



Learning at Ulster

Student Learning Experience Principles

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Why Principles?

- To define what we mean by the student learning experience at Ulster to provide a shared understanding across disciplines
- To bring together a range of current Learning and Teaching strategies
- To realise the University's graduate qualities in all students
- These are not new but in implementation can provide a useful impetus for discussion amongst course teams
- Principles can be applied in any discipline, at any stage of the student journey and define a common learning experience which will be brought to life in different ways across different disciplines

The Principles

- Ulster's Learning Model
- Digital Skills
- Employability
- Internationalisation
- Research/Teaching nexus
- Ethics and Sustainability

Interdependent
Indivisible
Inalienable

Ulster's Learning Model – an engagement approach

- Ulster students will be at the heart of the learning experience
- Ulster students will engage in a collaborative, learner-centred, active and participative learning environment
- Learner-centred teaching will promote inquiry-based learning methods to facilitate exploration, innovation, critical-thinking, leadership and problem-solving.
- Learning will be facilitated through critical reflection of transformative learning experiences individually and in teams.
- Ulster students and staff will be engaged in a learning community which facilitates the transition through programmes of study and onto employment.

Digital Skills

- Ulster students will develop the knowledge, skills, experience and digital capabilities to equip them for living, learning, communicating and working in a digital world and to maximise their employability.
- Digital media, appropriate to the discipline being studied, will be used to facilitate and support the Ulster learning model.
- The digital context will also ensure that Ulster graduates have the requisite digital knowledge and skills needed to operate effectively in their chosen professions and are aware of their digital signature .

Employability

- Ulster students will develop the knowledge and skills to be confident and capable of competing for, and succeeding in, stimulating and fulfilling employment through the provision of opportunities designed into their programme of study.
- A student's whole experience at Ulster contributes to his/her successful employability.
- This principle is already well developed through other learning and teaching strategies but it is important to consider it in the context of the student learning experience also to ensure that the other principles articulated here are contributing to employability and the realisation of Ulster's graduate qualities for all students.

Internationalisation

- Ulster students will be equipped with the necessary skills, understanding and confidence to live, work and study in international contexts.
- Students should be encouraged to think about the range of international study or work placement opportunities that are available to them in or during their programme of study – both long and short term.
- Students who are not be able to undertake an international work or study experience should still be encouraged to engage with the diversity of opinions in the learning environment and should be provided with opportunities to explore a diverse range of perspectives on the discipline they are studying.
- Fostering an understanding among students that the cultural values and understanding they hold as individuals is but one of the many perspectives is a key element of internationalising the curriculum.

Research/Teaching nexus

- Ulster students will experience research and/or scholarship-informed teaching to gain the skills to demonstrate critical intellectual enquiry in their taught courses to enable them to become independent learners and progress to their chosen careers and/or as a preparation for further study or research.
- The relationship between research and teaching is fundamental to a student's learning experience at university as students are inducted into the research community of practice that operates within their chosen subject/discipline.
- An understanding of what good research methods require is necessary for all those who seek to contribute to knowledge creation, either through their professional work or through the development of their own research.

Ethics and Sustainability

- Ulster students will gain an understanding of and exemplify ethical behaviours and learn productive resolutions to problems for current and future needs.
- An awareness of the ethical challenges and considerations in any subject discipline is essential for any student who seeks to be a decision maker and influencer in her/his field.
- An appreciation of sustainability and what it means for each subject or discipline is also essential for those who seek to engage meaningfully in any form of innovation or development related activity.

Engaging with the principles

Course Teams

- Use these as a gap analysis tool – where are we good at this, where can we improve?
- What should this look like in my subject/course/module?
- What is appropriate curriculum content and what are appropriate delivery models and learning opportunities for these principles for this discipline?
- What should this look like in year 1, year 2...final year? Think about the student learning journey and how these principles weave through the discipline.
- How well are the principles working for the enhancement of the student experience?
- How should graduates from my course articulate what they have learnt in relation to each of the principles? How will they know this?

Resources

For Staff / Course Teams

- Questions for course teams and a set of viewpoints cards
- Website repository with good practice examples, case studies and exemplars
- Links to a range of useful resource websites
- Network of mentors who can be called upon to provide “critical friend” mentoring role
- Monitoring and evaluation tools (to be developed)

Student Experience Learning Principles website

Address: <http://adl.ulster.ac.uk/principles>

Login Details:

Username: principles

Password: principles

Still being developed but you are able to use it now. We will be making changes and refining it in discussion with PVC (Education)





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