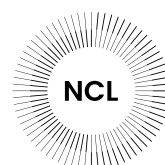




NEW COLLEGE LANARKSHIRE

# Student Partnership Agreement

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NEW  
COLLEGE  
LANARKSHIRE  
Bringing Education Closer



# Backstory

NCL and the Students' Association have enjoyed a long and productive partnership. This Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) is a shared vision designed to enhance the student experience by building on New College Lanarkshire's (NCL's) existing partnerships with staff, students, schools, universities, employers and key stakeholders. Central to the SPA is an equal partnership where students are at the core of decision-making, self-evaluation and enhancement planning.

The SPA will require mutual respect for student, academic and professional services staff expertise, a strong effective student representative structure that is accountable to the entire student body, and student and staff capability to co-create and implement solutions.

## **Purpose**

NCL are dedicated to delivering high quality education which promotes social justice and enables whole person education supported by effective and relevant partnering to release potential.

The SPA reinforces NCL's commitment to offer a learning experience that will develop inquisitive and creative minds, support ambition and talent while developing students to allow them to realise their potential. It will support collaboration with partners 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.

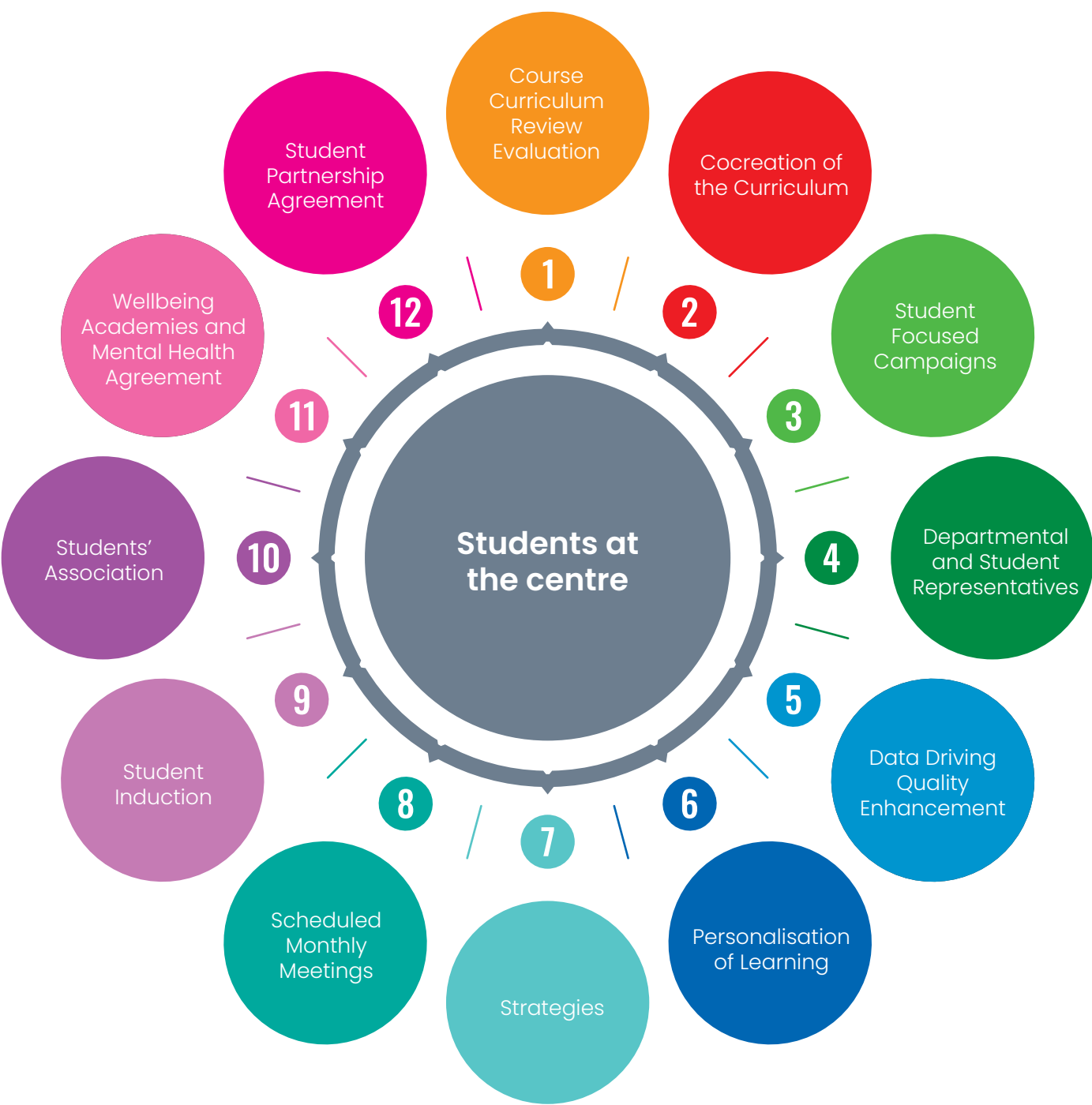
## Vision

The SEPA will: –

- Engage with students to identify ways in which learning and teaching and the student learning experience could be improved. It will also promote the role of the student in the process of self-evaluation valuing the contribution students make individually and through departmental and class representation supporting **You Said, We Did** opportunities;
- Support students to co-create aspects of their learning experience;
- Promote, enable, and empower students to engage and achieve to maximise their potential;
- Support and encourage students to take personal responsibility for leading their own learning;
- Support NCL's **Getting to Know You, Be Well to Do Well and Be Financially Fit** campaigns, tailoring educational experiences to meet individual needs and promptly signposting students for support;
- Develop a lecturer/student relationship based on mutual respect, trust, support, and integrity;
- Understand and recognise the importance of students as partners in the process of personalisation of learning.



NCL’s Student Partnership Model



# 1

## **Course Curriculum Review and Evaluation**

The Course Curriculum Review and Evaluation (CCRE) procedure is designed to affirm New College Lanarkshire's commitment to continually evolve and transform the curriculum. Central to this is meaningful consultation, reflection and evaluation involving academic leaders, the curriculum delivery team, students and student class representatives. The purpose of the CCRE is to empower students as co-creators to become involved as change agents in their educational experience. It also encourages collaborative engagement with academic leaders and the curriculum delivery team and promotes students as leaders to support action planning for improvement and, You Said, We Did opportunities which are signed off by the Student Association.

# 2

## **Co-creation of the Curriculum**

NCL's ambition to evolve learning and teaching towards student-centred, active learning recognises that students are co-creators of their educational experience. Students sharing their experience to co-create the curriculum will ensure the curriculum is: -

- Contemporary, relevant and sustainable and allows students to thrive in the rapidly changing 21st century workplace;
- Inclusive, promoting equality, diversity, trust and fairness to ensure all students are supported to attain at the highest level possible.

