



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

Strathclyde Strategic Alliance Framework

2025 - 2026



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Introduction

Throughout the challenges faced by society in recent years, the partnership between the Student Union Executive and University Executive Team has proven to be vital for, and is arguably sector-leading in, ensuring that the University of Strathclyde continues to provide a world-class student experience that reflects the values of both Strath Union and the University.

Three years ago, the sabbatical officers of Strath Union, the Principal, and his Executive Team worked together to create a new Strategic Alliance Framework which, for the first time, stated our shared intention of working in partnership and identified opportunities for collaborative work to achieve impact and value for our student body.

The first Strategic Alliance built on the Strath Union strategic plan and the University's strategy Vision 2025 and sat alongside the pre-existing Partnership Agreement, which gave direction and focus to our shared endeavours. In 2023-24, after extensive consultation with staff and students, the whole Strathclyde community contributed to the launch of the University's next strategy phase, Strathclyde 2030.

The priorities and actions in this fourth Strategic Alliance Framework build on previous achievements and details our shared ambitions for 2025-26. The Framework highlights the continued intention to work closely together on those strategic goals that are common to both organisations and which are evidence of our mutual and continuing commitment to our student body.

Strathclyde University Values:

→ PEOPLE-ORIENTATED

→ INNOVATIVE

→ COLLABORATIVE

→ AMBITIOUS

→ BOLD

Strath Union Values:

→ ASPIRING

→ EMPOWERING

→ COLLABORATIVE

→ INCLUSIVE

Our Values

Both the University and Students' Union are values-driven organisations. Our values are intrinsic to the work that we do and epitomise what it is to be a 'Strathclyder'. Whilst the values of the two organisations differ in language, the intent is very much shared around delivering excellence for our students, staff and wider community. We will work collaboratively to hold each other accountable for living our respective values, leveraging these values for the benefit of the entire Strathclyde community.



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Governance

The Strategic Alliance Framework (SAF) reports directly to the two Executive Teams, with quarterly updates between the Student President and the Principal.

Progress on delivery of the ambition in the SAF is monitored monthly throughout the academic year and reporting on the SAF takes place at least once per semester at an Executive-to-Executive meeting.

This document will be reviewed annually with a change in the Executive in the Students' Union to reflect changing priorities and agreed in the first Executive-Executive meeting of the academic year (typically September).

SAF updates, alongside updates on the delivery of student services and support, are provided to the Student Experience Committee (SEC), which is co-chaired by the Strath Union President and reports to the University's Education Strategy Committee (ESC).



Enablers

The objectives in this SAF will be enabled by:

↙

The Memorandum of Understanding with Strathclyde Sport, the Student Mental Health Agreement, and the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Agreement

↙

Effective and purposeful resource-sharing and communication between Strath Union and the University of Strathclyde

↙

Shared communication strategy around how we inform the student and staff bodies about our shared work

↙

Being student-led and impactful



Strath Union President 2025-26, Fraser Brown, agreeing this year's SAF with the University's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen McArthur.

Goals of the Strategic Alliance Framework

Through our sector-leading collaboration, we seek to deliver a world-class student experience, working together to deliver relevant University strategic objectives and aspiring to be recognised as the leading UK Students' Union offering an experience only obtainable at Strathclyde.

Such an experience should be fully accessible for all students and reflect the needs, wants and desires of an ever-changing and evolving student body. Furthermore, we seek to empower the thriving and diverse community of Strathclyde students and to prepare and equip them for life at our University and beyond.



Our teams are incredibly proud of our achievements from the 2024 – 2025 agreement, most notably:

→ Development of a framework for an Ethical Investment policy

→ Significant progress in improving the personal circumstances processes for students; including allowing flexibility in classes and exams for religious or cultural observance as well as practical improvements in student record management

→ Successful launch of “Jamie’s Pantry”, which includes a successful partnership with Beauty Banks

→ Innovative sports community outreach project successfully introduced

→ Campus Living Room opened

→ Buddy system trialled

Our Continuing Commitments

Whilst this document focuses on our joint work for 2025-2026, there are a number of activities that will continue and that remain committed to progressing:

Consulting students on ethical investment policy development

Jamie's Pantry

Continuing to consult students on the implementation of forthcoming EHRC guidance

Improving student experience through continued development on personal circumstances

Further developing our Wall of Fame which celebrates the past and present sporting achievements of our alumni

Strath Union continuing to Campaign on what matters to students, working with the University wherever appropriate



Creating a co-ordinated campus

Facilitate effective communication throughout all departments and organisations on campus, providing a platform for groups to coordinate activities and target issues on a cross-campus level.

