University of Plymouth

Education and Student Experience Strategy 2018–2023

Foreword

The University has an overarching strategy, titled Advancing Knowledge, Transforming Lives: Our Refreshed Strategy, 2016–2020. It is now timely to refresh the existing Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Strategy 2013–20. This Education and Student Experience Strategy has been refreshed to align with the University strategy, the Research and Innovation strategy and the changing external drivers that affect UK Higher Education.

It is crucial to set and deliver an education strategy for Plymouth to ensure that we provide the best education and student experience for our current and future students. The strategy will act as our road-map for the next five years to prioritise our initiatives and make decisions.

Professor Julian Chaudhuri
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Education and Student Experience)

Education and Student Experience Strategy

Our overarching aim is 'to deliver outstanding education that makes a difference, improving local, national and global communities.'

We will do this by meeting the following ambitions:

1. We will be recognised nationally and internationally for our high-quality, research-led education, and professional teaching. We will provide globally relevant and well-designed programmes of learning for our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

2. We will provide education that will inspire our students to make a difference, producing graduates who will be skilled, confident and able to succeed in their ambitions. We will support all our students to succeed, to become potential leaders of the future and to make a difference to society.

3. We will nurture a sustainable and collaborative community of scholars recognising the significance of research-led teaching and evidence-based pedagogy. We will develop our staff, supporting and recognising excellence and innovation in education, and creating a 'one-team' community that supports the student experience and graduate outcomes.

4. We will provide an infrastructure and learning environment to support our students and staff in the delivery of our contemporary education. Our student experience will be based on quality learning spaces and resources, supported by appropriate communication, learning and information technologies.

The following document lays out the ambitions, key priorities and accompanying high-level actions for the Education and Student Experience Strategy.

Our aim is to deliver outstanding education that makes a difference, improving local, national and global communities

Key Priorities	High-level Actions

Ambition 1. Externally recognised for the high quality of our educational provision.

Key Priorities	High-level Actions
1.1 Global and contemporary education Deliver education that recognises our students' role as citizens in a global context	• Deliver programmes that address global challenges and responses • Ensure programmes engage with, and are responsive to, external drivers and stakeholder views, and have external input • Promote the incorporation of equality, diversity and cross-cultural collaboration and programmes of study • Increase the opportunities for, and take up of, students and staff international collaborations, exchanges and experience
1.2 Teaching quality Grow and sustain external recognition of teaching quality	• Ensure our programmes are in the top quartile of the sector by using key metrics to align programme planning, development and delivery • Increase the proportion of programmes that have engagement with industry and commerce, and those accredited by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies • Position student learning at the centre of our education, adopting the processes of active learning and increasing opportunities for experiential learning
1.3 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Focus to ensure continually improving performances in institutional and subject TEF	• Ensure robust intelligence gathering around the TEF to inform institutional strategy and process development • Establish TEF progress monitoring as part of the annual planning and review cycles

Ambition 2. Support and inspire our students to achieve their potential and ambitions.

Key Priorities	High-level Actions
2.1 Employability Inspire our students for success in their future careers	• Create and implement an employability action plan • Increase the opportunities for, and proportion of, students undertaking high-quality placements, work-based learning and internships • Promote and expand volunteering opportunities and extra-curricular activities through Plymouth Extra and the students' union
2.2 Social mobility and student success Work to enhance social mobility and support student attainment	• Create, implement and evaluate access and participation plans to support positive student outcomes • Enhance access to, transition into and support for students entering Plymouth from under-represented groups • Improve continuation and reduce the attainment gaps for students in under-represented students • Improve the progression and employment outcomes for under-represented groups of students

Key Priorities	High-level Actions
2.3 Student support Ensure high-quality mechanisms for the support of lifelong learning	• Enhance the role of and augment support to personal tutors to enable effective academic support and pastoral advice to our students • Integrate the principles of the Plymouth Compass framework into our educational offer • Build an effective 'one-team' approach to deliver student support across Schools and programmes, and learning support, health and wellbeing services

Ambition 3. Nurture a sustainable and collaborative community of scholars recognising the significance of research and evidence-based pedagogy.

Key Priorities	High-level Actions
3.1 Research-teaching nexus Strengthen research-teaching interactions	• Ensure that all curricula include Plymouth research-based material, and that students have opportunities to generate knowledge in their programmes • Utilise our research strengths to develop and deliver high-quality, well-recruiting postgraduate taught programmes • Translate pedagogical research and innovation to scaffold programme design and delivery
3.2 Academic staff development Develop our staff recognising the need for excellence and innovation in education	• Develop and recognise quality, excellence and innovation in the creation and delivery of research-informed education
3.3 Empowering educational leadership Empower educational leadership and best practice through high-quality, reliable data	• Support programme teams to utilise quality student data to enhance student support and success, academic planning and the student journey • Establish mechanisms to identify, review and disseminate best practice from across the institution, our partner colleges and the higher education sector

Ambition 4. Provide an infrastructure and inclusive learning environment that supports our students and staff in the delivery of our portfolio

Key Priorities	High-level Actions
4.1 High-quality estate Invest in flexible and fit-for-purpose learning spaces and resources	• Maintain and further develop high-quality experiential and stimulating learning environment across all schools • Provide inspirational, mixed use and technology-enabled learning spaces to encourage communities of learning and engagement through discussion of ideas between students and staff
4.2 Technology enhanced learning Use appropriate digital solutions to provide a learning and information environment for students both within and beyond the campus boundaries	• Develop and implement an action plan to promote and support staff and student fluency with digital teaching and learning resources • Enhance training to support online assessment, marking, moderation and feedback • Expand the use of distance and open-learning provision, in particular to support commuter students, international partnerships, and student recruitment

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