Graduate Attributes

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What are graduate attributes?

University education equips students with:
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Attributes

Attributes refers to the values and beliefs which a University identifies as the hallmark of their graduates’ experience.
Examples from other universities

Example 1 University of Leeds

- Academic excellence
- Community
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Professionalism

The Sheffield graduate is……

• knowledgeable in their subject area
• a critical, analytical and creative thinker
• an independent learner and researcher
• a problem solver
• information literate and IT literate
• a flexible team worker
• an accomplished communicator
• an efficient planner and time manager
• competent in applying their knowledge and skills
• an active citizen who respects diversity
• professional and adaptable
• reflective, self aware and self-motivated

http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/sheffieldgraduate/
1. Discipline Expertise:
Evidence of analytical engagement with the theoretical knowledge of students' chosen disciplines

2. Professionalism:
Evidence of the skills required for effective participation in students' chosen working environment.

3. Global Citizenship:
Evidence of students' ability to connect discipline-based theory and practice to the sustainability of communities, economies and environments in a global context

4. Scholarship:
Evidence of students' capabilities to make a scholarly contribution in their workplaces and wider communities

5. Lifelong Learning:
Evidence of students' academic and lifelong independent learning skills

http://www.usq.edu.au/learnteach/topics/gradatt.htm
Example 4 University of Sydney

- Scholarship: An attitude or stance towards knowledge
- Global Citizenship: An attitude or stance towards the world
- Lifelong Learning: An attitude or stance towards themselves

http://www.itl.usyd.edu.au/graduateattributes/
Some common themes

- Global citizenship/international perspectives/cultural awareness
- Professionalism, ethics, values
- Social responsibility/service to the community
- Lifelong learning
- Technological literacy
- Initiative, problem-solving skills
- Leadership
How can graduate attributes be developed through the formal curriculum?

• Using a variety of assessment tasks helps to expose students to the experiences they need to develop a wide range of skills such as:
  • Group projects for communication and team working skills
  • Journaling for reflecting on their learning and planning next steps
  • Essays for critical thinking and writing skills
How do GAs link with PDP processes?

- Graduate Attributes is a term which has also been labeled other terms such as ‘transferable skills’ and ‘employability skills’

- It is important that students are aware of the skills that they develop during their academic studies which will be useful in their next stage of life

- Kent has developed an employability strategy which details the skills and attributes that students should be working towards [link](http://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan/studentexperience/employability/employabilitystrategy.pdf)

- PDP processes enable students to measure themselves against a benchmark and then make plans of how to improve their skills. A framework of employability skills has been developed [link]