

# RSE YOUNG ACADEMY OF SCOTLAND

## 2020 Vision

### Vision

Our vision is to provide a platform for leaders to work collaboratively for the benefit of society by informing public policy, supporting Scotland's people and by sharing our research and practical expertise.

### Mission

Our mission is to achieve transformative societal change through citizenship, innovation, collaboration, evidence and leadership. Our objectives are to:

<b>Share and generate knowledge and expertise</b>
<b>Undertake and lead collaborative research</b>
<b>Inform policy and practice for the common good</b>
<b>Establish strong links with other Young Academies around the world</b>
<b>Support the professional development of our members</b>

### Six Core Societal Themes

As leaders we engage with the vision and mission of the Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) through working groups which foster multi-disciplinary activities encompassing one or more of our core themes.

<b>Healthier</b>	<i>Identify and tackle health and wellbeing challenges</i>
<b>Smarter</b>	<i>Promote informed decision-making among individuals, groups and government</i>
<b>Enterprising</b>	<i>Engage in innovation &amp; entrepreneurial thinking</i>
<b>Sustainable</b>	<i>Empower communities &amp; enable access to expertise</i>
<b>Equal</b>	<i>Promote equality &amp; justice between peoples and nations</i>
<b>International</b>	<i>Engage in outward-looking projects &amp; bring Scotland's expertise to the world</i>

### Working Group Principles

The working groups engage with the core themes through three main principles.

<b>Advocacy</b>	<i>To use our knowledge &amp; expertise to inform &amp; direct</i>
<b>Awareness</b>	<i>To raise the profile of specific issues</i>
<b>Action</b>	<i>To engage in activity that has tangible benefits</i>

## Membership

The YAS was founded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in the autumn of 2011 and the membership currently stands at 151. We are the largest Young Academy in Europe and our membership, ranging in age from mid-20s to early 40s, is also the most diverse coming from academia, the creative industries and commercial and public sectors. Members are elected for a period of five years. Details on the current membership is available here: <http://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk>

## Working Groups

The Young Academy of Scotland brings together leaders and some of the best young talent in Scotland. Its members deliver on the vision and mission through the advocacy, awareness and actions of working groups which are the activity hubs of YAS. All working groups value learning, creativity, boldness, discovery and integrity. Each member of YAS has the opportunity to engage with one of the regional groups (North, West, East, St Andrews) set up to facilitate local interactions and initiatives. Each member is required to be aligned with and regularly contribute to at least one working group. All working groups produce work plans (updated annually) which reflect one or more of the core themes. The working groups are:

Arts, Humanities and Society
Computing in Schools
Excellence in Education
Food and Drink
Health and Wellbeing
Industry
International Links
Open Data
Research the Headlines

## Theme Ambassadors

Engaging with the core themes through the three main principles will, from time to time, require additional support from the RSE fellowship and from people external to the RSE. Theme ambassadors exist for this reason and their role is to provide support and guidance, when requested, to the working groups. They have the capacity to open doors and to provide contacts; their knowledge, skills and experience makes them an invaluable asset to YAS.

## Governance

The YAS operates within the organisational form of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO); the RSE Scotland SCIO. The YAS is overseen by a Facilitating Group which is comprised of four co-chairs and a Treasurer elected from the membership; each serves for a period of two years. A Steering Group, comprised of Working Group leads, advises on the activities and direction of the Young Academy of Scotland.