

UCC Learning and Teaching Strategy 2017-2020

Background

The University Centre Colchester's (UCC) ambitions for its Learning & Teaching Strategy (UCCLTS) are based on the UCC's Strategic Plan 2017-2020. It also takes into account the Colchester Institute (CI) Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and the CI Learning and Teaching Strategy 2017-2020 (CIL&T).

The purpose of the present document is to prioritise some institutional initiatives (see below: 'key themes') in order to map out an approach to change in Learning & Teaching that is organic, sustainable and effective.

Underpinning values

Colchester Institute is a long established, and highly regarded, provider of vocational training in the region. The University Centre Colchester was formed in 2016 to bring together the degree level training which has been available at the CI for many years.

The organisation's ethos permeates everything it does by placing emphasis on a student-centred approach to Learning & Teaching. CI's engagement with employers and its strong commitment to providing opportunities for social mobility define the essence of what underpins the 'UCC experience' for students and staff: smaller class sizes, a personalized approach to study, a committed support team for student learning, and an increasingly research-active staff community.

Key themes

The UCC's Strategic Plan 2017-2020 sets out eight aims and identifies the relevant success indicators for the aims concerned. Points one, two and five of the UCC's Strategic Plan form the key themes for the institution's focus on facilitating and implementing gradual change in the area of Learning & Teaching. These points are:

1. To further enhance, promote and develop **excellence in teaching, learning and assessment** in all areas of HE provision.

Staff and students will engage increasingly in subject-specific scholarly activities, and the application of pedagogically effective forms of feedback that connect directly to the student experience. CI's L&T policy 2017-2020 (CIL&T) describes this focus as follows: 'innovation in teaching and learning is encouraged by exploring new ways of delivery, and assessment, the spaces in which learning takes place, and the technologies we employ'.

To achieve these ambitions, the UCC will:

- a) Strengthen the connectivity between a programme of study and a subject's current scholarly position
 - b) Re-evaluate the relationship between module content, assessment, and learner needs
 - c) Where applicable, employ innovative technologies appropriate to the subject in its delivery and assessment.
2. To encourage, develop and celebrate a **research informed curriculum** in which research connected learning and the valuing of staff are at the heart of the provision.

Staff expertise and morale have a significant influence on students' ability to exceed their own expectations within the learning experiences available. CIL&T places emphasis on 'recognising staff for their investment in teaching'. Staff will therefore become more proactive in shaping and owning the curriculum they teach.

To achieve these ambitions, the UCC will:

- a) Facilitate a sense of shared ownership of academic resources across course teams
 - b) Promote and support staff in a range of knowledge transfer activities which inform the curriculum
 - c) Encourage students and staff to engage in joint research activities.
3. To provide an innovative, responsive and sustainable **curriculum offer**, that takes account of the changing needs of learners and the market place.

The UCC recognises that students' learning is likely to be at its most effective when the curriculum on offer is relevant to student aspirations. The size and staffing of the UCC places the organisation in a strong position to enrich student learning through up-to-date programme development.

CIL&T sets out the CI-wide agenda: 'flexibility in the curriculum will enable us to remain responsive to our external environment whilst retaining our core values and thus ensuring the long term sustainability of what we do and believe in'.

To achieve these ambitions, the UCC will:

- a) Revise its current programmes of study and streamline the provision available
- b) Amend existing programmes to ensure the course content is both current and pertinent to students
- c) Strengthen employer and student input in programme design and development.

Implementation

The present document will go before the relevant committees and boards of study in autumn term 2017; for discussion and approval. The responsibility for the implementation of the strategy rests

with subject teams within each school. The responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the strategy lies with the UCC Management Group.

Related documents

Colchester Institute Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Colchester Institute Learning & Teaching Strategy 2017-2020

University Centre Colchester Strategic Plan 2017-2020

University Centre Colchester Learning & Teaching Strategy 2017-2020