

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY 2015-2018



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Summary: This Learning and Teaching Strategy (2015-2018) has been developed within the context of the new University Strategic Plan (2015-2020) and outlines the steps the University will take over the next three years to meet the institution's values-driven educational aims and ambitions.	

University Learning and Teaching Strategy 2015-2018

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Vision statement

The Learning and Teaching Strategy (2015-2018) builds on Winchester's excellent reputation and national recognition for learning and teaching, as evidenced by the rise in league table position (NSS 2014, Times Higher Student Experience Survey 2014 and Complete University Guide 2015). In the period of this new strategy we seek to strengthen further the design of our programmes through an evidence-led and team approach; to engage students in learning so that they might be critical and creative producers of knowledge; to invest in and support inspiring and innovative uses of technology for enhancing learning; to extend our vibrant community of practice around learning and teaching; and to broaden students' experience both within and beyond the curriculum.

2. Design and structure of the strategy

This Learning and Teaching Strategy (2015-2018) has been developed within the context of the new University Strategic Plan (2015-2020) and outlines the steps the University will take over the next three years to meet the institution's values-driven educational aims and ambitions. Areas within the University Strategic Plan to which this strategy speaks most directly include:

- Our innovative and versatile portfolio (Strategic plan 1.3, 3.2.1)
- Being sector leaders in student engagement (1.1.3)
- Learning and assessment centred on meaningful and relevant activity (1.1.4)
- The creative use of technology (1.1.5, 1.3.5)
- Research and professional practice underpinning the quality of teaching (2.2)
- Inclusivity and the celebration of diversity (1.2. 1.6.1)
- Employability embedded within our programmes (1.4, 3.5)
- A global perspective in our students and staff (1.5; 3.1.3)
- Staff supported to develop their skills, abilities and creativity (1.1.1, 3.1.4)

Against the backdrop of the University's wider aims, this Learning and Teaching Strategy articulates the institution's direction through four interlocking headline statements which relate broadly to curriculum, pedagogy, students and staff:

1. **Our distinctive, well-designed programmes encourage students to become independent, critical and aspirational learners**
2. **Our learning and teaching approaches are imaginative and creative and are underpinned by high quality resources**
3. **All students are inspired to achieve and contribute**
4. **Our staff are well-supported and engaged in their professional practice.**

These headlines are further defined through a number of specific statements, which form the basis of an implementation plan reviewed annually by the University's Senate Academic Development Committee. Cross cutting and woven throughout all sections of the strategy are our current development themes: design and innovation, student engagement, technology, employability which guide our enhancement work.



The Learning and Teaching Strategy 2015-2018 is not intended to be a stand-alone strategy, nor can its aims be achieved without the coalescing of a range of interests and foci across the university. Where there are resource implications, for example, implied in aspects of this strategy these will be subject to decisions by the relevant budget holders. In sum, the strategy needs to be read and understood as an overarching core strategy of the university, co-existing with other core and *enabling* strategies. Those of particular importance include:

Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy
Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning Strategy
Christian Foundation Strategy
Employability Strategy
Community Engagement Strategy
Equality and Diversity Strategy
Internationalisation Strategy
Information Technology Strategy
Internal Communication Strategy
Human Resources Strategy
Marketing Strategy
Financial Strategy
Estates Master Plan and Estates Strategy

3. Strategy



1. **Our distinctive, well-designed programmes encourage students to become independent, critical and aspirational learners**
 - 1.1 Research and knowledge exchange underpin the design of programmes, fostering a culture of inquiry and criticality among our students
 - 1.2 Programme design and review are informed by debate and shared understanding of effective, distinctive and innovative approaches to learning and teaching, appropriate to the discipline
 - 1.3 We enhance our programmes through critical engagement with a range of internal and external evidence and data
 - 1.4 Students have access to a variety of learning opportunities which broaden their personal and intellectual experience as global citizens and contributors to society
 - 1.5 In our approaches to learning and teaching we fully and positively embrace inclusivity
 - 1.6 We take bold steps to develop our portfolio and our recruitment strategy based on clear evidence of market and competitors.
2. **Our learning and teaching approaches are imaginative and creative, and are underpinned by high quality resources**
 - 2.1 Students engage in purposeful and reflective learning, developing knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary society

- 2.2 Assessment and feedback are based on educational principles and research, and designed as an integral part of the learning process
- 2.3 Technology is used creatively and judiciously to enhance the learning and teaching experience
- 2.4 Staff and students are well supported to enhance their digital literacy capabilities
- 2.5 Learning resources, including physical spaces for learning, are well matched to student needs and expectations
- 2.6 Staff resources are planned and allocated to meet the changing needs of teaching

3. **All students are inspired to achieve and contribute**

- 3.1 As members of our community of research and scholarship, students help to define the culture of learning
- 3.2 Activities within and beyond the curriculum support employability, life-long love of learning and readiness to contribute to society as confident global citizens
- 3.3 Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of opportunities for personal development from the earliest opportunity and throughout their time at Winchester and beyond
- 3.4 Working with the SU, we ensure that students contribute as partners to enhancing the learning and teaching experience
- 3.5 In their learning students engage with the complex challenges of our contemporary world

4. **Our staff are well-supported and engaged in their professional practice**

- 4.1 Staff are encouraged and enabled to develop as professionals through all stages of their career
- 4.2 We recognise, reward and celebrate teaching excellence
- 4.3 Internal funding supports strategically important, valuable and creative pedagogic research and development
- 4.4 Research, scholarship and practice continue to underpin our teaching at all levels
- 4.5 We encourage staff participation in external activities, which enhance learning and teaching at Winchester