

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy

2009 -2012

The Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy (L&TE) Strategy is intended to engage all those involved in learning, teaching and assessment at the University of Kent, including students, academic staff, graduate teaching assistants, administrative and support staff.

The strategic aims articulate with the following themes of the Institutional Plan (2009 – 12)¹ which state that the University of Kent – the UK’s European University – is:

- a leading UK university (T1),
- making a strong international impact (T2),
- offering an inspiring student experience that prepares students for the future (T3),
- producing innovative world-leading research (T4),
- enabling and valuing innovation, enterprise and creativity (T5),
- operating in an effective, efficient, sustainable and professional manner (T6).

The **Strategic Aims** of this Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy seek to support these claims and draw together areas for enhancement based on both institutional and national priorities in learning and teaching:

(1) Challenge and support students to realise their ambitions through active engagement with their studies and full participation in the academic community (**T3**)

(2) Enhance students’ employment prospects and promote lifelong learning through the provision of flexible and diverse learning opportunities (**T3, T5**)

(3) Foster and reward excellence in research-led teaching and enhance professional development opportunities for staff (**T4, T5**)

(4) Strengthen our learning and teaching infrastructure to respond to changes in practice and new technology (**T6**)

(5) Encourage participation by all who can benefit from the Kent student experience. (**T3, T5**).

¹ <http://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan/>

Process

The strategy builds upon the 5 strategic objectives of the previous Learning and Teaching Strategy (2006-09)² and its related achievements.³ This strategy differs from its predecessor in a number of key ways to reflect the maturity of the University's quality management processes and the increased focus on enhancement:

1. It places a much stronger emphasis than previously on how the Strategy is to be implemented locally and monitored institutionally. This includes:
 - a. Integrating with other University strategies⁴ to simplify, yet consolidate, strategic direction and approach
 - b. Aligning the strategy with the University quality management processes, including those for monitoring, planning and enhancement
 - c. Ensuring that it provides flexibility for localised interpretation and diversity of outcomes, which can be more effectively coordinated and disseminated to support the achievement of the University's strategic goals and to inform the enhancement of policies and procedures.
2. The Faculties will ensure mechanisms are in place for an integrated approach to the development of School implementation plans, by identifying measures (localised objectives) to enhance and evidence (outputs) the impact on the student learning experience⁵. Progress and achievements will then be monitored and supported through the annual monitoring and planning processes at Faculty level. Similarly central services, with support and administration roles in L&T, will also be expected to contribute to the development of the L&TE Strategy implementation plan.
3. UELT will work with Heads of School and other senior management teams, as well as students, to coordinate cross-University support for the L&TE Strategy and to support implementation at an institutional level. For example, UELT will coordinate activities relating to the ongoing enhancement theme (*Developing Effective Learners*), convene special interest groups to inform new initiatives in learning, teaching and assessment, disseminate effective practice and continue to provide funding for L&T projects.⁶
4. The UELT Steering Group will consider ways to progress of L&TE Strategy at the institutional level based on the outcomes above, and in response to strategic developments and changing external agendas.

Development and Implementation of the Strategy

² <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/strategy/index.html>

³ <https://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/quality/committees/ltb/papers/index.html#10062009> (LTB 29/2009 refers)

⁴ eg International and Postgraduate Student Strategies, HR Strategy, e-learning strategy etc.

⁵ Guidance to Developing Implementation Plans – LTB28/2009 refers

⁶ http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2009/09_30/

The aims of the L&TE Strategy were agreed by members of the UELT Steering Group (including the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Deans, members of the Academic Division, Information Services, HR, Head of UELT and the education sabbatical student). The University's Learning and Teaching Board, which is responsible for implementing and monitoring this strategy, will seek feedback from Schools, Faculties, partner institutions and central support services, before producing the final version of this strategy. The identification of key strategic objectives and targets within the strategy will help to promote a shared understanding of the priorities for learning, teaching and assessment and ensure that the objectives of this strategy are embedded at all levels and achieved within an appropriate timescale.

Review and Evaluation

The L&TE Strategy will be reviewed annually by the University's Learning and Teaching Board which reports to the University's Senate in light of the annual monitoring/planning reports from Schools to the Faculties and from central support services. The UELT Steering Group will ensure that the implementation plans are updated and evolved to reflect progress or incorporate changes as a result of experience or internal/external developments.

Lhn 27/05/09 v2 (LTB 27/2009)

Updated: 19/10/09 v3