

Female Representation & Widening Participation at EntSoc

Current Statistics

The university has a higher proportion (~65%) of female students, but this is largely in STEM subjects and certain disciplines have higher rates of male applicants.

Edinburgh university has a 33.6% share of privately educated students, which is one of the highest in UK higher institutions. It has also been previously criticized for its low BAME student applications.

Our Goals

Here at Edinburgh Entrepreneurs we are aiming to produce a diverse student society in terms of gender, sex, ethnicity, and sexuality. For our 2021-2022 session, we have set the following targets for our society to reach this goal;

- > 50:50 representation of female speakers at all events (35 out of annual 70 events minimum).
- > Raising the proportion of LGBTQ+ spokespeople at our society events.
- > Proportion of speakers from BAME communities to be raised to much closer to the national average (~15%)
- > Support widening participation of students at the university and making sure these are represented in our speakers.

Initiatives

Edinburgh Entrepreneurs has a variety of inclusion initiatives in an attempt to improve diversity at our student society. We deliver a series of diversity events throughout the year.

- > Partnership with our university Women In Business Society to enable female entrepreneurs a power platform to deliver talks at the University.
- > Dedicated events during women's month to highlight Scottish female talent. Topics include; breaking prejudices, raising representation awareness, and biases.
- > Pride month talks series that offers a showcase of various employers who have committed to diversity in their teams. Event partners include; IBM, Goldman Sachs, Google, etc.
- > Pride month talks regarding current LGBTQ+ issues.
- > Black entrepreneurship to be highlighted throughout the year, notably in Black history month for capstone talks regarding Scottish black talent.
- > Black entrepreneurship events to be taken place regarding topics raised during BLM and breaking prejudices.
- > Curation of a World Series for keynote events, allowing us to highlight talent from all over the world (most notably Africa, South East Asia, and South America).
- > Support widening participation of students at the university through decreasing membership fees by 20%, and offering cheaper 'lifetime' membership for the duration of their course to save up to 75%.
- > Create a diverse keynote speaker pool, with entrepreneurs who did not pursue university, incorporating those who come from lower SES backgrounds.



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