# 3

## **Student Focused Campaigns**

### ***Be Well to Do Well Campaign***

At NCL the correlation between wellbeing and student withdrawal is significant. It is noted that students who struggle with wellbeing issues such as stress, anxiety, depression, or physical health are challenged by the demands of their programme of study and, therefore, are likely to withdraw from their course. To support students to improve their wellbeing and remain on their programme of study, NCL has invested in three Wellbeing Academies (WA's) situated in each of our main campus sites, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld, and Motherwell. The Academies are a pioneering initiative designed to prioritise wellbeing at the core of the student experience. Recognising the critical link between student wellbeing and academic success, the WA's aim to provide holistic support services and programmes that cater to the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing needs of our students. By doing so, it seeks to enhance student retention, academic performance, and overall satisfaction, aligning with NCL's Getting to Know You and Be Financially Fit campaigns and our Retention Strategy.



## ***Be Financially Fit Campaign***

The Be Financially Fit (BFF) Campaign is framed around four broad themes:

1. Providing financial support and guidance at pre- entry, application completion stages;
2. Development of financial literacy;
3. Securing financial partnerships to enhance financial support and resources for NCL students;
4. Providing coping mechanisms and signposting students for support to improve mental health and wellbeing associated with financial challenge.

The BFF Campaign is designed to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to manage their finances effectively and alleviate financial stress. By fostering financial wellness, the campaign aims to equip students with the tools to make informed financial decisions and provides support to mitigate financial difficulties. Additionally, it seeks to reduce the risk of student withdrawal, thereby improving retention rates and overall student success. The campaign endeavours to enhance the well-being and resilience of our students by addressing the correlation between mental health and financial challenges.

## ***Getting to Know You Campaign***

NCL aims to better understand the needs of both current and prospective students by examining their behaviours and interactions through initiatives such as 'Getting to Know You.' This approach allows NCL to gain insights into students' motivations and mindsets. By employing customer segmentation techniques, NCL can make more informed decisions to support its diverse student body. The Getting to Know You Campaign is framed around four broad themes: –

1. Gathering and integrating student data from prospect to graduate – including NCL's apprenticeship families, Support for Learning students and those who are care experienced focusing on geographic, demographic, psychographic and behaviour empowering NCL to offer tailored support services and timely interventions, mitigating withdrawals and fostering a sense of belonging.
2. Engaging new students in extended induction programmes, emphasising team building activities, interaction with support services and involvement in NCL's 'Be Well to Do Well Campaign'.
3. Understanding students' social dynamics to create a more supportive and inclusive learning environment that encourages positive social interactions, academic achievement and overall well-being.
4. Understanding students within an academic setting to create a supportive and enriching environment that empowers students to realise and achieve their full academic, personal and professional potential.

## **4 Departmental and Student Representatives**

At NCL, we actively encourage class representation to cover all class groups and all campuses. The role of the class representative is to engage with students to gather student feedback. This feedback is communicated at the course curriculum review and evaluation meetings resulting in an action plan for improvement and You Said, We Did opportunities.

