

Title: Student Engagement: Enhancing Our Learning Community
@ Stirling Through Challenging Times

Presenter: Sarah Gardiner and Arlana Yessenbayeva

Outline



My name is Sarah Gardiner, and I am a current 3rd year student and Student Engagement officer at the university of Stirling. I am a mature student who enjoys research into human behaviour whether this is in a psychology setting or within the bigger university community. I began this journey as a volunteer as part of the Student as partners in Learning initiative and was offered a paid position. As part of this position myself and my coworker have designed a study to investigate how our current students and staff feel the university has managed throughout the pandemic and how we can use the best practices for the upcoming semester. I am a mature student and a single parent to a crazy 8-year-old son. I enjoy being able to contribute to the university, ensuring that our practices are as inclusive as possible which is very important to me as an Autistic Student.



My name is Arlana Yessenbayeva, I am a 3rd year Economics and Finance. Having a module representative experience, I was interested in how student voice would work in the online environment. When I heard about Students as Partners in Learning I applied instantly motivated by the opportunity to share and come up with solutions to problems our university community has never faced before.

Last autumn I was able to help with testing of different online modules I have never studied within my curriculum such as French history and computer science. This semester I was studying from home in Kazakhstan, which with its various challenges motivated me to think of

creative solutions for accessibility and inclusivity regardless time, geographical and other differences, and help make students feel more connected.

I like to communicate with students of different degrees about their online learning experience, and then benefit our community by highlighting the different perspectives and experiences.