Strathclyde Strategic Alliance Framework

2026 - 2027



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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.

Five years ago, the sabbatical officers of Strath Union and 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 fifth 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:

- → AMBITIOUS
- → 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.



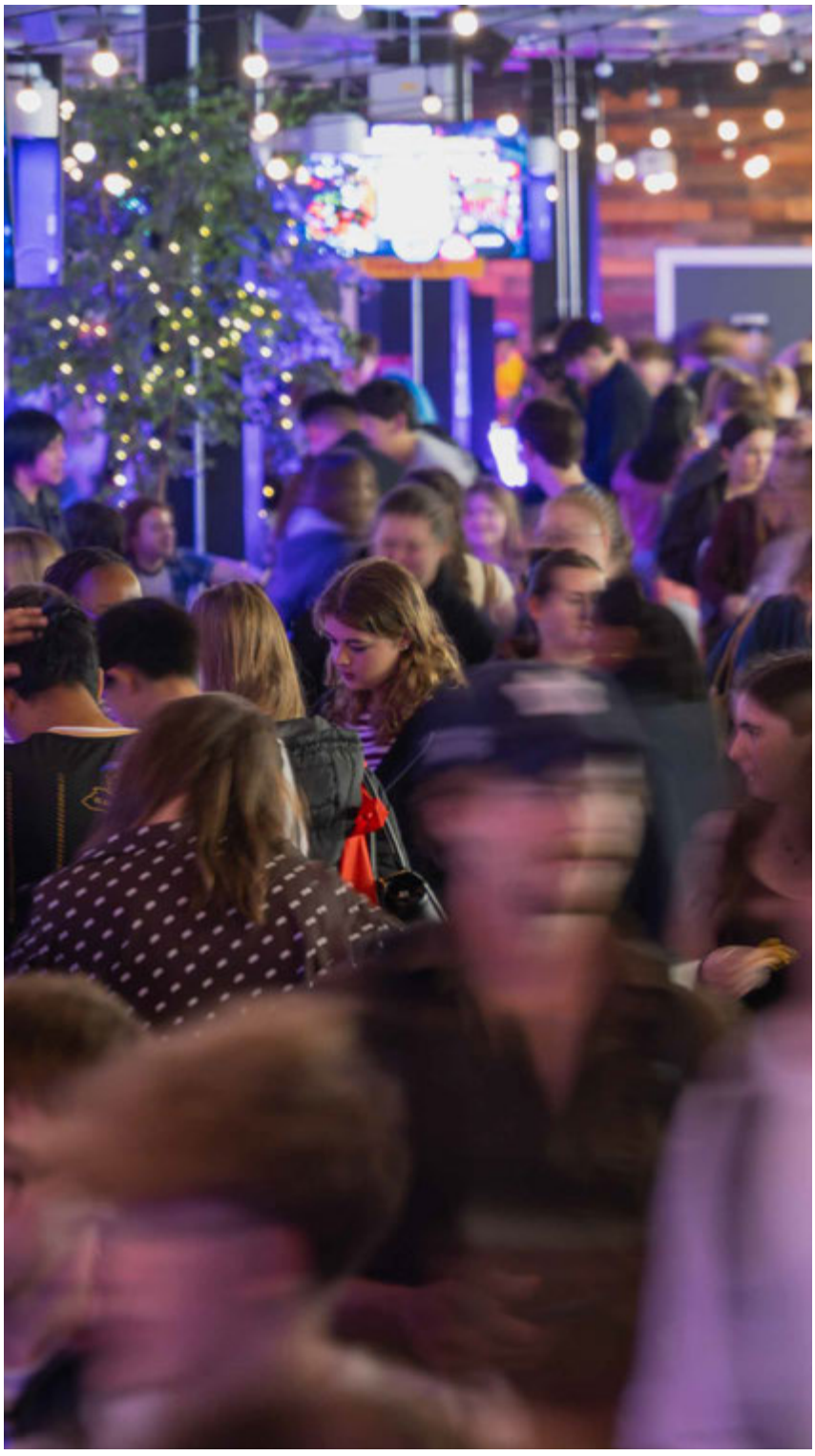
Governance

The Strategic Alliance Framework (SAF) reports directly to the two Executive Teams, with quarterly updates co-chaired by the Union 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, following the 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 Union President and reports to the University's Education Strategy Committee (ESC).



