

School of Arts & Creative Industries Plan 2022/23

Objective

Developing our taught postgraduate academic portfolio.

Develop our plans for postgraduate taught academic portfolio to grow student numbers.

- Action the recommendations to develop new programmes in Culture and Heritage, Entertainment Arts and Social Change
- Seek input from the new Design Professor and the Prof in Creative Technology to ensure portfolio is aligned with research priorities.
- Ensure development is in line with the consultation paper from our external consultant on opportunities in this area around VFX, animation and Creative Industries Business.

We will continue to provide an excellent student experience for undergraduate and postgraduate students through:

- Addressing space requirements for the School
- Implementing curriculum developments with a focus on cross-curricula digital literacy, decolonising the curriculum and ensuring alignment and engagement with ENhance curriculum development framework
- We will focus on enhancing the student community through development of modules that cut across the School in Creative Practice and Collaborative Practice
- We will work with the Disability and Inclusion team to mainstream reasonable adjustments (where possible) and will focus on enhancing the sense of student community

Increase the proportion of entrants to the School from Widening Access backgrounds

We will increase the proportion of entrants to the School from Widening Access backgrounds by:

- Reviewing admissions requirements with Programme Leaders
- Building on our revised conversion processes through engaging applicants in learning and development activities to familiarise them with the University and help them better prepare for university study (such as our portfolio workshops)
- We will develop additional credit bearing provision that is focused on widening access through our current partnerships with Newbattle Abbey College and articulation agreements with Edinburgh College to develop linear learner journeys from HNC/HND into our degree programmes in the subject areas of Screen and Performing Arts.

Increase the proportion of graduates in Professional or Managerial occupations through:

- Establishing greater links with external agencies and industry through our industry advisory board for the School that represents each area of the School. This will help us engage with the needs of the sector in regard to curriculum enhancement.

- We will build new partnerships with Edinburgh and Scottish stakeholders such as Edinburgh Festivals, to develop live projects and work placement opportunities for students.
- We will work with the Student Futures team to increase the number of work-based learning (WBL)/placement opportunities. A gaps analysis will be conducted to identify programmes that lack this type of experience which will in turn enable the targeting of resources towards the creation of WBL/placement opportunities for these programmes.

Increase Research income and establish new Research Centres, attracting staff to work in the new environment.

- We will align staff to centres and build research bids around innovation themes. The Centres will roll out workshops on bid writing, and invite guests to stimulate research development.
- We will work with other Schools to submit interdisciplinary bids building research networks across Schools within Edinburgh Napier University and beyond, regional, national and international. New interdisciplinary work is planned between SACI, SCEBE, SAS and TBS. Collaborations will develop between institutions and partners outside ENU (National Library, City Art Centre, Scottish Leather Group etc.). Collaborations with universities in China, India, Singapore, Brazil, Germany and others will be progressed.
- Following the appointment of a new Enterprise and Innovation lead, we will align our strategy to the Innovation Hub, Creative Tech to develop stakeholder engagement and scope opportunities.

Increase staff engagement through building up increased resilience in staffing across the School, reflecting the increase in student numbers.

- Undertake Phase Two of the Casual Hours Project to further reduce reliance on casual hours and flexible workforce, moving teaching to core staff who can also contribute to the research and innovation activity of the School.
- Enhancing leadership capacity and capability Leadership and line management capacity and capability building through series of intervention and engagement activities. We will embed the Line Manager Forum in the school and reinforce the role of the line manager through My Contribution objective setting.
- Staff without PhDs will be supported through the Centre for Creative Practice to engage with practice research, and this will be a strong focus of the School's implementation of the new ECA programme
- Work will continue on Phase 2 of the Technical Review to ensure that academic and technical delivery compliment the SE and enable more resilient methods of delivery.
- An away day is planned for all staff, following on from an away day for the School Senior Leadership Team. With approx 21 new staff onboarded in September 2021 and a further 18 due to onboard in September 2022 a strong focus will be on ensuring academic workspaces are allocated, and that new staff are supported with a focus on f-2-f team-building activities.