



Dr Alan Gow

I joined Heriot-Watt in 2013 and was elected to Senate in 2015. I'm standing for re-election to be able to continue representing Psychology and the School of Social Sciences on that forum.

More specifically, I've recently taken up a position on the University Committee for Learning and Teaching (UCLT), one of the three main committees of Senate which has "responsibility for strategic issues related to learning and teaching, including the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy". I want to be able to continue contributing to the work of UCLT and can only do that by re-election to Senate. UCLT is primarily comprised of senior staff including the DLTs for each school and Deans, for example. Therefore, I see my role on that group as representing those of us with teaching commitments but who may be less likely to have input into the wider strategic issues that affect us.

For example, a key issue we see at UCLT affects SoSS specifically. We know from the admissions data that SoSS recruits a higher proportion of people from less affluent backgrounds, mature students and those with disabilities or pre-existing health conditions. While that's a positive recruitment story, we know from the data that those students are also more likely to leave university before completing their studies. We've seen those data coming in at each UCLT meeting I've attended, but there's not yet a specific strategy to better support those students, or importantly to support colleagues across SoSS working with students from the most vulnerable groups. I hope that by being part of UCLT I'll be able to contribute to solutions to some of those issues, in addition to the other Learning and Teaching strategy matters that affect us all.