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# Academic Regulations Engagement and Partnership with Students

## Section 12

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## Section 12

### Engagement and Partnership with Students

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# Section 12: Engagement and Partnership with Students

## 12.1 Purpose

This section of the Academic Regulations defines the University's framework within which student engagement, partnership and consultation contribute to the provision of an excellent education for all our students.

It sits alongside our Student Charter in setting out the University's approach to partnership working and defines students' involvement and engagement in quality assurance and enhancement systems and processes.

The University and our Students' Union are committed to working in partnership with our students to provide an inclusive, safe and engaging environment for learning and working.

## 12.2 Principles

The following principles underpin the involvement and engagement of students in quality systems and processes:

- a) The involvement of our students in quality systems has a positive influence on the delivery and development of all aspects of the student experience.
- b) All students are provided with opportunities for involvement in quality enhancement and assurance processes via individual and/ or collective engagement and feedback which take account of the diversity of the student body.
- c) Partnership working with students is based on a spirit of mutual trust, transparency, openness and respect.
- d) Feedback provided by our students is used to inform improvements to the educational experience of our students.

## 12.3 Engagement of Students

Our University takes deliberate steps to engage all students, individually and collectively, as partners in the development, assurance and enhancement of the quality of their educational

experience (see also section 13). The contribution of students and their representatives is central to our University's quality assurance systems and processes and the systematic enhancement of our students' educational experience.

Students' feedback and involvement is sought and their contribution is recognised through our quality processes.

#### **12.4 Participation by Students**

We seek active participation by all our students in the enhancement of student learning opportunities. Students are invited to participate in a range of quality assurance and enhancement processes and as members of focus groups, forums, meetings and committees.

Students' involvement and feedback will be sought via a range of mechanisms including student surveys, module evaluation, monitoring and annual review processes, and the processes for the design, validation and review of courses. Feedback received from students via these mechanisms will be used to inform action plans and course enhancement.

#### **12.5 Student Representation**

Students are invited to elect representatives from the student body to become Course Representatives. The University works in partnership with the Students' Union to promote this activity and to ensure that elections are fair and equitable and that Course Representatives are developed and supported appropriately.

Course Representatives are student volunteers who represent the views of students on their course. They work in partnership with academic and professional services staff and the Students' Union to support the delivery of an excellent educational experience for our students through the provision of feedback and through their involvement in quality systems and processes.

Information on student representation and course representatives will be provided to students upon commencing their course.

#### **12.6 Election of Course Representatives**

Normally Course Representatives are elected by the student body and will be sought for taught courses and research awards.

Students will have the opportunity to be elected as a Course Representative and to contribute in this capacity in addition to their involvement as an individual student. Flexibility is permitted dependent on the nature of the course, size of the cohort and mode of study.

## **12.7 Monitoring, Annual Review and Enhancement**

The process of monitoring, annual review and enhancement at course level enables collective student engagement and the involvement and contribution by students and their Course Representatives to the enhancement of the educational experience.

Students are provided with an opportunity to be involved in quality enhancement and assurance processes via individual or collective feedback and it is the responsibility of the Course Director to ensure these opportunities are made available and that students are kept informed of the actions taken in response to feedback they have provided.

Students will be provided with opportunities to provide feedback on their educational experience to staff, informing action plans for enhancement.

Student representation through membership of School and University governance structures provides further opportunities for feedback and contribution to enhancement action planning.

## **12.8 Action for Enhancement**

Feedback from students will inform course action plans and our University's annual quality reports and action plans.

Responses to student feedback will be provided via the agreed mechanisms.

## **12.9 Training and Support**

Course Representatives and University staff have access to training and support to equip them to undertake their roles in enhancement and quality assurance. The University and Students' Union will work in partnership to provide support and training for all Course Representatives.

## **12.10 Oversight, Monitoring and Review of Student Engagement**

The effectiveness of student engagement processes are reviewed through our annual review and enhancement process. Oversight of student representation is maintained via Academic Quality and Standards Committee.

## **12.11 Consultation on Modifications to the Course**

Students likely to be affected by proposals for modifications to their course will be consulted, in accordance with Academic Regulations Section 13: Approval, Validation, Monitoring and Review and that consultation will inform the decision making process.

Consultation activities will be informed by the Student Consultation Framework and the Student Protection Plan (where applicable) and associated University procedures.

All approved modifications will lead to updated published course information in accordance with University regulations and sector legislation.

## **12.12 Consultation on other changes**

The University will seek feedback from students on other changes that may affect them, guided by the Student Consultation Framework and the Student Protection Plan (where applicable).