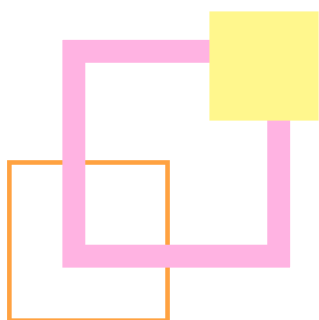


END OF YEAR REPORT

Emily Bannister
President of Education
2025-2026



REFLECTING ON YEAR ONE AS YOUR PRESED

This past year I have been driving forward bold changes to your academic experience!

From leading university wide campaigns, to representing students nationally, to enhancing aspects of our 600-year-old institution some believed untouchable. I am so grateful to everyone who has trusted me with this incredible position. I understand all too well that change cannot happen overnight, so will remain fearless to deliver on the issues that matter most to you in my second term.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the academic representatives who I have the privilege of overseeing. Class Representatives, Postgraduate Representatives, Language Convenors, School Presidents, and Faculty Presidents, none of my work would be possible without your support and guidance- thank you!

Year 2... are you ready for it?

Emily Bannister



FEARLESS

student voices

I have been dedicated to protecting and embedding fearless student voices at all levels of university decision making!

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION CONFERENCE

I organised and hosted the Students' Association's first ever Academic Representation Conference! Over one hundred academic representatives gathered to workshop improvements to the student experience, and received advice on how to utilise their rep experience in job applications.

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION REVIEW

I introduced Vice School Presidents to reduce the extensive School President workload.

I carried out exit interviews with outgoing School Presidents and Language Convenors to improve handovers.

I renamed 'Language Convenors' to 'Department Presidents' to improve recognition and decrease student confusion.

Alongside the Academic Representation Team I have helped launch the School President Handbook, Postgraduate Rep Handbook, and have completely revamped all rep training.

MAIN BAR SURVEY

I was the President Team lead for the Main Bar Survey. This ensured students had the power to influence changes to Main Bar. We gathered 1647 responses, and The Red Gown will open in September!



**Main Bar Survey
consultation**

**Academic Rep
Conference**



FEARLESS

student voices

INCREASED CLASS REP AUTONOMY

Alongside School Presidents and Language Convenors, I increased Class Rep autonomy over mid-semester student surveys and strengthened independent student representation.

ONE UNION AWARDS

I led the Academic Representation section of the One Union Awards. We received 286 nominations across all categories, and gave out awards to 35 students and student groups

STUDENT VOICE RECEIPTS

In partnership with the University, I helped launch the new Module Feedback Questionnaires. Module Coordinators now must evidence how student feedback has made changes to their teaching!

STUDENT VOICE AND REPRESENTATION POLICY

In partnership with the university, I drafted and successfully passed the university-wide Student Voice and Representation Policy.

CO-WROTE THE UNIVERSITY'S SELF EVALUATION AND ACTION PLAN

I was the student lead for the University of St Andrews' Self Evaluation and Action Plan (SEAP). I reflected on student feedback to set out an action plan for our institution.

ACADEMIC FORUMS

I organised and chaired five Academic Forums addressing student priorities. Discussions between student reps and university leadership focused on artificial intelligence, hidden tuition costs, student number pressures, sustainability in the curriculum, dissertation support, and student stipends.

FEARLESS

student voices

RECORD BREAKING ELECTIONS: 902 candidates 2783 voters

This year, the academic representation team broke all elections records!
I then organised and led the training for 440 student representatives!

STUDENT VOICE AUDIT

I launched a student voice audit in both semesters and actioned university-wide themes to senior university leadership.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

During the new university staff induction day, I presented about the importance of engaging with student voices, and the Students' Association.

ACADEMIC MONITORING DIALOGUES

I interviewed leadership teams from 6 academic schools to discuss their learning, teaching and research strategies, and address student concerns.

ACADEMIC MONITORING REPORTS

As a member of the Academic Monitoring Group, I pushed forward the due dates of school end of year reports to enable contributions from School Presidents and Postgraduate Reps.

TEACHING AWARDS

On behalf of the Union I led the 1413 Teaching Awards in partnership with the university.

601
consultation



SPEAK NOW postgraduates

I represent undergraduate and postgraduate students- here is my specific impact on PGs!

SECURED WORK SPACES FOR POSTGRADUATES WHO TEACH

I ensured that it is in university policy that postgraduate research students who teach can now request work spaces to privately and securely grade their students work!

PROTECTED AND EMBEDDED POSTGRADUATE STUDENT-STAFF MEETINGS

Carried out in partnership between the Union and University, annual audits assess the extent to which postgraduate SSCC meeting occur. Through these audits I hope to ensure all schools have dedicated fora for the student voice.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Alongside the Postgraduate Research President, I oversee the Research Development Fund which has provided vital funding for research trips from Stirling to Canada!

POSTGRADUATE PARTNERSHIP

This year the Academic Representation Team launched a new Teaching Award recognising the contributions of staff to postgraduate student partnership.

INCREASED INTERNSHIPS

The Postgraduate Taught President and I were involved in a consultation which has expanded STARIS internships to PGT students!



I am committed to becoming as transparent as possible!

EXPANDED HEAR TRANSCRIPTS

I have expanded Higher Education Achievement Reports! Class and Postgraduate Representatives, Halls Life leadership roles, and Student Ambassadors will now be recognised on your official university transcripts!

IMPROVED UNION TRANSPARENCY

The President Team launched our official Instagram to improve our outreach and transparency. I have produced two semester reports.

CAREERS CENTRE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

I contributed to the Careers Centre Communications Strategy to improve their outreach to students.

IMPROVED COURT TRANSPARENCY

The President of Union Affairs and I improved Student Union transparency to University Court through implementing Student Members Reports.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Alongside the President of Student Opportunities I presented to the General Council (alumni committee) on the Union's progression in the last year.

WOMEN WHO GRADUATE EVENT

I hosted a panel event alongside the Careers Center and Women in Business Society on women's confidence in the job application process.

Women Who Graduate event



ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

I was on a panel alongside the Principal and Senior Lay Member presenting to students, members of the public, staff and alumni on University Court's business from the past year.

COURT TRANSPARENCY

The President of Union Affairs and I hosted regular STAR Radio shows discussing how Court functions.

GRADUATION

I sat on the stage for all graduation ceremonies in the past year- 13 ceremonies in total!

Graduations



Career Ladder

REPUTATION innovation

The University of St Andrews has a historic reputation but I want to make sure we innovate wherever possible.

PREVENTING OVER-ASSESSMENT

I helped organise a workshop with Directors of Teaching and student representatives to work towards realistic assessment models in each school.

I have contributed extensively to the university's curriculum review to tackle concerns around over-crediting and over-assessment. I further spoke up at Senate on student views on the review.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

I have consistently spoken up at University Court and Academic Senate for a better university stance on AI, including the necessity for students to be trained in using AI positively and ethically.

I contributed extensively to the university's new AI policy, including embedding the requirement that staff must declare when they have used AI in their teaching or marking.

TEACHING AWARDS

I introduced the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching for Sustainability award in the 1413 Teaching Awards to reward the teaching of sustainable practices.

CHINESE STUDIES REVIEW

Alongside the Chinese Language Convenor, I contributed to a full review of the Chinese studies curriculum. This was in response to negative student feedback last year. We provided student recommendations to innovate teaching and resources.

PROCTOR RECRUITMENT

I was on the appointment panel for the new Vice Principal (Education).

REPUTATION

innovation

COVER SHEETS

Through my membership on Education Strategic Management Group and Learning and Teaching Committee we successfully standardised coversheets on all assignments/ exams.

RECTOR ELECTION RULES

Through my Court membership I updated the upcoming Rector's elections rules. This includes allowing Societies and Sports Clubs to endorse candidates.



Meetings with
university
leadership



LOVER

support

I want to ensure that all students who face barriers to academia know all the support available to them!

TEXTBOOK GIVEAWAY

I organised the Textbook Giveaway. 300+ books were donated by students throughout summer and then given back to students who need them at the Freshers' Fayre!

BAME SCHOLARSHIPS

I have supported the BAME Students' Network secure oversight over the development of scholarship selection guidance. I further worked with them to increase the transparency of scholarships for BAME students on the university website.

EMBEDDED EDI REPRESENTATIVES IN SCHOOL STRUCTURES

I met with the EDI faculty leads and each school's EDI Officer to ensure all EDI Representatives are supported to provide regular student feedback in school-wide meetings.



Set up a Book Swap for the Book Club

Textbook Giveaway

LOVER

support

DISABLED STUDENT GUIDE

I supported the Disabled Students' Officer with updating the Disabled Student Guide.

TEACHING IN HALLS

I successfully prevented two proposals from the university to teach in student accommodation! I consulted with Senior Students from multiple Halls of Residence, and Academic Representatives to secure this outcome.

FORUMS

I have hosted two forums with the BAME Students' Network, Disabled Students' Network, Accessibility Representatives, and EDI Representatives to discuss inclusion and accessibility in academic spaces.

BARRIERS TO REPRESENTATION

I worked with Student Partnership in Quality Scotland to bring a workshop on Strategies to Support Student Engagement and Partnership to the University.

This project explored how financial and time pressures affect student engagement. Action points agreed upon will attempt to make student voice and representation more accessible at St Andrews in the future!

ACADEMIC SKILLS PROJECT

I was involved in a consultation which has protected and expanded the Academic Skills Project across our University.

LOVER

support

STAGE 2 ACADEMIC APPEALS

I have ensured that only qualified and experienced academic professionals make the assessment of stage 2 academic appeals.

ADVOCACY FOR PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

I wrote and signed an open letter with Student Presidents from across the UK. This was sent to government ministers calling for them to ensure the safe passage of Palestinian students to the UK in September 2025. Alongside my fellow President Team, I further pushed our University leaders to act.

LGBTQ+ POLICY WORK

I renamed a University policy to better show respect towards our transgender and non-binary student community accessing academic support.

