

QUALITY AT HWU: ENHANCING LEARNING AND TEACHING, AND THE STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Quality Enhancement in the Scottish HE Sector

Across the Scottish HE Sector, an enhancement-led approach to quality is in place. Similarly at HWU, "quality" is used with particular reference to enhancement, and HWU has adopted the Scottish sector's definition: ***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:

1. the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy 2018-2025, which has *Inspiring Learning* as its Vision, the HWU Graduate as its focal point and has identified the follow three priorities: HWU Curriculum, HWU Teaching, HWU Assessment;
2. the Academic section of the Student Partnership Agreement encapsulates priorities agreed each year between the University Committee for Learning and Teaching and the three student representative bodies.

Enhancing the Quality of the Student Learning Experience

Initiatives identified in the Learning and Teaching Strategy include:

- HWU Graduate Attributes embedded in all taught programmes
- A distinctive HWU *Learning to Learn* approach
- Increasing opportunities for combining modes and locations of study
- A curriculum which is: Globally and Locally Applicable; Research-Informed; Professionally and Practically Relevant
- practical, problem-based approaches to learning

Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching

Initiatives identified in the Learning and Teaching Strategy include:

- A framework in which academics are supported and inspired in their teaching
- Establishment of a Learning and Teaching Academy for staff
- Sharing good practice
- Facilitating cross-School collaborations
- Supporting research-informed teaching
- Being part in a global teaching team, enabling teaching and collaboration across campuses to be seamless and integrated

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>

Learning and Teaching Strategy: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/academic-registry/quality/learning-teaching/towards-a-new-learning-and-teaching-strategy.htm>

Student Partnership Agreement: http://www1.hw.ac.uk/mediaservices/pageflip/REG/SPA_document/SPA_document.pdf

Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers

This briefing paper has been produced by Academic Quality 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.