

Education operational plan 2015-2020

Education forms one of the two central pillars of the University's Strategic Plan 2015-2020, alongside research. The University of Hertfordshire's aspirations for our students, and our commitment to working in partnership with them to ensure they gain the best education possible, are set out in the University's Graduate Attributes and Student Charter. In committing to offering excellent education opportunities to our students we aim to develop their: professionalism, employability and enterprise; learning and research skills; intellectual depth, breadth and adaptability; respect for others, social responsibility and global awareness. The University's student charter emphasises our commitment to working in partnership with students to develop an intellectually stimulating environment within flexible learning opportunities in order to make them highly employable and to develop in each one a lifelong intellectual curiosity.

This strategic programme for education builds on the Education objectives in the Strategic Plan to achieve these aims. They are intended to apply to all our students, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, full time or part time, on or off campus. They should also provide a guiding framework for work with collaborative partners.

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A. Providing expert teaching informed by research, business and the professions.

1. Ensuring that recruitment strategies lead to the appointment of staff with current and relevant research, professional and business expertise as appropriate.
2. Requiring all new academic appointments to have, or to have the commitment to gain, a teaching qualification and relevant pedagogic expertise.
3. Ensuring that all academic staff identify annual appraisal targets that include subject specific engagement as well as pedagogic enhancement activity and research/scholarship. This will ensure development of dual professionals.
4. Supporting programme teams to engage in annual reviews which ensure that research, business and the professions inform curricula.
5. Supporting the development of networks that encourage the sharing of best practice within and between Schools of Study.
6. Using Technology Enhanced Learning to ensure high quality, flexible, inclusive, learning opportunities.

B. Fostering inquiry, critical thinking and curiosity through inclusive, intellectually challenging courses

1. Drawing on Learning and Teaching innovation and research worldwide to develop curricula and assessment which support and enhance independent student learning.
2. Designing curricula and assessment which incorporate students' engagement in research and inquiry.
3. Expanding initiatives which promote and encourage staff-student partnership in curriculum design, delivery and research.
4. Developing measures that evaluate the impact of Learning opportunities
5. Engaging with student performance data and supporting actions to ensure that all our students have an equal chance of attaining a good degree regardless of gender, ethnicity or background.

C. Strengthening professional partnerships to enhance graduates' employability

1. Acquiring Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) approval /accreditation for programmes wherever possible.
2. Working with Professional Engagement/Advisory Groups to ensure currency of programmes and delivery.
3. Involving alumni and experts from business and the professions in programme design.
4. Enabling the involvement of experts from business and the professions and alumni in programme delivery.

D. Offering workplace engagement and overseas learning opportunities

1. Developing a process which ensures all programmes offer flexible opportunities that enable all students to engage in workplace and overseas learning.
2. Supporting the development of work based Higher Education initiatives such as internships, Degree-level Apprenticeships and corporate degrees.

E. Developing students' social and global awareness

1. Working with HSU to develop initiatives, events and campaigns which encourage students' engagement with co- and extra-curricular activities.
2. Drawing on the diversity and expertise of our students, staff and alumni to develop students' social and global awareness.
3. Supporting teaching and learning activities that raise students' awareness of global and social current issues within their discipline.