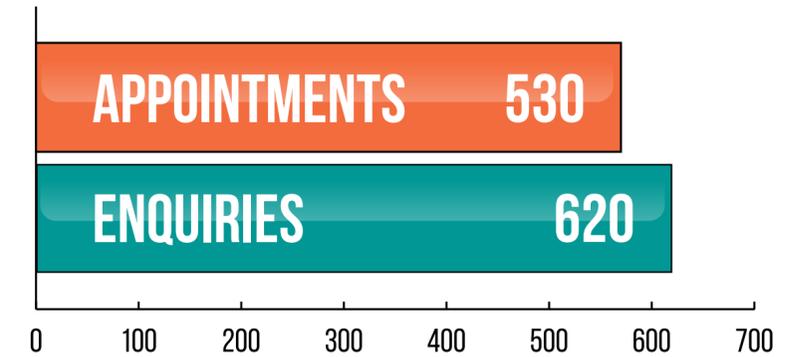
“I contacted ENSA in one of the most difficult moments of my academic career and their support was invaluable. I can’t recommend their services highly enough.”

“Speaking with ENSA was quite helpful and it gave me a sense of belonging and the adviser was a great guide.”



Number of students using the service

Stats from July 2023 - March 2024



94% of the students supported by ENSA Advice were satisfied with the help they received.

Top three reasons students approached the Advice Team:

- 1 Academic Appeals
- 2 Academic Misconduct
- 3 Money Issues

| EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

Our Officers and Student Engagement Team pulled out all the stops this year and delivered the most on-campus activities and events in ENSA's history!

Freshers: We put on a wide-ranging and inclusive Freshers' programme with 36 events between 3 – 12 September with more than half of events free and more than 40% held at no-alcohol venues, engaging 2,500 students.

We had a total of 132 exhibitors at the Fair, which attracted 2,900 attendees.

Feel Fab Feb: This year's Feel Fab Feb programme included 13 ENSA-led and six Wellbeing & Inclusion events. These included a Wellbeing Fair, a totebag painting activity, alpacas, and Therapets. Total attendance was c. 1030 students.

Awards Ball: The Societies and Sports Awards Ball was held at Murrayfield with 540 students in attendance. To make the Ball as accessible as possible, we reduced the cost of the full ticket, offered a payment plan and provided low-priced late entry tickets.

We also introduced two new initiatives:

Support Lunches: Two support lunches aimed at students affected by natural disasters or political unrest were held, engaging around 100 international students.

Give It a Go: Weekly sessions during term time, with a total of 17 events held between October and March. Sessions ranged from totebag painting, pumpkin carving and badge making, to carnival games, boccia, dodgeball, and origami. Around 340 students attended these events throughout the year.



EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

**2023/24 = 98 events
with approximately
8,300 engagements**

“

I loved that there was a variety of activities and not just things surrounding alcohol as I'm not a huge drinker... I appreciated there being activities for introverted and extroverted students which allowed the quieter people a chance to meet others without being totally overwhelmed e.g. Board games and pizza.

Freshers Feedback Survey

September 23



| REPRESENTATION

Central to ENSA's mission is to represent the interests of students – and to empower students to represent their own interests.

Elections 2024

We had a very successful Election Week in March this year with 11 candidates running for office and a voter turnout of 13.4% (compared with 10.1% in 2023).

Congratulations to the winners! They will take up their role on 1 July 2024.



President (Societies & Community)
Evan Eghan



Co-President (Education & Employability)
Chika Marvis



Co-President (Sport & Wellbeing)
Ryan Cairns

Student Council

This year we had a total of 43 members of the Student Council. Members raised numerous issues to the Co-Presidents, leading to positive change in the student experience, ranging from improving the display of pricing throughout catering outlets, to providing feedback on a new assessment and feedback policy.

Student Council also contributed to the new Student Partnership Agreement.

New for 2023/24

This year we worked with the University to introduce School Learning & Teaching Student Consultants. Nine paid Consultants were recruited to represent the student voice within each academic School.

The Consultants served on committees, led a project of their choice related to improving the student learning experience and organised School Rep Forums with the support of ENSA's Co-President (Education & Employability).

GOVERNANCE

As an independent registered charity, ENSA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of six External Lay Directors, the three Sabbatical Officers and three Student Lay Directors.

Our Student Lay Directors 2023/24:



**ERIN
JOHNSTON**

MSc Human Resources
Management

Erin is a home student and says she joined the ENSA Board of Directors as she felt that it would be a great opportunity to give back to the University, while also providing her with the opportunity to develop new skills that would benefit her in future employment.



**ASWIN
PODIMON**

BSc Computer Science

Aswin is an International Student from India. He made the decision to become part of the Board, recognizing it as a unique opportunity right out of high school. He is also a Student Ambassador at the university.



**EVAN
EGHAN**

MSc Marketing with
Festival and Events
Management

Evan is from Ghana and loves everything packaged in any artistic format. Joining the ENSA board appealed to him as it offered the extensive opportunity to help contribute to students' wholistic experience through diversity and inclusivity.

FINANCE

The majority of our income comes from Edinburgh Napier University. In 2022/23 we received a total of £564K and in this current financial year, 2023/24, our block grant is £624K.

In addition to the funds received from the University, we generate a modest amount of commercial income through media sales and corporate sponsorships.

Any surplus goes towards our reserves to make us more resilient.

Expenditure 2022/23

Advice	£72,872	12%
Central *	£278,308	45%
Communications	£55,160	9%
Democracy	£113,693	18%
Freshers	£27,002	4%
Governance	£9,594	2%
Social	£42,398	7%
Sports & Societies	£23,055	4%
Total	£622,083	100%
Surplus	£95,668	

**includes office staff, insurance, IT, etc*