DELIVERABLES

Creation of a Campus Campaigns Forum

A forum that features departments from across the University and Union which discuss planned campaigns and targeted issues, encourages resources sharing, and unifies campus support on issues facing students on campus.



Enhancing opportunities for alumni engagement in sport

Strengthen lifelong connections between alumni and their sport at Strathclyde, to increase engagement through innovative initiatives which display the talents and quality of Strathclyde's sports.

DELIVERABLES

Enhance fixtures and events through livestreaming

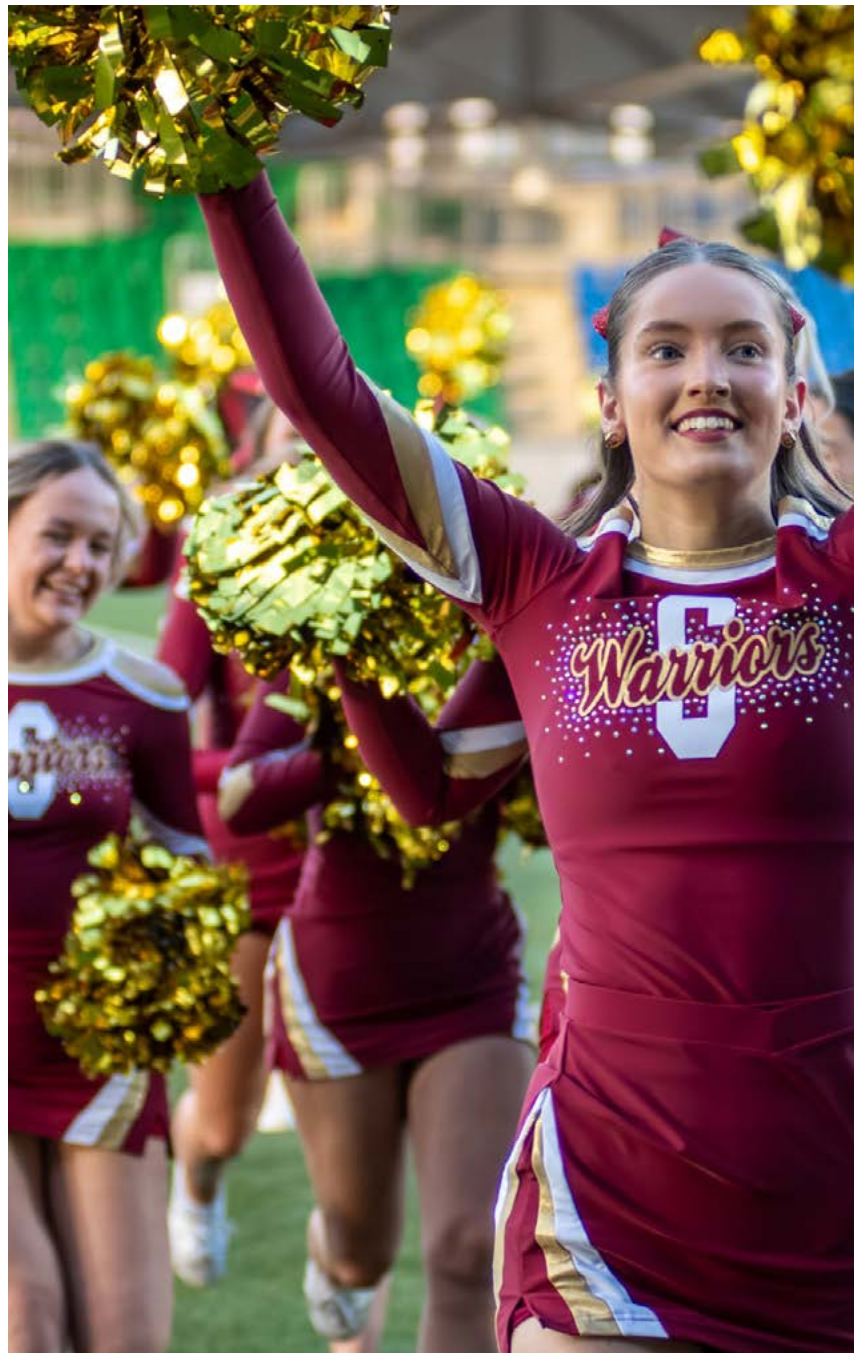
Utilise livestreaming, highlights, and storytelling to make it easier for alumni to follow and celebrate our community.

