

The Participation and Access Representative Role



The work of this Group focuses on access and participation exploring how the Foundation can improve equality of opportunity for all students but particularly for those from underrepresented groups, so that all students may access, participate and succeed in their learning and future roles. This area of work overlaps with academic matters but is not limited to these. It may cover things like gaps in performance for particular groups and unequal access, support or preparation for learning for particular groups. However, it also covers things like physical accessibility issues on campus, and the wellbeing of students and staff in the community.

Queen's is one of the 20+ colleges that are part of Common Awards but one of a much smaller number to be registered with the Office for Students (OfS) as an 'alternative provider' of Higher Education. Queen's is small compared to most other providers in the HE sector and this is an advantage and a disadvantage. One area that is a key strength is that we are small enough to enter into genuine engagement with students to implement new legal requirements and aspirations in a way that is as realistic and appropriate to Queen's as possible.

It is important that students are with us as we make decisions both to represent different students concerns before decisions are made, and to participate in explaining back to the student body how decisions were made and see that due process is followed.



As a rep your role on PAG your role is to ensure that the broader student voice is part of Queen's planning in the area of access and participation for the future. Unlike most student reps on groups at Queen's you will not represent a particular cohort. Rather your role will be to bring your own personal or professional experience relevant to the remit of the group, as well as your context as a student, to help guide decisions.

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Where desirable, consultation with the wider student body will take place via SSCF or AMG. You may be asked to liaise with the relevant reps to these bodies to explain decisions or seek feedback.

Function and priorities of PAG:

- ✍ As an Office for Students (OfS) 'alternative provider' of higher education, the Foundation receives an annual grant to be used, as we choose, to support student access, participation and success. This grant varies year on year.
- ✍ One of the chief functions of the PAG is to ensure these funds are utilized in a targeted and effective manner in the support of students. Specific areas of work include:
 - ✍ The newly implemented writing mentor scheme, using an external provider. PAG has responsibility for monitoring and evaluating this work.
 - ✍ As part of our commitment to reducing inequality in and access and success for BAME students Centre for Black Theology (CBT) M.A. students will receive a bespoke academic learning package arranged with an external provider. This will need to be evaluated.
 - ✍ The mental health of the student, and staff, population is area increasingly worthy of attention. We are seeking to develop appropriate proposals to offer support in this area.
 - ✍ Our campus is a complex site that requires continual maintenance and updating. In order to complete such works in the way that best supports access we intend to commission a site audit. This will provide an overview of areas where improvements could be made.
 - ✍ Other agenda items which you, or members of staff, may have to improve the access and success of everybody.

MEETINGS

The PAG will meet as needed but will usually gather approximately twice a term though there may be greater frequency early in the academic year for purposes of planning. The convener can determine if there is a need to alter frequency. Meetings will be held at a time which will maximise student attendance.

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The Role Description:

1. To consult on issues pertaining to matters of access and success. Reps will draw on their own experience of expertise in a relevant area combined with their perspectives as students.
2. Though representation of particular cohorts is not the main function of PAG reps it is expected that they will facilitate communication and consultation with student body on issues pertaining to matters of access and success where necessary. This work will be done in collaboration with other reps of the foundation, such as academic or SSCF reps.
3. Where urgent issues arise, or where issues are considered too sensitive to raise in an open meeting, representatives may individually or jointly seek a meeting with relevant staff members through their personal tutor.