

TEACHING & LEARNING WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE
STRATEGY



Overarching Aim

To provide an excellent learning and stimulating student experience, where students are at the heart of all our considerations.

Our world-class research and engaging teaching approaches provide an excellent learning experience, complemented by empowering opportunities for personal development to prepare our students to succeed in their professional and personal lives. We work closely with our student body and the Students' Union to anticipate, understand and respond to student needs. We emphasise high quality teaching and learning, underpinned by our research into pedagogy and our active engagement with statutory and regulatory bodies. In this vibrant learning environment, and working with our partners in Plymouth and around the world, we aim continually to improve our students' experiences, promoting Plymouth University as a first choice institution for undergraduate and postgraduate study and extracurricular engagement.

Relevance to you

The Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Strategy 2013-20 will drive our success and focus our activities in learning and the broader student experience.

If you are:

- **a student**, this Strategy emphasises the importance of engaging with us as a learner on a Plymouth University award, helping us to enhance your learning and personal development;
- **an academic or member of the professional staff**, this Strategy identifies our priorities and encourages you to apply and develop your skills and talents to help deliver our shared goals;
- **an alumnus, business associate or other stakeholder**, this Strategy encapsulates our desire to strengthen our engagement with alumni, business, community and professional partners so that our students can benefit from your knowledge and expertise, as we equip them to contribute to society.

Goals

We have identified four goals that engender a culture of continuous enhancement and which directly map onto and cross-cut the ambitions and objectives set out in the University's Strategy 2020:

- 1. High quality programmes and curricula.** Our high quality curricula will reflect our sustainability and enterprise ethos and incorporate innovative learning approaches to meet the needs of current and prospective UK and international students, employers, professional and statutory bodies.
- 2. Inspiring learning opportunities.** Our inspiring teaching and learning will be informed by research and professional practice to raise students' aspirations and provide opportunities to extend their skills and knowledge.
- 3. Flexible learning and digital literacy.** We will promote flexible delivery and methods of learning that reflect the requirements of programmes, to support all our students in Plymouth and around the world to become engaged and effective global citizens.
- 4. Student development.** We recognise that our students have a wealth of skills and experience from a diversity of backgrounds. We will endeavour to offer students exciting opportunities to develop their academic, personal and professional skills through a range of curricula and extra-curricular experiences and the Plymouth Award.

Goal 1: High quality programmes and curricula.

We aim to offer high quality curricula that reflects our sustainability and enterprise ethos and incorporates innovative learning approaches to meet the needs of current and prospective UK and international students, employers, professional and statutory bodies, nationally and world-wide.

Programmes and curricula will:

- be informed by national and international best practice, and further developed in consultation with students, employers, professional and statutory bodies to provide a progressive learning experience;
- aim ambitiously to raise aspiration levels for all students through thought provoking, stimulating and collaborative activities that inspire and challenge students to succeed;
- be refreshed in response to student and other forms of feedback, the UK Quality Assurance Agency Quality Code, professional body standards and best practice;
- reflect and engage with the development of accessible and dynamic learning communities with students;
- aim to ensure that current and emerging cross-cutting themes have a presence in the curriculum, for example internationalisation and sustainability;
- seek to provide opportunities for students to develop their inter-cultural awareness and celebrate international perspectives in their learning;
- aim to have national and international accreditation wherever relevant.

Goal 2: Inspiring learning opportunities.

We aim to raise all students' (undergraduate and postgraduate) aspirations and provide opportunities to extend their skills and knowledge.

We endeavour to offer learning opportunities that:

- embed research and professional-informed practices in all student learning and particularly through experiential, active learning, studio work, laboratory, fieldwork and placements;

- extend the opportunities for all students to work with academic staff on research projects, and draw on alumni and external stakeholder expertise to develop collaborative research opportunities with students;
- differentiate our academic offer by ensuring issues and principles of sustainability permeate and inform our programmes and modules, learning from existing best practice so that students engage positively with sustainability issues affecting their personal and professional lives;
- reflect on and engage with the experiences of international staff and students to extend and embed innovative ideas and perspectives in student learning;
- encourage schools, partners and programmes to share innovative practice and develop active staff and student learning communities;
- encourage everyone who supports our student learning (post-graduates, academics and professional services staff) to be involved in teaching enhancement opportunities: the Pedagogic Research Institute and Observatory, teaching and learning conferences, workshops and developmental projects, and to seek professional recognition through accredited programmes.

Goal 3: Flexible learning and digital literacy.

We aim to stimulate flexible delivery and methods of learning that reflect the requirements of programmes, to support all our students in Plymouth and around the world to become engaged and effective global citizens.

We will endeavour to:

- support students to choose, use and personalise technologies and digital content to suit their own needs, to be skilled users of digital information, able to act ethically, responsibly and securely in a fast-moving digital environment;
- develop inclusive learning and assessment opportunities that meet the needs of diverse learners through flexible learning and assessment options;
- broaden support for learning through tutoring, peer support initiatives and learning development opportunities;

- equip students to manage their own learning and develop their understanding of life-long learning;
- encourage and support staff in their digital literacy development to enable the University to differentiate itself on the use of technology in its academic offer. This will be informed by the University's Digital Strategy, and aligned with national initiatives.

