



# Enhancement Themes

Have you ever thought it might be easier to make changes in your department if there were other departments in your university, or even other universities, that have done something similar? The Enhancement Themes can help!

## What are The Enhancement Themes?

The Enhancement Themes are topics that all Scottish universities focus on at the same time, to try to make the quality of their teaching – and your learning experience – even better.

Each university does some work on the Theme in their own learning and teaching provision, and they all come together to share what they've learned with each other. In this way, everyone can work together to improve the Scottish university sector.

The Enhancement Themes are directed by Vice-Principals from the Scottish higher education sector (SHEEC) and coordinated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Scotland (QAAS). The current Theme is called 'Student Transitions'.

This means that until June 2017, all Scottish universities are considering the student learner journey and the transitions involved, from before you start your course all the way through to employment and further study.

# What can class reps do with the Enhancement Themes?

As a class rep you can use the Themes in various ways:

- Staff in your department might not know about the Enhancement Themes. Ask them to find out how it might help them make improvements to your course.
- Tell your students' association about any issues your department is struggling with that might need support from the university.
- Your students' association will be involved in Enhancement Themes activity – if you're interested in Student Transitions, ask them if you can help!
- Get involved at a national level – find out more online at [www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk](http://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk)
- Think about your own course. Does it need development or are there areas of good practice which could be shared? So why not have a chat with staff in your department?

## Student Transitions

The new Enhancement Theme is called **Student Transitions**. The Theme will have a Theme Leaders Group (TLG) to plan the work and every university will have a member on the group. Right now, universities across Scotland are asking these questions about their teaching. You could think about them too!

### 1 Transitions into university

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#### School and College students coming to university

- Did you find the inductions useful?
- Did you have any contact with your lecturers before you started?
- Were you given enough information to prepare for university? How do your classes match with what you have previously studied at college/school?

## 2 Transitions during and out of university

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### International

- Do you have opportunities to go abroad during your course?
- Does your course work include any examples of an international dimension (such as case studies, assignments etc.)?
- Do you have the opportunity to share experiences with other students who are from a different country?
- Is the support for incoming international students as good as it could be?



## University to employment

- What skills do you develop during your course that can be transferred to the workplace?
- How applicable is your course to your desired career?
- What opportunities are available to improve your employability skills? For example, finding a career, improving your CV, work placements etc.
- How practical are your assessments? If not, why not?

## Postgraduate

- Are you given information on further study opportunities?
- Do you get the opportunity to work with students that are not in your year group?
- How do your studies develop your research skills?
- If you are a postgraduate, in what ways can you voice your opinions to the university about your learning experience?

## Get involved!

Speak to your classmates and department staff, and work with your student association. You could also speak to your University's member of TLG or join your university's Enhancement team. There will be opportunities for student projects within the current Theme.

There are lots of ways you can make a difference!