Collaborate with Alumni Services to deliver targeted sport

Through the use of specific communications that respect data sharing limits but keep updates relevant and engaging for alumni.

Utilise graduations to help towards alumni engagement

Use the events as a way to welcome new alumni into sport-specific networks and encourage ongoing involvement.



Increasing accessibility on campus

Improving upon the experiences of disabled students in Strathclyde by providing spaces and people on campus to facilitate a more accessible University experience.

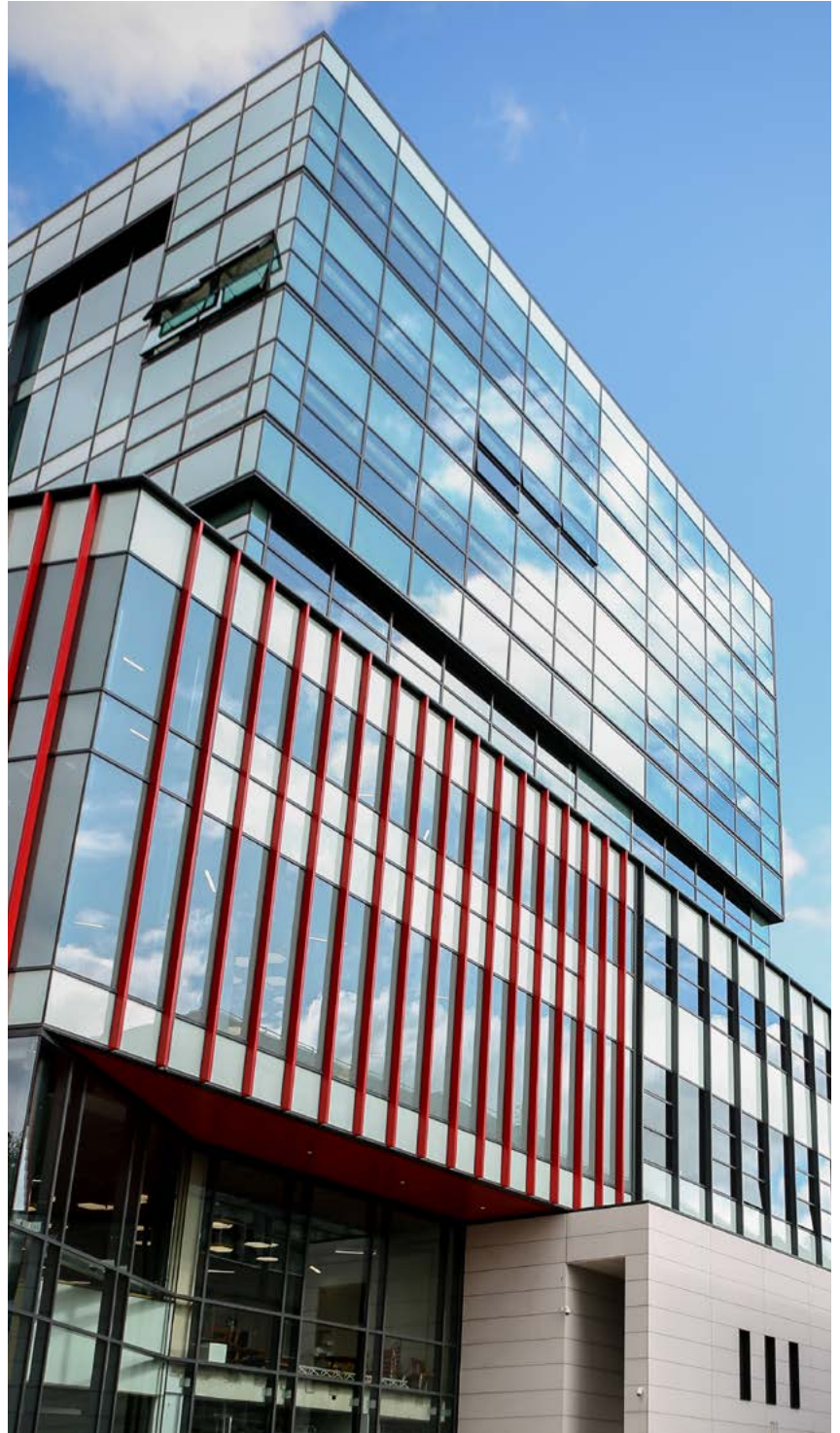
DELIVERABLES

Peer-support service for neurodiverse and disabled students

Create a peer-support service for neurodiverse and disabled students, inviting Strathclyde staff to identify themselves as named contacts for students who need support on issues of accessibility.

