

The DUSA Executive Manifesto 2025/26

This Manifesto outlines our key aims and action plan for 2025/26. It sets a clear direction for what we intend to achieve and allows students, staff, and the wider community to understand our vision for the year ahead. This document not only guides our work but also holds us accountable to the commitments we make.

Past DUSA Executives have made significant strides in supporting student wellbeing, representation, and academic success. We are committed to building on that legacy while increasing engagement across campus and building a more connected student community.

In the coming year, we will work closely with the student body to bring our shared vision to life, including the co-creation of this manifesto.

Our work will focus on three key priorities:

- **Cultivating and Nurturing Student Wellbeing and Community**
- **Student Voice and Empowerment**
- **Flexible Learning and Innovation in Academia**

These priorities align with DUSA's strategic goals: Increasing Influence and Impact, Developing Community, Creating Opportunities, and Providing High-Quality Student Support. We are committed to upholding these values and making them meaningful to the everyday student experience.

We understand that the term “student experience” is often thrown around without substance. We will not contribute to that noise. We recognise that each student's journey is unique and cannot be defined by a single narrative or metric.

Everything we do as your Executive will be driven by one principle: for the students, by the students. We promise to act with transparency, listen with intent, and work hard to make your time at university the best it can be. But we can't do it alone—your input matters. So talk to us. Email us. Tell us how we can help.

Together, let's shape an experience that reflects your voice.

The DUSA Executive Team

2025/2026

Cultivating and Nurturing Student Wellbeing and Community

Increase visibility and accessibility of student support services

University should feel like a supportive community, not just a place to study. That means creating spaces where **every student feels welcomed, valued, and looked after, both academically and personally.**

This year, we are focusing on increasing awareness of the support that's already available, while **building new wellbeing initiatives** spearheaded by DUSA that reflect what students need.

We will roll out practical and engaging wellbeing events throughout the year, working closely with the university and DUSA's **student support services**. These will include focused awareness weeks, skill-building sessions, and inclusive activities that promote mental health, resilience, and connection.

We are also committed to ensuring every DUSA wellbeing campaign **reflects the diversity of our community—centred around student voices, lived experience, and equity. You deserve to feel seen and supported.**

And when it comes to student life? **We want every event and initiative to bring people together.** Whether it's your first week or final year, we'll create opportunities to connect, have fun, and feel part of something.

Promoting a Safe, Inclusive, Accessible, and Engaging Campus Environment

We know there's been uncertainty about the future of campus life, and we hear your concerns. That's why we're stepping up to protect the student experience and make sure no one is left behind.

This year, we're focusing on building a campus where every student feels **safe, empowered, and included**. We're not just promising to be visible: we're making sure we're approachable and available, whether in person or online, and that our communication is consistent and open to all.

We'll work to ensure student groups and societies have what they need to grow and thrive. **We'll challenge discrimination, promote equality, and support student-led activism that reflects the diversity of our campus.**

Accessibility is also a top priority: we're collaborating closely with student societies and disability services to make our campus and communications accessible for all students.

We're here to make sure that campus feels like a place where you can be your full self—without barriers, without judgment, and with the support you deserve.

Enhancing Our Student Community

The DUSA student community is not just something we talk about—it's something we actively build together. But community only happens when students feel included, heard, and empowered to take part.

That's why this year, we're focused on increasing visibility, access, and engagement with all that DUSA has to offer.

We'll do more to highlight **how you can get involved**—whether through DUSA volunteering, leadership roles, or helping out in the wider Dundee community. We're here to support peer-led initiatives, strengthen networks, and give you more opportunities to shape your own student experience.

We'll also be more transparent and consistent with how we communicate—making it easier to know what's happening, when, and how you can join in.

We are proud to **support student-led campaigns** and events that centre around the issues students care about most. Whether it's social justice, mental health, or creative expression: we're committed to amplifying your voice.

And of course, we can't forget our societies. **Societies are the heart of DUSA**, bringing students together across interests, cultures, and experiences. We already work closely with them but this year, we are going further. More support. More visibility. More collaboration.

Because our community doesn't just happen. **We build it. Together.**

Student Voice and Empowerment

Reworking of the student representation framework

We place student voice at the heart of everything we do. Over the many years we are proud to have cultivated a large representative community. Between the Student Representative Council (SRC) and the Executive team we have worked alongside the entire school representative framework; school presidents, their vice presidents and their class representatives to represent students. **This structure has served dutifully, however, we're not here to settle—we're here to improve what matters to you and as such we need to adapt to better the student needs and to continue championing representation within the new faculty structure.**

The Student Representative Council has existed for as long as DUSA, however, many students are unaware of its existence. Even though it has championed many student issues and brought forward great improvements to **student life, such as helping alleviate period poverty, and supporting LGBTQIA+ endeavours.** This year we aim to give it a substantial

rework by working closely with the SRC and students to bring about meaningful change and improve engagement.

