

Black attainment – a case study

Edinburgh University Students' Association

LiberatEd is a student-led initiative aimed at creating a more inclusive, intersectional and empowering curriculum at the University of Edinburgh. LiberatEd held its first workshop in November 2016, and its aim is to continue running projects and events until our curriculum is truly diverse.

Our vision

LiberatEd is an initiative created by Edinburgh University Students' Association and led by Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), Disabled, LGBT+ and Women students from across the University, aimed at challenging the academic establishment to become more diverse, more inclusive, and more critical of historically dominant narratives.

The aim is to not only push for a more diverse curriculum, but also act as a **medium** where students can discuss the experiences students from marginalized backgrounds have at university. Our hope is that the presence of LiberatEd will start a discussion about the lack of diversity, not just in the curriculum but also at a student and staff level, and question why that is.

What we've done

LiberatEd workshops have already been run in the Schools of Literatures, Languages and Cultures; History, Classics and Archaeology; Social and Political Science; and Philosophy, Psychology and Language Science. These workshops allow students to discuss the issues they have faced with their curriculum, and strategize on what they would like to see from their courses and teaching. Having assisted with our new online resource list system created by the library, students of any course can suggest texts they think should be part of

the curriculum directly to the course organizer and lecturers, which will allow students at every level engage with, and question, their reading lists. Students have also been encouraged to suggest reading directly at Student Staff Liaison Committees as well as in mid-semester programme feedback.

LiberatEd has succeeded in creating a space where students can discuss these issues, and implement change at an institutional level. Having won an Impact Award from the Students Association for "achieving significant change on campus" this past April, LiberatEd will continue to fight for a more intersectional curriculum that highlights the voices of those from marginalized backgrounds.

This year LiberatEd will be working on auditing various courses and examining how diverse course reading lists actually are, and will work with staff to increase representation on these lists. Additionally, we will be working to create a new interdisciplinary race course created by BME students. We will be working with the library as well to hold exhibitions featuring academics from marginalized groups, which will make it easier for students to include more intersectional readings and perspectives into their work.

<https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/>