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Where can I find more information?

The 21st Century Graduate Enhancement Theme is in the early stages of its development, and there will be more information available as the work progresses.

Colleagues will find the online *Guide to the Outcomes of the Themes* (www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/themes/Guide) an accessible and easy way of navigating the rich collection of material already available. The guide will be updated as the work of the Enhancement Themes progresses.

For the most up-to-date information please visit the website, www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk, or email enhancement@qaa.ac.uk



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Enhancing practice

Graduates for the 21st Century:
Integrating the Enhancement Themes

Graduates for the 21st Century: Integrating the Enhancement Themes

What are the Enhancement Themes?

Enhancement Themes aim to enhance the learning experience of students in Scottish higher education, as part of the Quality Enhancement Framework. Beginning in 2003, and funded by the Scottish Funding Council, there have been seven Enhancement Themes to date. The Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee (SHEEC) identifies and directs the Enhancement Themes in a five-year rolling programme of topics.

SHEEC is made up of senior representatives of each higher education institution (HEI) in Scotland, student representatives and observers from a number of organisations.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), Scotland provides support for SHEEC and the Enhancement Themes.

What is the background to this Enhancement Theme?

As part of the updating of its programme of Enhancement Themes, SHEEC has conducted sector-wide discussions. These discussions indicated that there was an opportunity for HEIs to consider the outcomes of the Enhancement Themes to date. This would be according to their particular teaching and learning priorities and with the intention of supporting the development of graduate attributes. The Graduates for the 21st Century Enhancement Theme is the result of these deliberations.

What does this look like, practically?

Work on the Graduates for the 21st Century Enhancement Theme began in 2009. There are different but connected areas of work, as follows:

Institutionally and between institutions

Each Scottish institution has set up a team to take forward the Enhancement Theme in the context of their institutional priorities. Teams will be invited to share aspects of their work with others across the sector. Events will be arranged for these teams to meet to share their work.

Updating and refreshing of Enhancement Themes outcomes

One element of support for institutional work will be provided through an 'updating' of the sizeable amount of literature and many other valuable resources generated through the work of previous Enhancement Themes. Outcomes will be updated and refreshed, to take into account developments and new practices within the scope of each Enhancement Theme. Areas where Enhancement Themes have overlapped will be identified and addressed. This work will result in various update documents, resources and a number of events to encourage engagement with the Graduates for the 21st Century Enhancement Theme. One resource which will be of particular assistance will be an already commissioned overview of all the Enhancement Themes to date.

Sectoral activities and discussion

In addition, there will be an ongoing general and contextual discussion across the sector around the question: what are the attributes of a twenty-first century graduate, and how can the achievement of these attributes best be supported? This will include contributions from the institutional discussions, the updated outcomes of earlier Enhancement Themes and input from individuals from the UK and beyond who can contribute to the discussions and debate, through a combination of sector-wide events and activities for individual or groups of institutions. A key activity for this Enhancement Theme, as with those already complete, will be the annual Enhancement Themes conference, which takes place in March each year.

How do I keep up to date with what is going on?

The Enhancement Themes website is the main means of communicating Theme-specific information and we will keep this up to date with news, papers and links that might be of interest.

You can also join our mailing list for the quarterly Enhancement Themes email newsletter at www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk

I am based at a Scottish higher education institution, how can I get involved?

Each HEI has a representative on the steering committee and an institutional team, and you can find out what is happening at your institution by contacting your steering committee representative. In addition, the steering committee and QAA Scotland staff can be contacted at: enhancement@qaa.ac.uk. Each institutional team will also include student representation.

How else might I be involved?

There will be a number of projects to carry out work relating to the above activities and there will be opportunities to tender for particular aspects of these activities. These calls to tender will be posted on the Enhancement Themes website, and you can join our list of consultants, who will be emailed with any information as it is posted.

You can join this list by registering at: www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/opportunities

Who are the steering committee members?

Every Scottish higher education institution has a nominated member on the 21st Century Graduate Enhancement Theme's steering committee, who also coordinates and facilitates the work of the Enhancement Theme in their institution.

It is important to emphasise the significance of this combined role, as much of the work of this new Enhancement Theme will be based in institutions, coordinated by the steering committee member.

Institutional teams will conduct 21st Century Graduate Enhancement Theme discussions and take forward the work of the Enhancement Theme within the institution, depending on institutional priorities.

Chair

Professor Philip Winn University of St Andrews

Institutional members

Dr John Anderson
University of the West of Scotland

Dr Roni Bamber Queen Margaret University

Dr Pete Cannell The Open University in Scotland

Dr Malcolm Chrisp Heriot-Watt University

Dr Alan Davidson The Robert Gordon University

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