Theme 1: The Educational Leaner Journey of Generation Z (pre HE)

Generation Z are facing intensive change in their academic journeys before they have even entered university higher education. From GCSE to A-Level, there have been new and revised curricula and assessment i.e. a ‘slimmed down’ curriculum, new grading scales and a move away from coursework assessment to mostly exams. This theme will encourage presenters to critically reflect on these developments and also offer an opportunity for those in HE to understand more clearly the learning experience of this particular generation of students.

Theme 2: Pedagogical Practice for and with Generation Z

This theme seeks to explore how our teaching styles can be adapted to this new generation, in order to enable them to flourish as learners and citizens in an ever-evolving and uncertain world. Generation Z have been characterised as being much more ‘digitally innate’ and as both eager and collaborative learners who do not wish to be situated in the role of being passive recipients of education. This theme seeks to explore examples and best practice in relation to areas such as digital engagement, co-creation, partnership, civil engagement, inter-disciplinary curricula and classroom cultures.

Theme 3: Understanding Generation Z – beliefs, motivations and student diversity

Generation Z students are described as being heavily invested in their education and determined to build positive social change. This theme offers an opportunity to understand further the beliefs and values of Generation Z, their priorities and motivations, and the challenges these students face. This theme may also consider social trends characterising Generation Z and reflections on how better to include and engage a diversity of student groups. This theme would particularly welcome solo student or student-staff presentations.

Theme 4: Careers and Future Aspirations of Generation Z

With a university education being a high investment into their futures, this theme turns from the present and provides delegates with an opportunity to explore the future aspirations for this Generation of students. Be these aspirations broadly related to their desire to engage with, and inspire, social change, or their wish to succeed in the labour market, this theme looks towards their future and our role as educators and institutions in shaping this. Possible opportunities to engage with this theme include: workplace trends, skills development, desired employment and how universities and staff members are preparing students for the labour market.
SESSION FORMATS:

CAMPFIRE SESSIONS:

These sessions start in a traditional presentation style, with a speaker(s) presenting their paper. However, after 15 minutes, the focus shifts from the presenter to the audience. For the remainder of the session (i.e. the remaining 15 minutes), the presenter(s) takes on a facilitator role and will invite the audience to comment, draw insights and ask questions. The purpose of campfire sessions is to allow delegates the opportunity to drive their own learning and steer where the remainder of the session goes.

| Time to deliver content: 15 minutes | Discussion: 15 minutes |

PECHAKUCHA:

Coming from a transliteration of an onomatopoetic Japanese term for ‘chit chat’, a Pecha Kucha is a lightning style presentation where 20 slides/images are shown and spoken about for 20 seconds each. The presentation will then last for a total 6 minutes 40 sec and around 5 minutes will be allowed for questions.

| Time to deliver content: 6 minutes 40 sec | Questions/Discussion: 3 minutes |

WORKSHOPS:

Presenters are allocated 60 minute sessions in which they are expected to present their content for around 40% of this time. The majority of the session should be dedicated towards interactive and audience-based participation where delegates are able to collaborate in activities and are stimulated in discussions. Workshops should encourage best practice, share ideas and offer an opportunity to experience a collaborative approach to problem solving all whilst being led by the presenter(s).

| Time to deliver content: 20 minutes | Questions/Discussion: 40 minutes |

STORYTELLING SESSIONS:

These sessions invite students and staff to tell a story which illustrate a conference theme. It should reflect an authentic experience but is told in the format of a traditional story (i.e. a beginning, middle and end; a strong set of characters and overarching theme which holds interest). Such sessions could be done in a TED-style talk where speakers:

- Make use of short but effective descriptions
- Use visuals to supplement a story
- Create tension, build-up or suspense
- Use scene-by-scene construction of events through dialogue rather than narration
- Have some sort of positive resolution or takeaway

| Time to deliver content: 15 minutes | Questions/Discussion: 10 minutes |