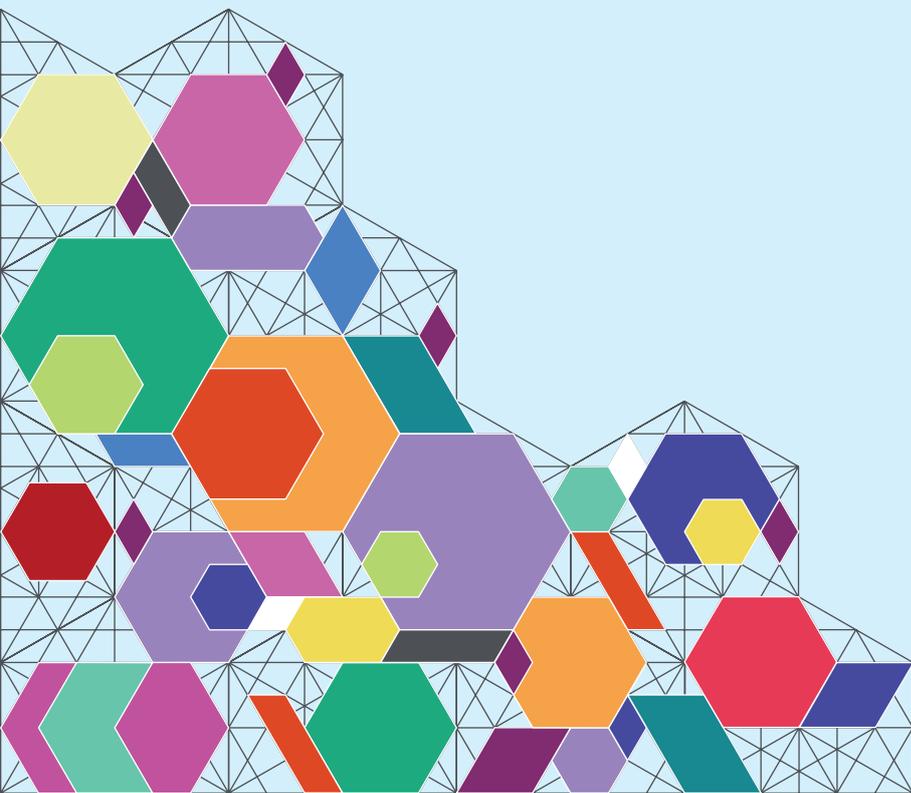


START  
TOMORROW  
TODAY

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# Learning & Teaching Strategy

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# Learning and Teaching 2017-2020

## How to use this Strategy

It is intended that this strategy will provide clear direction to the Board of Management, staff and stakeholders of Inverness College UHI on our strategic approaches to Learning and Teaching.

Staff should make use of this strategy when creating their Operational Plans.

## Context

The term learning and teaching, in the context of this strategy, defines key elements of our core purpose: the development of our curriculum, our teaching practice and its links with research, and how well these activities support students to achieve on their courses of study.

The Learning and Teaching Strategy relates to the following themes in the Strategic Plan 2017-20: Student Life, Curriculum, Professional Practice, Research and Innovation and Sustainability. The strategy also takes account of other college strategies, in particular the Student Engagement Strategy and the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Strategy, and the university's Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy.

The objectives relate to:

- Curriculum development
- Teaching practice
- Research-teaching linkages
- Student outcomes

### **Strategic Objective 1:**

To deliver a progressive and valued curriculum that is responsive to demand and contributes to the growth of our region.

We will achieve this by:

- Maintaining strong links with key partners and the communities we serve to systematically gather and analyse intelligence on labour market trends, skill needs and employer sector demands, and review and develop our curriculum accordingly.
- Targeting and/or tailoring provision to ensure that people who face the greatest challenges, including those from challenging backgrounds and those

from deprived and remote communities, have at least an equal opportunity to access our curriculum and progress successfully.

- Making the most of our tertiary nature to ensure access and progression pathways are effective, efficient and understood.
- Ensuring that workplace experiences, enterprise and entrepreneurship are key features of our curriculum and central to the graduate attributes and essential skills developed by our students.
- Continuing to identify and develop across our curriculum opportunities for research, innovation and knowledge exchange.

**Strategic objective 2:**

To maintain excellent standards of teaching practice across the college.

We will achieve this by:

- Adopting the values in the UHI Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy as a reference to support staff and teaching teams to evaluate their practice, facilitate professional dialogue, inform ongoing professional development and ensure consistency of practice.
- Ensuring our teaching practice is consistently inclusive, takes account of individuals' additional needs and supports a positive and respectful environment for learning for all students.
- Ensuring that effective and innovative practices are identified, celebrated and shared to help inform the practice of other staff and teaching teams.
- Providing ongoing professional learning and development opportunities specific to teaching practice and the learning process and ensure, through evaluation and monitoring, that these opportunities have a positive impact on practice and the student experience.
- Establishing research and innovation in pedagogy that informs practice, including the development of staff research profiles.

**Strategic objective 3:**

To grow the research-teaching linkages across our curriculum.

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring that teaching on degree awards is informed by relevant research outputs and that there is a structured approach to support staff teaching on degrees at SCQF level 9 and above to be engaged in research activity.
- Ensuring that research activity across the college and the university is embedded in teaching within the relevant curriculum areas.

- Engaging proactively with the university’s Research-Teaching Linkage project to build staff and student capacity for research.
- Creating opportunities, wherever possible, for postgraduate research students to engage in teaching.

**Strategic objective 4:**

To maintain and improve successful outcomes for our students and support them into positive post-course destinations.

We will achieve this by:

- Maintaining effective mechanisms for self-reflection and programme evaluation that support high rates of successful completion for students on all levels of programme and modes of delivery.
- Ensuring that outcomes for students in specific groups and with protected characteristics are systematically reviewed and monitored, and actions are taken to maintain equity of success and achievement for all students.
- Responding quickly and positively to student feedback to ensure that student satisfaction with learning and teaching is consistently high.
- Monitoring school leaver destinations, student enrolments, attainment and progression rates and the destinations of our further and higher education leavers to inform our learning and teaching and to evaluate the impact it is having on progression and positive post-course destinations.

**Key Performance Indicators**

<b>KPI</b>
Student recruitment against targets and over time
Student progression rates
Student retention rates
Student successful completion rates
Successful completion rates by specific learner groups
Student satisfaction rates
College and university leaver destination rates
Staff research profile
Postgraduate research student involvement in teaching
External quality reports and endorsements

**Cross Reference to Strategic Plan**

This strategy links to the following strategic aims:

**Strategic Aim****Student Life**

We will build a vibrant campus community that all of our students are proud of, and within which they are engaged and supported to reach their potential. We will strengthen our existing relationships between our students, staff, employers and the wider community to further increase student participation and the student voice

**Curriculum**

We will offer a progressive curriculum that is valued by our students, employers and the communities we serve, and that is delivered in a variety of ways to make it accessible to all. We will ensure the curriculum remains relevant, responsive to demand and aligned with employment opportunities, providing a range of progression pathways that contribute to the economic growth and social cohesion of our region.

**Professional Practice**

Recognising that people have the greatest influence on our success, we will operate in a positive culture where we stretch ourselves to deliver the highest standards of service, support and delivery that exceeds expectations.

**Research and Innovation**

We will build upon our successes in research by strengthening our impact and excellence and growing our regional and international reputation. We will continue to support and grow an innovative and inspired postgraduate researcher community. Our research will directly inform innovation and entrepreneurship activity in key sectors regionally and internationally