



EDINBURGH
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Student Partnership



A PARTNER INSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The Free Church of Scotland (incorporating Edinburgh Theological Seminary) is a registered Scottish charity, No. SC012925

Student Partnership

In line with the QAA Revised Quality Code, we seek to partner with the students, individually and collectively in the development, assurance and enhancement of the quality of their educational experience. In particular, the following takes place:

Individual Engagement of students in quality of educational experience

All Students are asked to complete a Course Quality Questionnaire for each course that constitutes the Bachelor of Theology as they draw near the end of that course.

In addition, all students are asked to fill in a Student Satisfaction Questionnaire at the end of each academic session. This enables them to communicate their satisfaction or otherwise with the following: programme quality and organisation in terms of teaching, handouts, library resources, assessments, accommodation, security, etc. International students, students with declared disability, student whose first language is not English and Distance Learning students are asked to rate and comment on their experience, favourably or otherwise.

In the past, student responses to the Questionnaires took place in class time and the responses were very high. In order to cater for part-time students, and off-campus students, it was decided that these Questionnaires would be offered online. The number of submissions has dropped somewhat, and it was agreed at the Board of Studies that each class will be asked to complete form online during class time. This will ensure anonymity and a higher degree of responses.

Collective Engagement of students in quality of educational experience

Collectively, we engage with the students in three ways. First, we meet with the entire student body for information and feedback on a range of topics relevant to their educational experience at ETS in the Staff-Student Liaison Committee. The Staff-Student Liaison Committee meets at least annually, and all students are invited to attend along with a senior member of academic staff and the Seminary Secretary. This is a particularly valuable meeting at which such matters as ETS ethos, environment, resources, assessments, timetabling, and IT issues are raised. Matters are remitted from this meeting to other committees such as the Board of Studies and Senate for action as appropriate.

Secondly, ETS has a Student Representative Council (SRC) which consists of all students. They elect their own President, Secretary and Treasurer, and appoint year or class representatives as appropriate for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Student Representative Council elect Year Representatives to speak on their behalf at the relevant Board of Studies. The Board of Studies normally has four student representatives at each meeting, three for undergraduate programmes, and one for postgraduate. It is expected that a Distance Learning

student will need to be added to the membership of the committee to ensure that they are engaged in the process.

Thirdly, the SRC President is a member of the Seminary Board, The Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and ETS, and more recently, he has been appointed to the academic Senate. The SRC President presents a report having met with the SRC to gauge opinions, and represents the student voice on all these platforms.

Student engagement is required by the Memorandum of Agreement and takes place at several ways.

- Student Representative Council.
- Staff-Student Liaison Committee.
- Board of Studies Student Representation.

Joint Board Student Representation. The SRC President (or his deputy) is also a member of the Joint Board which consists of representatives from the University and the Seminary. This meets annually,

Seminary Board Representation. The SRC President is also a member of the Seminary Board which among other matters appoints and monitors teaching and administrative staff at ETS. Moreover, this also ensures key student engagement in the development of the Five-Year-Plan which is reviewed in January of each year by the Seminary Board.

Senate Student Representation. The SRC President is now a member of Senate, though when discussion of student data takes place, he/she withdraws. Their involvement on the Senate means that they are consulted on key areas such as Admissions, Programme Design and Development, Learning and Teaching, Assessment, Resources and Facilities and Programme Monitoring and Review.

Course Quality Questionnaires. Student engagement continues at Course level through the Course Quality Questionnaires. All student responses, a summary by the Course Organiser, and any action plans are presented to the student class representative for their approval in terms of accuracy prior to full discussion of the summary and action plans by the Board of Studies at which these students are present.

Student Satisfaction Questionnaire. At Programme level, student engagement is maintained through the Student Satisfaction Questionnaire. Here students are asked about their experience at ETS, whether their specific needs were met (international students, disabled students and students whose first language is not English), the adequacy of the resources in terms of the building, library, IT, Placements, etc. It was decided at a recent Senate meeting that Student Satisfaction Questionnaires would be discussed at Senate level as it was felt that the responses are important for evaluating the student learning and development experience.

All the above are deliberate steps we have taken and reviewed to ensure that we engage all students, individually and collectively, as partners in the assurance and enhancement of their academic and professional development.

Revised December 2019