Enablers

The objectives in this SAF will be enabled by:

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

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

Being student-led and impactful



Successes & Continuations

Whilst this document focuses on our joint work for 2026-2027, there are a number of activities that will continue and that we remain committed to progressing:

Creation of the Students Campaigns & Comms Group

The drafting and future implementation of an Ethical Investment Policy

Continuing to consult students on the implementation of EHRC guidance

Tell Strathclyde development, improving the learning experience of students facing personal circumstances.

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

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

Continuing to communicate campus accessibility information to students

The implementation of the Academic Representation Policy

Livestreaming trials for performance sports fixtures to students and supporters

2026 Scottish Election activity and campaigning

Student voice in sustainability

VISION

Building a Representative Chaplaincy

Strathclyde students face a variety of struggles, and many students turn to their faith for support through hard times. Strathclyde should reinforce its chaplaincy to provide support to all students who need it through collaboration and partnership.

DELIVERABLE

Recruitment of Honorary Chaplains

Through engagement with faith-based student groups in Strathclyde, the hiring of honorary chaplains to support these groups on campus can lead to increased support that takes pressure away from Societies and individual students.



VISION

Fostering Civic Responsibility

The political landscape Strathclyde finds itself in is highly polarised, and members of our community are at the heart of these conversations. Through encouraging students to take part in civic activities and promoting civic engagement opportunities, Strathclyde can help its community become engaged within the wider society.

DELIVERABLES

Increased Highlighting of Representational Elections

Students are represented through many levels of representation from class, departmental, faculty, and executive remits. Through increasing the visibility of all elections occurring on campus, students and staff can see and participate in the civic activity already instilled within Strathclyde's culture.

Engagement in the Glasgow Local Elections

Building upon successful activity hosted on Strathclyde's campus during the 2026 Scottish Parliamentary Elections, continuing to provide election-related activity on campus for the upcoming local elections continues engaging Strathclyde's community in civic activity. Hosting hustings, candidate sessions, and other events, allows students and staff to hold candidates accountable and inform voters on their civic duty.



VISION

Connected, Compassionate, and Student-Centred Support

Strengthening a culture of accessible, compassionate, and student-centred support across the University and empowering students from enrolment through to graduation. By improving access to information, support, and opportunities for connection, we aim to foster belonging and success for all students, with a particular focus on the transition, engagement, and wellbeing of international students.

DELIVERABLES

Streamlined Support Signposting

Establishing a flowchart-like online system that would be accessible to all Strathclyde staff and students, which is specific to international student support channels. This would detail all areas of support and be a tool that can be used across the student journey.

Online Forum for International Students

An online portal with access to all the key information and support available to international students, including induction information, which will be a space where incoming international students can establish social connections and learn from the experiences of other international students.



Successful Transitions for Late-Arriving Students

Developing a coordinated institutional framework of minimum standards to support late-arriving students and ensure equitable access to key support and integration opportunities. The framework will improve transition, belonging, and engagement, helping students successfully integrate into university life and enhancing their overall student experience and retention outcomes.

Compassionate Approach to Visa Communication

Establishing institutional standards and guidance for attendance notifications, visa compliance messaging, and student-facing communications to embed a compassionate and student-centred approach. This will improve understanding of visa requirements, reduce unnecessary anxiety, and support a more inclusive international student experience.

VISION

Increasing Employability and Opportunity

Supporting students to gain employability skills and have employment opportunities.