Goal 4: Student development.

We recognise that our students have a wealth of skills and experience from a diversity of backgrounds. We aim to offer students exciting opportunities to develop their academic, personal and professional skills through a range of curricula and extra-curricular experiences and the Plymouth Award.

We will strive to:

- ensure our students are included and equipped to participate in all University decision-making bodies in meaningful ways;
- target induction support in all years to facilitate transition onto and through our programmes and provide accessible information on extra-curricular opportunities through handbooks and timetables before the start of the academic year, to raise the aspirations and achievements of our students and to improve retention;
- pioneer extra-curricula opportunities to augment students' understanding of sustainable development in a rapidly changing world;
- effectively expand University well-being, recreational, and sports offerings to enhance student health and welfare levels;
- provide inter-cultural opportunities for all students through cultural competency workshops, cross-cultural events on all campuses, international exchange programmes, research and international experiences;
- strengthen our business and alumni relationships, and buddy scheme support for students to understand their employability attributes, career opportunities in general and in relation to their programmes, including opportunities to take part in career development modules, research projects, volunteering, placements and internships;

- raise aspirations for higher education study amongst under-represented groups in accordance with our values and Access Agreement, and provide active and engaging support programmes to raise the achievements and aspirations of all our students;
- strengthen pathways of educational opportunity in close relationship with our academy schools, local schools, the University Technical College and our network of national and international partners.

Achieving our Goals

To achieve our goals we will support our expert staff to build on our enterprising reputation to enhance our teaching and our students' learning and broader experience. We will work with our students in a friendly learning and working environment. Quality enhancement is supported and assured by alignment with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, benchmarks and professional body standards, and reflects our engagement with pedagogic national and international best practice.

The Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Strategy is delivered and assured through the aligned University, School, Programme and Module Action Plans. Annual Action Plans encourage innovation for quality enhancement of learning and student well-being, cognisant of quality assurance. The Strategy will be updated as initiatives emerge and the regulatory framework evolves through the period.

The Teaching, Learning and Student Experience Strategy and KPIs 2013-20 will be reviewed annually through the Action Plan discussions at the University's Teaching and Learning Committee, which reports to the Academic Board. The Strategy will be formally reviewed and updated in 2016, or in response to any major external or internal changes, to ensure currency to 2020. The University and School Action Plans provide a focus for updating colleagues and sharing best practice across campus. Programme and Module Action Plans will refer to elements of the Strategy and KPIs as appropriate to each discipline.

Annex I:

Mapping to Plymouth University Strategy 2020

The Teaching, Learning and the Student Experience Strategy 2013-2020 is underpinned by the values and goals of the Plymouth University Strategy 2020 and in particular the Ambition on 'Excellent learning in partnership with students'. Our academic and professional support staff aim to work with our students in the context which is:

Spirited in providing an ambitious, inspiring, enterprising and friendly learning and working environment for our students and staff.

Connected to our communities in taking a partnership approach with individuals and organisations to spark creativity and maximise our impact.

Creative in celebrating and respecting difference in background, identity, ideas and beliefs and encouraging a creative and inclusive working and learning environment.

Pioneering by embedding an enterprising approach through all of our activities, creating an environment where good ideas are welcomed and fostered, tested and acted upon.

Expert in what we do through the valuable contributions, passions and talents of our staff, students and partners.

Empowering in enabling our students, staff and partners to think for themselves, make their own decisions, and make a difference.

Enterprising in all that we do and how we do it.

The Teaching, Learning and the Student Experience Strategy 2013-2020 is tightly aligned to the Plymouth University Strategy 2020.

The Goals of the Strategy expand on 'Excellent learning in partnership with students', underpinned at all times by 'World-class research and innovation' in teaching, learning and the student experience. Our objectives are infused with opportunities for 'Raising aspirations and driving engagement', and our work is underpinned by 'Delivering through digital technology'. Engagement with all aspects of digital literacy will be the hallmark of the next 8 years.

Translating the strategy through the University

Our strategy is translated and delivered from high-level ambitions to local level actions throughout the University and with our partners. It is a process that connects strategy to people, offering sufficient freedom and flexibility to capture creativity and sustain enterprising behaviours.

Guided by our values and leadership principles, Plymouth University's Strategy 2020 will help deliver strong performance and sustainable outcomes that result in reputational gain as we deliver on our mission of 'Advancing knowledge and transforming lives through education and research'.

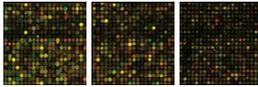


TEACHING & LEARNING WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

RESEARCH & INNOVATION WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



RESEARCH & INNOVATION STRATEGY

RAISING ASPIRATIONS WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND DRIVING ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

SUSTAINABILITY WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

PEOPLE WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



PEOPLE STRATEGY

DIGITAL WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



DIGITAL STRATEGY

CAMPUS WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



CAMPUS STRATEGY

INTERNATIONAL WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY



INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

