Quality Enhancement in the Scottish HE Sector

Across the Scottish HE Sector, an enhancement-led approach to quality is adopted\(^1\). Similarly at HWU, "quality" is used with particular reference to enhancement, namely: taking deliberate steps to bring about improvement in the effectiveness of the learning experiences of students.

Enhancing Quality at HWU: Key Points

Heriot-Watt University adopts an enhancement-led approach to quality across all locations of study and modes of delivery (at a campus in the UK or overseas, though a partner organisation or via independent distance learning).

Key areas for improvement in the quality of the student learning experience and in the quality of learning and teaching are explicitly identified in the University’s Learning and Teaching Strategy 2013-2018\(^2\), particularly in the Strategic Objectives Enhancing Student Learning and Developing Staff. These objectives apply to all HWU programmes, irrespective of mode or location.

Enhancing the Quality of the Student Learning Experience

Priority Areas for Development identified in the Learning and Teaching Strategy for Enhancing Student Learning and Reshaping the Learning Environment include:

- A distinctive set of Graduate Attributes
- A curriculum which is research-informed, professionally relevant, international and multi-disciplinary in its content
- Increasing international study placements and work-related learning opportunities

Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

Priority Areas for Development identified in the Learning and Teaching Strategy for Developing Staff include:

- Staff with expertise and skills to teach, assess and support student learning in a globalised institution
- Promoting research-informed teaching
- Cross-campus and cross-School collaborations to enhance academic practice and the curriculum
- Sharing and embedding good practice in learning and teaching

References and Further Information

Contact: quality@hw.ac.uk

Learning and Teaching Policy Bank: [https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/policy-bank.htm](https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/policy-bank.htm)

Briefing Paper Quality Enhancement Framework in Scotland: [https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/briefing-qef.pdf](https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/briefing-qef.pdf)

Learning and Teaching Strategy: [https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/learning-teaching-strategy.htm](https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/learning-teaching-strategy.htm)

Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers

This briefing paper has been produced by the Academic Registry and is one of a series related to Learning and Teaching. The briefing papers aim to provide a concise, informative overview of key policies, and include links to relevant procedures and templates.