

Partnership Agreement

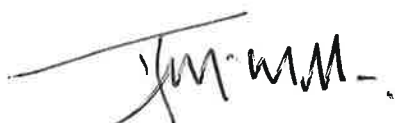
**Keele University
Keele University Students' Union
Keele Postgraduate Association**

Our vision: we are committed to working together in a close and productive partnership to support our students in achieving their full potential in an inclusive and cohesive community.

Principles of our partnership:

| Our shared principles: | How we will ensure this happens: |
|--|--|
| 1. Student-centred approach | |
| Students are the heart of our community and our shared strategic focus is on improving all aspects of the student experience. Our decisions are informed by students' views and opinions, through fully representative consultation. | <p>Earlier consultation with students in decision-making processes/policy and planning by, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Committee cover sheets, including UEC, to include section confirming student consultation b. Outcome of student consultation to be a standard item on papers. |
| 2. Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity | |
| We share a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity and we will work together to ensure that all students are fairly treated and have equal opportunity. | The Students' Union, Keele Postgraduate Association and student representatives will be given opportunities to feed into the Athena Swan and Race Equality Charter groups and any other relevant equality and diversity projects. |
| 3. Strategic partnership | |
| Our strategic decision-making is underpinned by an ethos of partnership in pursuit of mutual goals, through effective representation and engagement. | The University will consider the Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association to be key stakeholders in the drafting of their respective strategies and <i>vice versa</i> , including consultation on major strategic decisions. |
| 4. Respect and understanding | |
| We respect the distinct roles of the university, the Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association and value the perspectives that every party brings to our relationship. | <p>Continuing, constructive dialogue between all parties.</p> <p>Four, calendared Partnership meetings to be held annually.</p> |
| 5. Openness, trust and challenge | |
| We are committed to open, honest and regular communication within the partnership, and with students, speaking with a joint voice on collaborative ventures concerning the student experience. We act as critical friends, able to constructively challenge and learn from each other, respectful of confidential and sensitive discussions. We are also able to disagree, sometimes publicly, with each other while | <p>We will make joint announcements, where appropriate, reflecting our partnership.</p> <p>Where the University, Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association hold differing views from the other parties, we will express those opinions freely and independently, while engaging in constructive discussions of the underpinning issues.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| maintaining the underpinning partnership. | |
| 6. Independence | |
| The Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association are independent bodies, working in partnership in the representation of their specific memberships. We recognise the independence of both, from each other and from the University. Both are student-led and are the primary representative of the student voice. Equally, we acknowledge the University's responsibility to consult widely with students, while needing to balance the interests of a range of stakeholders in an increasingly challenging external environment. | As wide a range as possible of consultative measures will be used by the University, the Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association, in partnership where appropriate as well as independently, to seek student opinion. |
| 7. Mutual support and commitment to constructive interactions | |
| Our relationship is dependent on the investment of the time and resources of all parties; we are committed to providing mutual support and recognition of our partnership through our institutional structures, committees and documentation. | Partnership between the University, Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association will feature in all parties' strategic plans and other relevant documentation. Partnership meetings will be chaired in rotation, with the lead party being responsible for the venue, agenda and minutes. |
| 8. Sustainability | |
| The successful outcomes of joint strategic aims will be embedded in institutional practice and the practice of the students' unions to support future students and to promote continuity of commitment to our partnership. | Towards the end of each academic year, as part of the cycle of business of the partnership group, all parties shall discuss, openly and honestly, the extent to which this partnership agreement is being lived by and, where appropriate, discuss how this might be improved. The annual governance report will include the partnership agreement and will be shared with UEC, the Students' Union and KPA trustees before passing to the Audit and Risk Committee. All parties will be invited to renew their commitment to the partnership agreement every three years. |



Professor Trevor McMillan
Vice-Chancellor




Mr Tom Snape
Union Development and
Democracy Officer




Mr George Blake
President