Pride march

Divestment training



FOLKLORE

outreach

I am committed to ensuring that University of St Andrews students have an impact nationally and internationally!

EDUCATION STRATEGY FORUM

I attended and presented at the 'Further and Higher Education Strategy Forum'. In partnership with the Vice-Principal of Education (Proctor), I presented on the importance of including student voices in decision making.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

I have been appointed a member of the European University Association Quality Assurance Thematic Peer Group. This is an opportunity for peer learning and exchange of experiences. I will be representing University of St Andrews students internationally!

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

I organised for academic representatives from the Stockholm School of Economics Students' Association to visit St Andrews and share their good practice with us.

Stockholm Education Committee

European Uni Association

YOUR UNION
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Strategy conference

FOLKLORE

outreach

SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL

I attend quarterly meeting with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) on behalf of the student body to discuss the student academic experience at St Andrews directly with those who manage university funding.

STUDENT EXPERT GROUP

I am a member of Scotland's Tertiary Quality Student Expert Group. Through my appointment I have contributed to re-designing a national student survey, have been consulted on a national concerns procedure for students, and so much more!

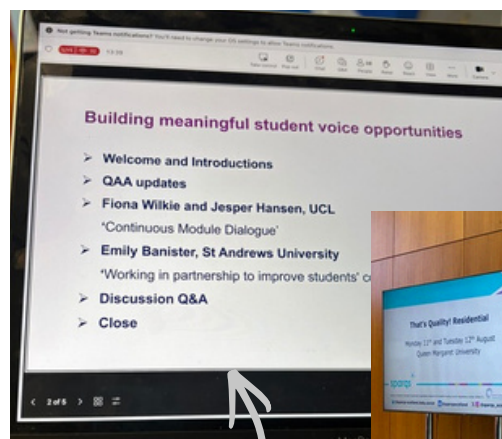
QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY

I have been involved in national education policy work with the Quality Assurance agency. This has included contributions to their national approach to Artificial Intelligence, and consultation on Compassionate Communications. I was also invited to present to them on student surveys.

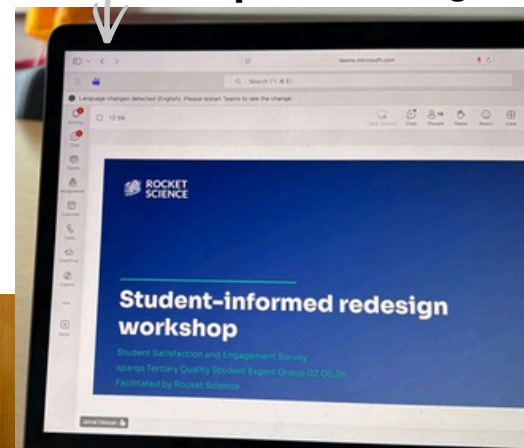
STUDENT PARTNERSHIP IN QUALITY SCOTLAND

I have contributed to sparqs strategy and have attended their Trustee Board.

**National Student Survey
question re-design**



**Presenting for
the QAA**



sparqs event

14

EVERMORE funding

I want to enhance the student experience through lobbying officials to introduce a sustainable Further and Higher Education funding model!

ADVOCACY FOR IMPROVED STUDENT NUMBERS

I have spoken up University Court and over relevant meetings about the implications that the increased undergraduate cohort has on all aspects of the student experience.

I also met with the Scottish Funding Council to advocate for an improved balance between our quality student experience and a sustainable funding model.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING CAMPAIGN

I helped re-launch the 'Save Our Scottish Education' campaign. With Student Presidents from across Scotland we have fought to increase Further and Higher Education funding.

MET WITH THE MINISTER FOR FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

I was invited to a meeting with Minister Graeme Day to discuss higher education funding. We spoke about the necessity to prioritise student experience, the unsustainable education funding model, and Scotland's place as an attractive destination for international students.

**Scotland's Student
Presidents**



Midnights study spaces

I have worked closely with library and estates teams to protect and expand study spaces!

LAUNCHED A DESK HOGGING' CAMPAIGN

In partnership with the library team, I launched a campaign to reduce the practice of students using their belongings to reserve seats in all university libraries. Be kind, unwind, and leave the desk behind!

EXTENDED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Following a proposal from the library to reduce opening hours, I pushed back and ensured library opening hours were in line with student usage levels at each point of the year.

UNION STUDY SPACE

After receiving student feedback about Main Library occupancy levels and harsh lighting, I opened Beacon Bar as an alternative study space. The space served as a relaxed study space that embraces natural lighting.

I further led the transformation of the union's entire top floor into a dedicated student study space.

LIBRARY LIGHTING

After receiving student feedback about Main Library lighting causing headaches and overstimulation, I successfully pushed through a proposal to change all the lighting in the library. Warmer and dimable Main Library lighting will be in place for September 2026!

LIBRARIES OPEN FORUM

Alongside the library team and your Arts and Divinity Faculty President, I organised the semester 1 Libraries Open Forum to gather in person student feedback about library etiquette.