Students as Partners in Undergraduate Research

The Higher Education Academy, UK

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National Teaching Fellowship Project Scheme

Each year up to 55 National Teaching Fellowship awards are made to recognise individual excellence in learning and teaching. The NTF Project scheme aims to capitalise on the expertise of Fellows by funding 2-3 year projects resulting in innovative and valuable outputs for the sector.

Examples of funded projects relating to undergraduate research include:

University of Lincoln - Student as Producer

Led by Professor Mike Neary.

**Aim:** To establish research-engaged teaching and learning as: A fundamental principle of curriculum design whereby students learn primarily by engagement in real research projects, or projects which replicate the process of research in their discipline. Engagement is created through active collaboration amongst and between students and academics.

**Outputs:**
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Scheme
- Teacher development programme
- Fund for Educational Development
- Embedding principles in quality and validation procedures
- Student as Producer in Action: a browseable repository of modules
- Festival of Learning and Teaching event at the University of Lincoln

University of Gloucestershire - Rethinking final year projects and dissertations: creative honours and capstone projects

Led by James Derouinian and Professor Mick Healey.

**Aim:** to help transform institutional practices and assessment strategies through creative solutions for developing alternative and additional honours and capstone projects to meet the needs of students from different backgrounds, different subjects and different kinds of institution.

**Outputs:**
- Collection of international case studies set in the disciplinary context
- Publicaton of key characteristics and dimensions of UG dissertations, creative honours and capstone projects
- Student Voice - case studies and videos of student perspectives on dissertation research
- National symposia and showcase events

Resources Centre

The HEA hosts case studies, pedagogic materials, articles and communications new research, research synthesis, briefings and commissions new research, pedagogic materials, articles and resources Centre.

International Scholarship scheme

Oxford Brookes University - Architecture 'live projects' pedagogy

Harriet Harper has been awarded funding for 5 months in New York, USA to observe four 'live projects' programmes. These programmes enable students to learn by engaging with, and responding to, community needs through 'live projects', that partners public sector organisations with architecture students to research and co-create real-time designs that respond to public challenges.

Students as Partners in Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate research is a component of the HEA’s Students as Partners theme and cuts across the work of the HEA through a focus on student partnership at different levels:
- The individual student experience of engaged learning: research and inquiry within the curriculum and co-curricular undergraduate research schemes.
- Learning and teaching enhancement at institutional and national levels: students as co-researchers and partners in institutional research and change initiatives.

Doctoral programme

This Programme forms part of a HEA strategy to undertake a significant and extensive study to develop pedagogical knowledge and evidence based practice in Higher Education.

University of Edinburgh - Students as co-creators: optimal strategies for high quality engagement and learning

Dr Judy Hardy is supervising this HEA funded PhD which focuses on UG students devising problems, reasoning and answers for formative and summative peer assessments.

Change programmes

Kingston University - The Student Academic Development Associate Research Scheme

This one year initiative is being supported through the HEA’s Students as Partners change programme. The project team includes staff, students’ union representatives and students and aims to encourage staff and students to undertake collaborative educational and pedagogic research through establishing an UG research scheme.

Events

The HEA hosts and funds a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops and other events within and across academic disciplines, involving staff and students. Tides of recent events include:

- Students as Enquirers: work ready graduates
- Designs on learning: the role of the undergraduate research symposium
- Making Methods Matter: Inspiring Students to Value Research Skills in Politics and International Relations
- Students as Researchers: from expert to novice
- Enhancing Dissertations and Final Year Projects: Experiences, Embedding and the Future

Teaching development grants

£1.5 million of funding is available for individual, departmental and collaborative grants to stimulate evidence-based research and encourage innovations in learning and teaching that have the potential for sector-wide impact. Examples of current funded projects that focus on undergraduate research or employ students as researchers include:

- University of Hertfordshire – Enhancing students’ employability skills through student and staff collaboration
- University of Glasgow - Internationalising graduate attributes: student-led, enquiry-based enhancement of the university experience
- University of Lincoln - From Enjoyment to Employment: Student Volunteering and Employability
- University of Birmingham - Investigating residential and business energy consumption via student-led action research
- St Andrews University - Engaging students with their future careers through employability-led tutorials

The Higher Education Academy is the national body for learning and teaching in higher education in the UK. We work with universities and colleges to help bring about change that improves the experience for students and supports and encourages innovation in learning and teaching.

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