Sarah McAllister



After a career in North America in hospitality, healthcare and higher education, I joined the University of Edinburgh in 2005 as a Postgraduate Administrator in Public Health Sciences within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine supporting postgraduate taught and research programmes. In 2008, I was seconded to the School of Chemistry in the College of Science and Engineering as the Teaching Organisation supporting undergraduate and postgraduate taught provision.

In 2009, I moved to the Teaching Organisation Manager post in the School of GeoSciences, and subsequently the Head of Student Services, taking responsibility for all aspects of student and academic support. In 2018, I joined the Institute of Academic Development as Head of Operations and Projects and Assistant Director. I am currently the Head of Student Support Operations in Student Systems and Administration with oversight of the three services, including Fees, Scholarships and our new Extensions and Special Circumstances service.

From 2018-2020, I had the opportunity to act as Project Sponsor for the Programme and Course Information Management project as part of the University's Service Excellence programme. I have actively represented School, College, and Professional Services staff on University working groups, system developments, programme reviews, academic recruitment panels, Senate Committees (SQAC and APRC), and the Student Disciplinary Committee. I have extensive experience of supporting the student journey, including oversight of recruitment, transition, curriculum development, and academic progression, through to graduation, alumni and industrial engagement. I hold a BSc in Social Policy and an MSc in Education (Leadership and Management).

Register of Interests

Committee Memberships

- University Court
- Knowledge Strategy Committee
- Nominations Committee