Lobby for continuation and expansion of cost-of-living initiatives

We know how difficult it is right now regarding cost of living, and the university's financial state is something on the mind of all students. **We want to continue to highlight the amazing services and support offered by both DUSA and the University.** If you are facing hardship, no matter how small it may seem, DUSA and the university is there to support you. **Furthermore, we want to push for the continuation of the existing measures while bringing our own fresh ideas to expand cost of living measures.**

Build towards greater student activism and student power

DUSA is committed to winning for you. We win by **building your power, amplifying your voice,** and **defending your academic interests** every step of the way.

Just because we were elected as your student representatives doesn't mean we have all the answers—**your ideas matter,** and we're here to **co-create the future of our University and our student association with you.**

We're not just representatives—we're collaborators. **We're here to advocate for you,** to stand alongside those working to improve your student experience, and to make sure **you have everything you need to succeed.**

But we can only do this if **we earn your trust** and **work with your active support.** We know the road ahead includes challenges—the financial crisis and its impacts have created uncertainty. **But we are not backing down.**

We won't sit quietly in rooms just so someone can say students were “consulted.” We will speak up, ask questions, and **take action to make sure your experience is prioritised.**

Most importantly, we're committed to giving you **every opportunity to learn about and build your own power**—to shape DUSA, influence the University, and even go beyond to change the world around you.

We believe in your voice, your leadership, and your power to create change. We want to put in place more opportunities for your voice to be heard and increase transparency through regular executive updates.

Flexible Learning and Innovation in Academia

Advocating for Increased Accessibility with a Focus on Better Support for Students

We know that students with additional support needs often face unnecessary barriers when trying to access the information and support they deserve. This year, we're committed to **changing** that. We pledge to create a more **inclusive and supportive academic environment** by ensuring students with additional needs are **seen, heard, and properly supported**.

We plan to introduce **fresh, engaging initiatives**—like fun events during **Academic Skills Week**—to make learning more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. We'll also put **student wellbeing at the heart of what we do**, especially during high-stress periods like exams. We'll be **available, approachable, and proactive** in offering the help students need, when they need it most.

We want to ensure all lecturers are properly trained and educated on the needs of the student body, especially those with additional support requirements. We aim to collaborate with the university's Career Services to support student placements and internships. To promote **active engagement** with all classes and learning activities, **attendance shouldn't be seen as simply a tick box**, but rather properly engage with students to allow them to pursue their full potential.

Additionally, we are committed to ensuring that **all lecture recordings are captioned, notes are compatible with screen readers, and all related materials are uploaded promptly to enhance the learning experience, especially for distance learners and those with additional support needs**.

Prioritised Refining and Dissemination of Academic Policy

We believe everyone deserves to understand their **academic rights** clearly—especially when it comes to **appeals and academic policy**. We're prioritising **better communication** to ensure no student is left in the dark, no matter their background. This includes making sure all students know who their **points of contact** are, and who they can approach for help.

This means **clearer information, easier access to support, and tools that break down complicated academic terms**. We will also continue our work on **AI awareness**. With AI becoming a bigger part of academic life, we want students to feel confident using it ethically and within the conduct rules. We need to organise **clearer and more accessible** workshops on Artificial Intelligence: we will advocate for **clear, fair guidelines and help students navigate the space without fear or confusion**. Our goal is to empower students, reduce risk of misconduct, and make sure everyone understands their academic rights.

Illuminate Clearer Pathways to Help Students Succeed in Academia and Beyond

As the University restructures its schools and systems, we know that change can feel unsettling. That is why we promise to **stand by you** every step of the way. We will work closely with university leaders, advisors, student services, and your school reps to make sure **your voice is heard, your student experience is protected and any disruption to your studies is kept to a minimum.**

We are also focused on **building stronger pathways to academic success and employability.** Through dedicated focus weeks and skills initiatives, we will keep innovating and finding new ways to **support your learning and career growth.** We are passionate about building a stronger student community—one where leadership is nurtured, feedback drives real change, and everyone feels part of something bigger.

Finally, we want to celebrate the legacy of Dundee students—past and present. By **connecting with alumni and sharing their stories,** we will help inspire the next generation of student leaders.

Summary

The DUSA Executive Manifesto 2025/26 sets a clear vision and action plan centred around three key priorities: nurturing student wellbeing and community, amplifying student voice and empowerment, and fostering flexible learning alongside academic innovation. Building on the strong foundation laid by previous Executives, the team commits to enhancing accessibility, inclusivity, and engagement across campus. They aim to work collaboratively with students, staff, and the university to improve support services, increase student involvement, and advocate for fair academic policies. The manifesto emphasises transparency, active listening, and partnership with the student body to ensure that every individual's unique experience is valued and supported.

Conclusion

As your Executive Team, we are dedicated to ensuring you get the most from your student experience. We are determined to lead for the students, by the students, creating a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community where your voice shapes every decision. We invite you to join us in this journey—share your ideas, get involved, and help us build a student experience that truly reflects your needs and aspirations. **Together, we can make this year one of meaningful progress, connection, and empowerment for all students in our community.**

THE DUSA EXECUTIVE TEAM

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