

## Relationship agreement template

### Introduction

The CONSERVATOIRE is committed to working closely and effectively with its Students' Union (the "SU") through a professional and mutually respectful relationship, ensuring that an excellent student experience is a priority for all students of the CONSERVATOIRE.

The CONSERVATOIRE respects and understands the role and value that the SU brings to CONSERVATOIRE life and is committed to development of all aspects of the students' experience. It will ensure that the SU is involved in all institutional decisions which relate to the student experience through an open and effective relationship.

In return, the CONSERVATOIRE expects the SU to be open, accountable and effective, capable of supporting students fully as they undertake training.

The CONSERVATOIRE and SU have a shared commitment to developing and improving the holistic student experience of both curricular and extra-curricular aspects of CONSERVATOIRE life.

The CONSERVATOIRE and SU are committed to working closely together to ensure clarity and mutual understanding of their respective roles. The effective communication between senior management and the SU Executive helps to achieve this. The CONSERVATOIRE recognises that the SU has an integral role regarding student experience and respects that it provides appropriate and relevant social and extra-curricular activities, student representation and welfare services for the CONSERVATOIRE community.

The SU acknowledges the investment that the CONSERVATOIRE provides each year to the SU. It is a joint objective that each student leaves the college with every opportunity of securing relevant, worthwhile and long-lasting employment and that employers recognise the CONSERVATOIRE as a first-class training institution for graduates.

The CONSERVATOIRE is committed to openness and trust with its SU. {DELETE IF NOT APPROPRIATE} The SU President is a full member of the Board of Directors and will be part of the decision making process on all major decisions - consulting with the wider student body, as appropriate. The CONSERVATOIRE will ensure that communication channels are effective and clear and that the SU is consulted on appropriate decisions that impact directly on the student experience. The CONSERVATOIRE recognises that it has entered a period of change with regard to the student fee structure and the SU will have a critical role in ensuring that students understand and appreciate the level of investment made by both the CONSERVATOIRE and the Government in supporting their studies.

The following sections of the Agreement are laid out in accordance with HEFCE, S or W {DELETE AS APPROPRIATE} guidelines.

## **Student Partnership**

The CONSERVATOIRE is committed to investing sufficient time and resources into ensuring constructive interactions exist between the CONSERVATOIRE and the SU and has set up the following measures to ensure the best possible communication and involvement:

The SU President is a member of the CONSERVATOIRE's Board of Directors/Governors and is responsible, along with the other INSERT NUMBER directors/governors, for agreeing the CONSERVATOIRE's strategic plan, financial forecasts, policies and strategies and all other strategic issues. The SU President has the opportunity to represent the student perspective at each meeting of the Board.

The CONSERVATOIRE Principal meets with the SU President {INSERT TIME e.g. fortnightly, monthly}. This provides the opportunity for the SU President to raise issues relating to academic matters, resource issues, topical matters and key student concerns.

The Senior Management Team {DELETE AS APPROPRIATE} meets with the SU Executive {INSERT TIME e.g. termly, twice yearly etc}. This provides an opportunity for the SU Executive to raise more general issues and for the SMT to discuss strategic and student experience issues. For example, any Fee Plan submissions will be consulted on in full with the SU Executive and appropriate input received and incorporated into the final documents.

Appropriate student representation is made in all academic departments, including course boards {INSERT APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC BOARD} and other academic fora. Members of the SU Executive Committee are also members of other college committees, including {INSERT APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES}.

## **Independence**

The CONSERVATOIRE and the SU recognise the differing responsibilities of the two cohorts and respect the independence of the two institutions. The CONSERVATOIRE recognises the value of having a strong, student led SU, which is empowered to determine and manage its own affairs. The SU has delegated responsibility to with regards to the student fee regime and that this has implications on the student body as a major stakeholder. The CONSERVATOIRE supports the SU's commercial activities and recognises that this is an important element in further enhancing the student experience.

## **Accountability**

The CONSERVATOIRE has set up appropriate mechanisms by which the SU is accountable to the College as supervisor (under the 1994 Education Act) and principal funder.

{DELETE THIS SECTION AS APPROPRIATE} The SU submits an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors each year, and half-yearly accounts are presented each January. The year-end accounts, are also presented to the Board of Directors. The SU President, as a member of the Board of Directors is accountable to the Board in terms of the financial probity of the SU.

## **Diversity and Equality**

The CONSERVATOIRE is committed to equality and diversity and the fair treatment of all staff and students. Likewise, the SU Constitution sets out its commitments to operate in a fair, democratic and equal way to the benefit of all students of the CONSERVATOIRE.

## **Student Voice**

The CONSERVATOIRE is committed to ensuring that students are partners at every level of the institution. This Agreement has previously outlined the communication channels set up, and student representation is also made on all INSERT APPROPRIATE COURSE BOARDS/ACADEMIC BOARDS. Provisions by Student Services also include commitment to the development of the student voice, through all levels of the CONSERVATOIRE.

### **Funding**

The CONSERVATOIRE provides an annual subvention grant to the SU in order that it can deliver its core aims and objectives as set out in the SU Constitution. It also funds the post of the SU President {AND STUDENT SERVICES POSITION IF APPROPRIATE} who assists the SU in many of its activities, including {DELETE AS APPROPRIATE} welfare, accommodation, commercial activities and liaising with academic staff on students' behalf.

The CONSERVATOIRE is the principal funder of the SU and requires assurance from the SU that funds are applied appropriately. The grant is intended to be sufficient to sustain core services plus provide a contribution towards other functions. The SU may raise additional revenue through commercial activity, in order to enhance further the student experience. The annual subvention provided by the College is not dependent upon the amount of commercial income generated.

### **Review**

The CONSERVATOIRE and SU will review this Relationship Agreement on an annual basis. It will be approved by the SU Executive Committee {and Student Council IF APPLICABLE}, and subsequently be submitted to the College's Board of Directors for approval.

It is through the above points that both bodies seek to gain understanding of their mutual and separate endeavours, and support one another in improving and enriching the Student Experience, which will always be prioritised as the foundation of any activity.

Both parties will ensure that they make appropriate and timely information available to each other to support the Agreement.

Signatures

Principal

President SU