Accessibility signposting service on StrathApp

Provide a digital and accessible service for students that lists services of support, such as first aid trained staff, and notifies students of accessibility issues on campus and how to navigate such disturbances.



Leadership opportunities within the wider sports community

Embed a plan that enables students to deliver sport in schools within areas of high deprivation through paid opportunities.

DELIVERABLES

Develop a three-to-five-year framework

This will be in partnership with the widening access team, exploring the opportunities to support student coaches, officials, and activators to deliver sport in targeted schools that creates pathways for sustained community impact and student development.

Explore potential for a paid-delivery model

Explore options for sustainability through a transition away from relying on student volunteers to a paid-delivery model.

Strengthen graduate employability

Through accredited training, leadership development, and hands-on delivery, students can gain experiences in community sport settings that foster employability.

Secure multi-stage funding

Explore funding opportunities, building towards a goal of eventually securing an external funding partner to ensure continuity of the programme.



Leverage the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games

Use the event to raise our profile, attract partners, and create a legacy project for community engagement in sport at Strathclyde.

Opportunities with employers that enhance student employability

Facilitating a stronger connection between students' education and their career prospects within Strathclyde's partnered workplaces.

DELIVERABLES

Explore professional level employment opportunities

The Union team will work with University staff to explore and, where beneficial, build on existing activities in the University which support routes to high quality employment for UK and international students.

Extend credit-bearing working opportunities for students

Increase the availability and coherence of credit-bearing experiential learning opportunities that enhance student employability, for example through internships, placements, field projects, and other forms of employer engagement.



VISION

Pledge to sustainable efforts, education, and ethics

Taking a proactive approach to the delivery of the University's signatory support of the SDG Accord through delivering sustainable change and services throughout campus that further the achievement of sustainable goals.

DELIVERABLES

Reestablish the Sustainability Hub on campus

Provide the space on campus and necessary support to host the Sustainability Hub, providing services and programmes targeted towards sustainable development within a healthy and safe environment.

Student voice in sustainability

Support and empower students to play an active role in the ongoing embedding of Education for Sustainability within their programmes, particularly through forums such as Student-Staff Liaison Committees and faculty-level forums, ensuring all students gain a foundation in sustainability and programme-specific sustainability learning fully integrated into their modules.



Refine support, communication, and inclusivity for students facing Personal Circumstances

Continue to strengthen, streamline, and simplify the wide scope of the personal circumstances system through significant reform, targeted arrangements, and clarification across the system to ensure students can access the support they need, when they need it.

DELIVERABLES

Reform to the personal circumstances system

Place students at the centre of a review and co-design of the Personal Circumstances system, ensuring transparent communication, timely and consistent decision-making, and embedding student voice and participation in every stage of the development of new processes, procedures and policy.

Formal academic maternity leave

Explore the provision of a period of leave, either during or after pregnancy, which allows pregnant students to return to education comfortably and settled.

Extended assessment period for exceptional medical circumstances for visa holders

Within the legal boundaries set by the Home Office visa rules, explore the opportunities for flexibility of assessment alongside voluntary suspension in instances of medical emergencies and recovery.



