

# STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE: THRESHOLD CRITERIA

## HWU's Approach to the Student Learning Experience

Heriot-Watt University highly values the spectrum of choice it offers to students in mode and location, as well as the range of benefits available through different study options. This variety is, however, governed by a key, fundamental principle designed to safeguard academic standards across multi-mode/location provision:

**identical academic standards; diversity of learning experiences**

## Minimum Threshold for the Student Learning Experience

The University has an ethos of supporting diverse student learning experiences and, therefore, is not overly prescriptive in specifying the criteria required of the "HWU student learning experience". However, the University does stipulate a minimum threshold for the learning experience of all students, irrespective of mode or location:

**The quality of the learning experience must always be sufficient to enable students to achieve all of the programme's specified learning outcomes**

All Heriot-Watt programmes of study are required to meet the minimum threshold and to fulfil the following Expectation, as articulated in Part 1, Student Experience, of the University's *Code of Practice for the Management of Multi-Location, Multi-Mode Programmes*:

**All Heriot-Watt programmes of study will provide students with the opportunity to develop their academic, personal and professional potential, and the University will seek to enhance the experience of students across all modes and locations.**

## Scope

Heriot-Watt's principles-based (rather than rules-based) approach to the student learning experience is encapsulated in the 35 key principles outlined in Part 1 of the Multi Code. Through these, programmes can meet the minimum threshold and Expectation. The principles cover:

- General Approach
- Application, Admission and Enrolment
- Induction
- Learning and Teaching
- Assessment
- Representation/Feedback
- Award
- Employment

## Monitoring

The University monitors the student learning experience through Annual Monitoring and Review, Thematic Review and Periodic Review. Annual Monitoring and Review specifically considers *the extent to which the learning experience is sufficient to enable students to achieve the programme's specified learning outcomes*.

In addition, student surveys provide direct feedback from students on their learning experiences.

*Enhancing Student Learning* is a key strategic objective in the learning and teaching strategies of the University, Schools and relevant Professional Services.

## References and Further Information

Contact: [quality@hw.ac.uk](mailto:quality@hw.ac.uk) Multi Code: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/ga/heriot-watt-multicode.htm>

Student Learning Experience: Threshold Criteria: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/sle-threshold.pdf>

## 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.