## **5 Data Driving Quality Enhancement**

NCL will use data gathered from a range of sources to promote the student voice and enhancement plan. This includes key performance data, data from Scottish Funding Council Surveys, student focus groups, “on the floor” communication between students the Executive Board and Deans, end of unit survey evaluation, data gathered via employer and community engagement and data resulting from student’s attendance via monthly open surgeries held by the Assistant Principal for Education and Student Success and the Dean for Learning and Teaching.

## **6 Personalisation of Learning**

Personalisation of learning supports lecturers to understand student needs and challenges, the context in which they are living and studying, and how these impact on student retention. Fundamentally this helps academic teams to ensure courses are flexible to assist students with work demands and family responsibilities enabling NCL’s ambition to improve retention, attainment, and progression.

The procedure is framed around a QR Code providing a platform for students to express academic challenges, or personal and social issues that may impact their ability to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. It also: -

Promotes student self-reflection and metacognition encouraging students to engage in critical thinking relating to their own learning, evaluate progress and identify areas for improvement development and self-regulation.

Improves goal setting and motivation, self-reflection through feedback supporting students in setting their own meaningful learning goals aligned with areas for improvement and fuelling motivation through ownership.

## **7 Strategies**

NCL’s Retention and Education Strategies were developed following an extensive consultation process involving, students and academic and professional services staff across the college. It provides a framework for staff to refresh their focus on transforming the curriculum to addresses the educational and vocational skills gap which North Lanarkshire faces to fully support the economic development of our local communities. Our primary focus is “To bring education closer” to the people of Lanarkshire and offer a market led curriculum portfolio.

## **8 Scheduled Monthly Meetings with Learner Engagement Team**

Scheduled monthly meetings with the Learner Engagement Team, the Assistant Principal for Education and Student Success and the Dean for Learning and Teaching to promote the student voice and action plan for improvement.

## **9 Student Induction**

NCL's student induction provides a settling in period for students and promotes a sense of belonging. Team building activities are included to strengthen relationships with peers, professional services and academic staff.

## **10 Student Association**

The Students' Association (SA) is the bridge between learners and New College Lanarkshire. It is the representative body for all learners at New College Lanarkshire – run by learners, for learners. It represents students' issues through regular conversations, informal and formal, with senior management, working in partnership with the college to make the learner experience as best as it possibly can be. The Students' Association also represents College learners locally meeting regularly with MPs, MSPs and local councillors, and nationally alongside the National Union of Students.

Members of the SA actively participate and represent the student voice on the Lanarkshire Board, the Curriculum Student Affairs and Outcome Committee, Learning and Teaching Group, Students, Education, Learning and Teaching Committee, Sustainability Committee and the Health and Safety Committee.



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## Wellbeing Academies and Mental Health Agreement

NCL's Wellbeing Academies aim to:

- Challenge the stigma associated with mental health;
- Enhance communication with students relating to the wellbeing services available to them at NCL offering easy and on-going access to comprehensive wellbeing support throughout their academic journey;
- Expand our partnerships with-mental health organisations, healthcare providers, schools, colleges and universities, employers, community and technology partners and policy makers;
- Work closely with NCL's Foundation to support fundraising opportunities;
- Enhance student resilience, mental health, and overall wellbeing to support academic and personal success;
- Contribute to improved student retention and success rates by addressing wellbeing as a fundamental aspect of the student experience;
- Support and deliver key student-centred campaigns that includes, "Getting to Know You," "Be Financially Fit" and "Be Well to Do Well."

### Student Mental Health Agreement

The Student Association actively endorses NCL Mental Health Agreement focusing on the recommendations highlighted in the [Thriving Learners Report](#) by raising awareness among students that mental health and wellbeing support is available. NCL's Student Association was actively consulted on the content of NCL's SCQF credit rated Being Resilient unit to ensure a consistent and clear message framed around; challenging stigma and discrimination associated with mental health; identification of factors and triggers that may impact on a student's mental health and wellbeing and linking coping strategies to improve personal resilience.

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## Student Partnership Agreement

All members of the SA work closely with sparqs and all departmental and class representatives undergo sparqs training to ensure students learners are connected and engaging with students early and often, fostering a positive and supportive learning experience. This should include lifestyle advice, welcome events, open days, peer mentoring, academic advice, online social media platforms as well as maximising opportunities for student feedback to allow students to assess the effectiveness of their programme, teaching methods, and overall campus experience promoted via "You Said, - We Did" platforms.

## **THE AGREEMENT**

This partnership agreement communicates our commitment to continue to work in partnership to enhance and improve NCL for all members of the College. To ensure currency in the dynamic landscape of tertiary education the partnership agreement will be annually reviewed to ensure currency.

### **Signed on behalf of New College Lanarkshire**

Professor Christopher Moore  
Principal and CEO

### **Signed on behalf of the Student President**

Julie Webster