DELIVERABLES



Programme-level Development of Employability Skills

Building relationships at programme levels to showcase opportunities to students and encourage embedding employability into education to benefit graduate employability.

Direct Students Towards Careers and Employability Service

Working with the Careers and Employability Service to increase their visibility and opportunities of engagement with student groups through workshops, employability sessions at Society/Club level, and leveraging student groups' social media presence.

Increased Student Engagement with the JobShop

Through the utilisation of the University and Union socials, further opportunities within part-time and full-time employment can be made visible. Furthermore, highlighting this service through inductions and online modules proliferate opportunities for employment.

VISION

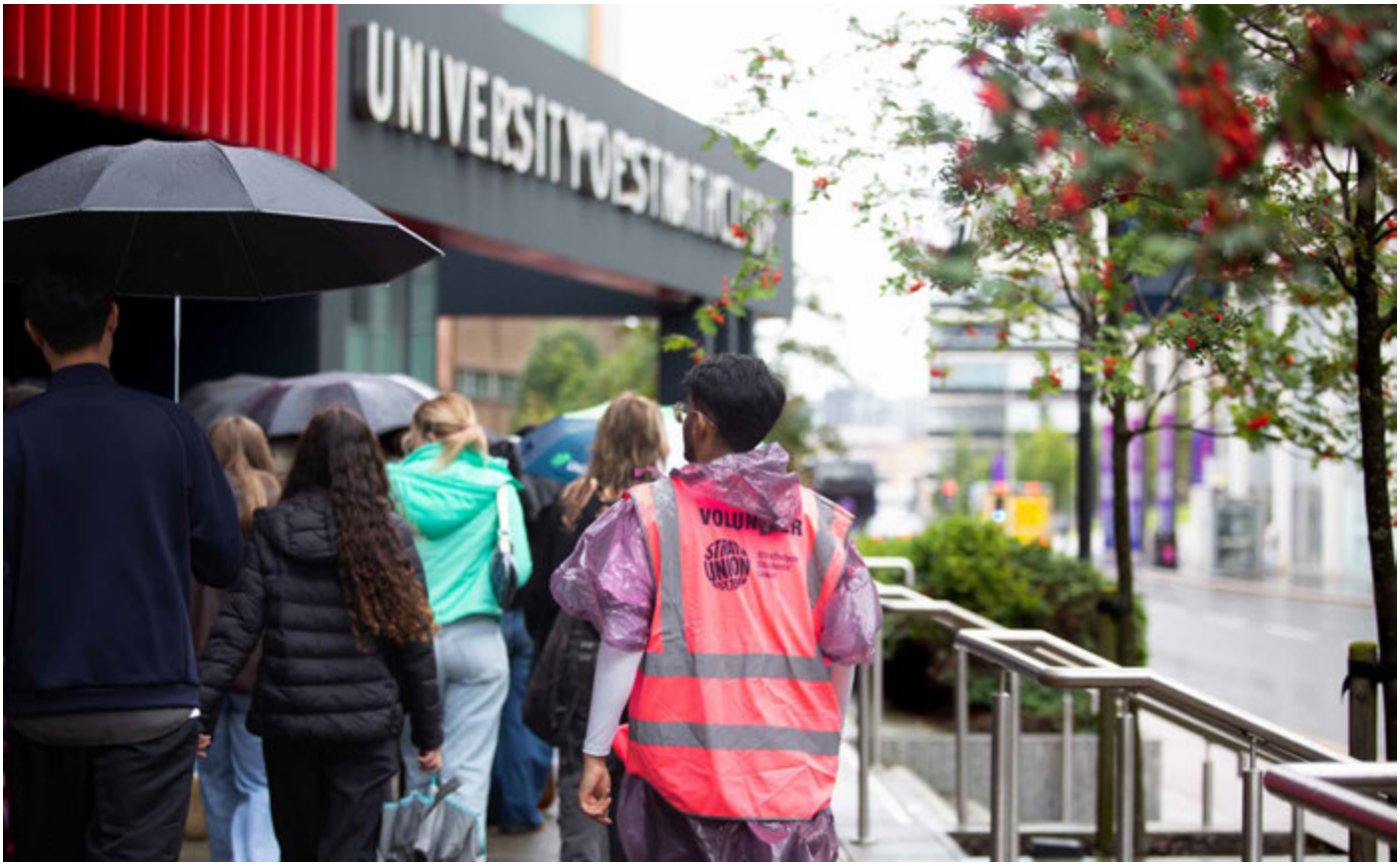
Recognising and Celebrating Student Achievement and Community Impact

