**Academic governance, including all aspects of the control and oversight of its higher education provision, is conducted in partnership with its students.**

**Student Partnership**

The main purpose of The Students’ Union is to represent and support The Northern School of Art students in ensuring they are involved in defining and managing their experience during their time at the School.

The School continues to support the development of an active and engaged Student Union (SU) ensuring that each programme has class appointed representatives on each level of study. There are also a number of elected student officers that represents the student body across the School as **SU President, Student Governor,** SU **Vice President(s), Activities Officer, Sustainability Officer, LGBTQ+ Officer, Wellbeing Officer, Communications and Campaigns Officer, Equality and Diversity Officer, Mature Students Officer and Disability Officer. Students can also engage with the Student Engagement Manager to suggest additional roles to add to the yearly elections, if they can show a further role could ensure more students are represented or that the student experience can be further improved.**

**Students’ Union President**

**The SU President leads the SU Executive Team and the Students’ Union as a whole and acts the key link to the principalship at the school. The president will often represent students on different meetings and committees at the school, as well as liaising with the NUS and other external bodies where necessary.**

**SU Vice President(s)**

**The SU Vice President(s) support the SU President in leading the Executive Team, standing in to lead meetings where necessary and representing students interests. The Vice Presidents will focus on the areas of Community and Academic Interests, ensuring the Students’ Union covers both areas for benefit of the student body.**

Activities Officer

The elected Activities Officer will work with students to ensure events and activities take place in the interest of students, focusing mainly on improving the student experience, ensuring a strong student voice and representing students’ academic interests. The Activities Officer will work with the Student Engagement Manager to arrange activities or support students in running their own events and activities.

Sustainability Officer

The elected Sustainability Officer will work on behalf of students at the school to promote a sustainable culture at the school, considering green initiatives and looking at best practice to ensure sustainable work practices for students and staff. This may include events to promote sustainability or community outreach events such as beach clean ups or sharing information around how to be sustainable in day-to-day life or as an artist.

LGBTQ+ Officer

The LGBTQ+ Officer will represent LGBTQ+ students at the school, ensuring their needs are represented, feedback is heard, creating opportunities for LGBTQ+ students to meet and form peer support groups and creating events and activities to celebrate LGBTQ+ work and projects.

Wellbeing Officer

The Wellbeing Officer will work with students and staff at the school to support students in engaging with activities and guidance to improve their wellbeing. They will also feedback on issues affecting students and encourage engagement with our student services department at the school.

Communications and Campaigns Officer

The Communications and Campaigns Officer will work to ensure strong communication with the student body at the school, growing the presence of the Students’ Union and making sure the SU effectively communicates all student voice opportunities and events, activities and more for students to get involved in. This will include good use of verbal, digital and print communication and listening to the student body to get the most effective communication plan to suit the needs of the student body.

Equality and Diversity Officer

The Equality and Diversity Officer will work to ensure that all students, regardless of any protected characteristic they may have, are afforded the best opportunities and appropriate support to achieve the best outcomes for them personally in their time at the school. The Equality and Diversity Officer will feed back to the school in regard to issues around Equality and Diversity and will take opportunities to celebrate the diversity of our student body.

Mature Students Officer

The Mature Students Officer will represent mature students at the school, ensuring their needs are represented, feedback is heard, creating opportunities for mature students to meet and form peer support groups and creating events and activities to celebrate mature work and projects.

Disability Officer

The Disability Officer will represent disabled students at the school, ensuring their needs are represented, feedback is heard, creating opportunities for disabled students to meet and form peer support groups and creating events to support mature students especially in regard to representing their academic interests and ensuring the best possible outcomes for mature students.

Students can engage in all areas of the Schools higher education provision through a number of mechanisms:

* Through the deliberative structure, students are encouraged to attend and participate in a number of strategic meetings throughout the academic year. These provide opportunity for students to listen to discussion on and comment about School performance, research, scholarship, teaching, curriculum development, programmes of study, policy or process, strategic plan, or resources through attending validation events and periodic reviews, Academic Board and through the Board of Governors. A
* Through the Student Union, students are actively involved in discussion around the Schools engagement in student experience, Scholarly Activity and Research (SAR) and the Schools Access and Participation Plan (APP).
* Through internal and external reviews that enable students to discuss academic, curriculum, management, student experience and resources, internally through Student Assemblies, Programme Board meetings, or through completing the Student Perception Survey (SPS) or through external review by talking to external examiners, or completing the National Student Survey (NSS).
* Through the planning and partnership group, a mix of principalship, senior managers and students who meet to discuss mixed agenda items. These meeting began online during lockdown and were successful in enabling students to directly voice their views to management. The success of this open approach to communication during lockdown and the successful transition to digital delivery was noted in a case study published on the QAAs website in 2020.