

## Top tips to develop equitable learning opportunities

This document presents the students' perspective on things to consider to develop equitable learning practices. Its aim is to help break down barriers to developing equitable learning and teaching so that the diverse student community gets maximum benefit from their learning opportunities. It is part of a wide range of resources produced by the QAA Enhancement Themes Student-led Project 2021-22.

### Terminology



So, what is equity? It is important to establish what the concept of equity means to you so it can then inform your practice.

### Pedagogy



Critically assess existing content, asking whether it is equitable.

Be self-critical when designing courses. Do not make assumptions – ask questions.



Continue to decolonise your curriculum and ensure that your practice is enacted in partnership with diverse groups.

Building a sense of community online or in hybrid settings is possible. Remember to create a welcoming, social space for students.



Consider multiple ways of accessing the same content - e.g. in-person events having an online equivalent opportunity.

The content and the assessment should be multi-modal to engage with a variety of students. For example, give students options to submit their work in different formats.



Evaluate your work continuously throughout the academic year, not just at the beginning or end of the semester.

Share good practice with your peers. If you are struggling, reach out to your colleagues for help.

## Accessibility



Ensure students have appropriate equipment and any training needed to engage effectively with the tools available to them both in online and in-person settings.

Disseminate information to students on relevant teams across the organisation that support learners with issues relating to equipment and training.



Actively foster an approachable/friendly/supportive/inviting learning environment.

Establish and communicate ground rules for students' interactions at the beginning of your practice- For example, respect others, be open-minded, contribute regularly, have patience- ensure their continuous enforcement throughout.



## Digital Technologies



Be honest about your own digital skills to your students. Encourage a culture of working together. You may be able to learn from them.

Don't overload the virtual learning environment with resources, use it to generate discussion and asynchronous engagement. Keep things simple.



Take time to get to know the IT teams and appreciate their work - it will come in handy!

## Datafication of Education



Identify what you and your organisation mean by 'data' as well as why and how it is used. Is it students name; detailed personal information; grades; internal comments regarding their progression; information relating to their special circumstances, extensions, interruptions; something else?

Seek students consent if their data is collected, stored, and used in any form during the course.



Be clear, transparent, and honest with students about how their data is used.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



Breaking down barriers to equity could start with challenging our own self-understanding and/or stereotypes about specific groups. The following website can help you identify some of your own unconscious bias: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

The Education sector suffers from institutionalised biases. Try to critically reflect on how your own organisation supports practices of oppression. Share your reflections with your colleagues.



In summary, fostering equitable practices is a process. It is ok to make mistakes and be patient with yourself.



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