Expanding opportunities and bringing new initiatives to recognise and celebrate student achievement, participation, and contribution beyond the curriculum. By supporting students to evidence and communicate the skills, experience, and impact gained through their involvement, we aim to increase the visibility and value of contributions that enrich both individual development and the wider University community.

DELIVERABLE

Digital Badges for Student Leadership and Community Impact

Building on the outcomes of the digital badges pilot, establishing a robust approach to support students to recognise their achievements beyond the curriculum. Digital badges will help students evidence and communicate their skills, experience, and impact, increasing the visibility and value of student contributions while encouraging engagement in opportunities that enrich the University and wider community.



VISION

Refurbish Spaces for Student Groups

Develop spaces for student use, that are both more accessible and better designed for student usage, whilst also finding the spaces that are underused and why and how we can make them more used.

DELIVERABLES

Refurbish Spaces for Student Groups

Many of the spaces in the University that are bookable by student groups aren't fit for student use. We aim to help these groups by refurbishing some of the spaces. We want to discuss with students to see how we can improve these spaces and which spaces they are.

Improve and Streamline the Room Booking System

The aim is to streamline the room booking system by having a resource that is known and easily accessible by students and staff for all rooms bookable by students to prevent miscommunications and complications.

Additional Individual Locker Storage on Campus

The needs of students are constantly changing, and such changes are putting increased strain on students who already deal with medical and personal circumstances, as well as the growing number of commuters studying at Strathclyde. Providing more space can allow students to put their studies first and have Strathclyde stay an environment for positive learning experiences.



VISION

Enhancement of Sport and Active Health

Sport and active health are core pillars of Strathclyde's student experience, but barriers exist which slow its growth. Through tackling these barriers, Strathclyde can continue its growth towards enhancing sport for students.

DELIVERABLES

Student Voice in Stepps Redevelopment

Sports at Strathclyde cannot significantly grow due to the restricted availability of facilities to conduct training sessions and recreational activities. The implementation of survey collection and forums can identify strains which Sports Clubs face whilst championing student voice within the Stepps Field redevelopment plan.

Wednesday Afternoon Policy Communication Enhancement

Through coordinated, targeted communications to students and staff highlighting the Wednesday Afternoon Policy, students will be able to truly engage with skills development and opportunities that currently cannot be fully realised between an inconsistent balance between those activities and education.



VISION

Visible Trans Inclusion

As a socially progressive institution, Strathclyde can visibly lead the way in providing support for its community of Trans individuals and creating meaningful change within the wider community of Higher Education.

DELIVERABLES

Reforming 'Ask Alex'

Redesigning the Ask Alex service to increase access and transparency of the supportive network will allow for trans students to easily find support within the community and feel more comfortable at Strathclyde.

Opportunities for Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion Training

Through seeking opportunities and updating StrathEqual's training to reflect the importance of preventing transphobia, especially within the polarising environment students find themselves, members of our community can be reaffirmed there is zero tolerance to discrimination.



Strathclyde Strategic Alliance 2026 - 2027

Agreed:



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

&



Fraser Brown,
Union President 2025 – 2027,
Strathclyde Students' Union

Date: 28 / 10 / 2026