

Hi, my name is Heather Innes and I'm re-running for the position of Executive Representative on the Scottish Executive Committee.

About Me:

I'm currently a student, and an Executive Officer, at Abertay University, where this year I've been involved in projects surrounding mental health, our democracy review and tackling gender-based violence. Previous to this, I did two years, and also sat on the Executive Committee, at Dundee and Angus College.



I also currently sit on the Scottish Executive Committee as an Executive Representative, and I'm re-running for this position as I believe my experience and passion will be needed over the next year, to help tackle the challenges we will face.

The Future of NUS:

With the future of NUS so uncertain, it's imperative that next year's Scottish Executive Committee is made up of a committed and dedicated team. With only one sabbatical, NUS Scotland will be relying even more on its volunteers, which is where I believe my experience will be key. As a progressing student, I have the experience of moving from College to University, which has given me a unique perspective on SEC over the past year. I think this experience will be important in supporting and providing input over the year to come, with the many challenges we face.

Student Poverty:

Student poverty is an increasing issue, with more and more students struggling to make ends meet. At Abertay, the Abertaysty project, which provides free food to students, has seen a huge demand that we struggle to meet. Although it's nice to see wholesome projects like this, it's a sad reality that they are needed on our campuses, to help our students just to get by.



Universal Credit:

The recent rollout of Universal Credit across Scotland has seen some disastrous consequences. Students are finding their finances suddenly slashed and are having to make the choice between staying in education or putting food on the table. This new system unfairly affects student parents and carers, who already have to play a balancing act when it comes to their education. We need to fight for the extra provisions now needed, just to allow our students to stay on their courses.