

Exam Number:	Submission 8
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At the beginning of the Edinburgh Award, you chose three skills that you particularly wanted to strengthen. During the Award you’ve also looked at how you can increase the impact you have on others.

Please provide a written account that shows you have been purposeful and reflective in working on your skills and impact.

Your submission will be reviewed by students across the Award who are not involved in the same activity as you so please ensure your reflections can be understood by anyone.

If needed, further guidance, example submissions and the criteria on which submissions are judged are available at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-award/peer-assessment>

Note: As part of the Edinburgh Award, your submissions will be reviewed by other students and staff, and may be used elsewhere (in part or in whole) – your name will never be attached and only the content you enter will be used.

Instructions

There are four boxes below, one for each of the three skills you wanted to strengthen and one for impact you have had. In each box write about 200 words describing **what progress you have made** (if any), **what steps** you have taken to try to improve this skill and **what you have learned** from your experiences.

Don’t worry if you haven’t made as much progress as you would have liked; your description can include what has limited your progress and if there are different approaches you would take in the future. For example, you may have found that you initially overestimated your ability in one of the skills – that’s OK.

Write so that your text makes sense to someone who has had no connection with your activity.

Skill One:	Decision Making
My role as Alumni Officer for my sports club includes organising events such as the 125th Anniversary Celebrations and sixes Tournament. Decision making is a key skill in making these events a success. At the beginning of the university year the club celebrated 125 years and I arranged a match for the Alumni versus the current teams with a formal meal and ceilidh after. I struggled with confidence to make decisions on my own which resulted in time management issues whilst awaiting for feedback from other committee members. From this event and progression in my role I became more comfortable with making decisions for the club, realising this would enable a smoother running of these events and allow quicker organisation. Even though I was nervous, overtime by making more and increasingly challenging decisions I improved at this skill. On one occasion my decision making meant a loss for the club, reinforcing that sometimes my decision may not result in the desired outcome. When I organised the Tournament this Semester my decision making had improved giving more time to work on things and the we had a record of 18 teams entered and raised £200 for the club - making up for the previous loss	

Skill Two:	Relationship Building
<p>Alumni in the club are often under represented. Our Alumni are important for relationships of sport outwith university league and are a key part of our club, I am passionate about making them involved in the club. The Alumni are role models: captains of international teams and winning Scottish leagues. Over 125 years our club has a large Alumni of varying sporting backgrounds and nationality, with our club priding itself for introducing people to the game and friendly atmosphere. To continue this connection and keep them apart of the club I have introduced Alumni player profile, improving contact on the alumni facebook page and email, and Alumni newsletter. The Alumni Player profiles showcase the diversity of the previous players and their individual success - be that on or off the pitch. For the anniversary dinner I made sure the game had silverware - increasing its sense of importance. I also produced a booklet, after researching the club's history, summarising the past of the club, a timeline and club photos - which culminated my passion for the club. It is important to be passionate to enable the voice to be heard for the Alumni in the club, which can often be overseen and becoming more passionate meant that I could get more done for them</p>	

Skill Three:	Delegation
<p>For organising events this was more work than one person could handle, or deal with well. Events such as the anniversary dinner and ceildh would not have been possible if I had not been in the committee. To stay in control of the event and ensure that everything ran smoothly I had to delegate tasks to other members in the committee. However, doing this is difficult when you want it to a standard you want as well as choosing people who best suit the role. After taking on too much for the Anniversary and subsequently not enjoying the night much myself I took action. The tournament hosted a few weeks ago had the publicity officer making my posters and advertising the events, as well as the secretary securing the venue for food after for the players. This allowed me to spend time and put my attention on other aspects of the day such as the match fixtures, logistics/running of the tournament for example setting up pitches and goals and getting a new trophy for the womens tournament. Delegating made me develop my responsibility, overseeing tasks others had completed and better time management. I enjoyed the tournament more than the anniversary day as I felt I was more in control and it paid off with positive feedback from the teams.</p>	

Impact on others
<p>I put in an application for Alumni Award at the Sports Union Ball and we were shortlisted, which for a small club was a great achievement and we have not been shortlisted before to my knowledge. I feel like my work was recognised and hopefully by next year this continues with the club winning the award. In my time as the Alumni Officer I feel like I have made Alumni a key part of the club and committee, whereas in other years it has been overlooked. We have strengthened ties with our partner club for Alumni, with some of the girls going to play the Summer season with their new Ladies Team established this year. Alumni Officer is about maintaining communication and this means actually making the effort to keep up the relationship and organising events for both the club and the Alumni. Overall I believe I have learnt a lot from this role and I am still learning, hopefully the work I have done will continue when I leave University and become an Alumni myself.</p>