**The Student Quality Ambassador Project: Health Education England**

**‘Fresh eyes, small steps, big changes’**

The Student Quality Ambassador (SQA) role was developed shortly after the Francis report of 2013. The Francis report noted that healthcare students did not have the confidence or backing to speak up and whistle blow about bad practice. So Health Education England decided to change this and developed SQA’s. It was a way to empower students to speak up about bad practice and show them that there is always a way to improve and learn from such mistakes. The role later developed to be a way to change practice in the health sector for the better with ideas such as the 15 step audit: *To see what a ward is like within 15 steps of coming onto the ward.*

**Why become an SQA?**

The role of the SQA’s is open to all students from all healthcare backgrounds from medicine to nursing and Allied Health Professionals such as Occupational Therapists and Paramedics. If you become an SQA you will have the chance to develop your own skills such as communication, leadership, team building, learning from other students, doctors, nurses and key speakers from various projects and specialists in their field.

All the development days you attend will be counted in your hours, you’ll get a hoody and have the chance to speak to people from the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Royal College of Nursing and University Deans to put things into practice, to not only help you as a student but also staff and the patients.

If you would like to get involved in this scheme, bringing your ideas that could help change practice for the better, why not apply.

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**After Graduation**

After qualifying you can move into the role of Quality Ambassador. This is the same as Student Quality Ambassador but allows you to carry on helping your Trust to change for the better. It will allow you to help in your speciality and others. You can help Student Quality Ambassadors with their projects and guide them to push their innovation further. It will also help with your future CV’s, CPD and portfolios.

For more information, please follow this link which will take you to Health Education England’s website: <https://studentqa.co.uk/>