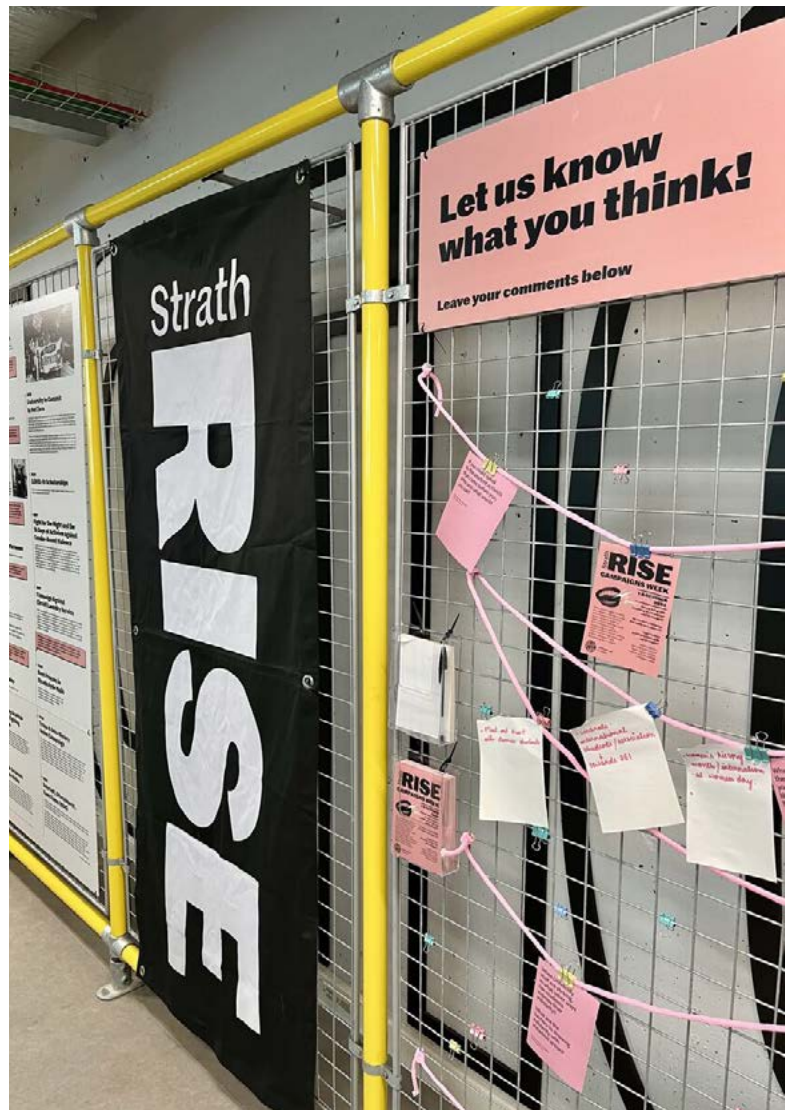
Reflection of the student community throughout campus

Integration of student input and experience within campus buildings and student accommodation by providing spaces to celebrate and promote the campus' diverse culture.

DELIVERABLES

Reserved spaces for student design

Creating and enshrining locations on campus that are solely for student creativity and contributions.



Promoting the University's diverse and underrepresented communities

Provide platforms for students to share their experiences and celebrate cultural identities within the Strathclyde community by recognising the underrepresented groups within faculties, societies, sports, and the wider Strathclyde community.

DELIVERABLES

Create a working group of underrepresented and diverse backgrounds

This group would consist of students and staff, drawn from both representatives of lived experiences and facilitators to discuss membership invitations, relaying of student experiences, and promoting positive experiences.

Mechanism of logging campus experiences

Establish a coordinated system to capture themes and trends from students, using this insight to inform targeted awareness and education campaigns, highlight opportunities to improve inclusion, and ensure consistent approaches to celebrating diversity.

Add cultural events into the academic calendar

Establish which events should be supported and promoted by the University for the benefit of the student community and the student experience - with planning at the discretion of individual departments.



Diverse peer mentoring

Staff and students can put themselves forward to be mentors, aiding with support, in a volunteering system which reinforces diversity and inclusion into the initiative.

Rural Challenges Working Group

A periodic group focused on discussing the experiences of and challenges faced by students from rural Scotland, promoting support services and proposing wellbeing policies targeted towards students' concerns.

Stronger student academic representation system

Reinforce the representation students receive alongside their education through increased knowledge of services amongst University departments, supporting consistent policies.

DELIVERABLES

Academic representation policy

Create a new Academic Representation Policy in collaboration with departments, faculties, and the Students' Union with Student Voice at the centre, aiming to hold needs and experiences in academic representation across the University.

Mainstream post-graduate research representation

Enhance and implement a robust representation system for post-graduate research students and ensure these students have the same level of representation as the wider student community.

Increase visibility of academic student representatives across students and staff

Raising awareness and recognition of student representatives, including programme, faculty, and other officers, through clear communication of their roles, responsibilities, support requirements, achievements, and importance amongst staff and students to improve their partnership and work.



Supplying of resources for the 2026 Scottish Parliamentary Elections

The University and Union have a civic duty, as socially progressive bodies, to provide information and resources to students on how to participate in Scottish elections.

DELIVERABLES

Education towards electoral registration and informed voting

The University and Union will work together to facilitate the sharing of election information and voter registration materials. Strath Union will host activities which facilitate respectful debate which represents all political perspectives.

Online resource on electoral registration and informed voting

Students will be notified of an online resource that explains how to enrol, how and where to vote, and signpost towards all candidate/party platforms to ensure informed voting can occur.



Strathclyde Strategic Alliance 2025 - 2026

Signed:

Professor Stephen McArthur,
Principal & Vice-Chancellor,
University of Strathclyde

&

Fraser Brown,
Strathclyde Students' Union
President 2025 – 2026

Date: 23rd September 2025

