

Resilient Learning Communities

What are the Enhancement Themes?

The Enhancement Themes aim to improve the student learning experience. They involve institutions, staff and students working together, sharing practice and generating new ideas for learning and teaching.

What is the 2020-23 Theme about?

Resilient Learning Communities explores the changing needs and values of an increasingly diverse student community, and a rapidly changing external environment. The key questions informing the Theme work are:

- What will our learning communities look like by 2023? And how can we prepare for the learning communities of the future?
- Who are our students and how will they want to learn? How will we gain a clear understanding of the nature and learning needs of our current and likely future student population? What granular information do we need to enable us to support their learning better?
- How can we capitalise as a sector on the attributes students bring into their learning?
- How do we ensure we are able to support our diverse learning communities? What might this mean for our staff and our infrastructure?
- How should we anticipate, influence and respond to the changing external environment? How can we engage with our stakeholders and ensure we are influencing strategy and policy both in Scotland and beyond?

How does the Theme work?

Institutional activity

All Scottish higher education institutions produce an annual plan to ensure the Theme work they do is practical and relevant for the institution. The plans enable practice and learning to be shared across institutions.

Collaborative clusters

Groups of institutions, including both staff and students, work collaboratively to progress an area that will have benefit for the whole sector. Potential topics might include:

- Skills and work-based learning
- Student and staff wellbeing
- De-colonising the curriculum.

Sector strands

Sector-wide work involves all institutions working collaboratively to achieve more than they might individually. This activity aims to enhance approaches across the sector, as well as seeking to influence and engage stakeholders. Specific strands of activity will include:

- Building on past success, for example preparing a digest of previous Enhancement Theme learning and tools to ensure we are learning from existing resources
- Learning from international practice on responding to diverse student needs, as well as drawing on work in the previous Themes to promote good practice in responding to the needs of different student groups
- Conducting a sector-wide piece of work to help us understand what we really mean by learning communities and how to shape them
- Identifying and addressing key (external) drivers for change in the curriculum and/or wider student experience, for example the rapid adjustment to digital delivery and the increased focus on the role of higher education institutions in supporting economic recovery.

How can I get involved?

Every institution has a staff and a student Theme Leader - find out yours on the [Enhancement Themes website](#). Check the website regularly for updates on activities and events, and get social using:



#ETCommunities

Want to get involved in leading or supporting Enhancement Theme activity? Drop us a note on ARCAAdmin@qaa.ac.uk

www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk