

What is the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF)



This guidance answers the following questions:

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- What is the UKPSF?
- Who does it belong to?
- What is it for?
- How does the HEA use the UKPSF?
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What is the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF)?

The UKPSF provides a general description of the main dimensions of the roles of teaching and supporting learning within the Higher Education (HE) environment. It is written from the perspective of the practitioner and outlines a national framework for comprehensively recognising and benchmarking teaching and learning support roles within Higher Education.

The Framework has two components:

The Descriptors

These are a set of statements outlining the key characteristics of someone evidencing four broad categories of typical teaching and learning support roles within Higher Education.

The Dimensions of the Framework

These are a set of statements outlining the:

- **Areas of Activity** undertaken by teachers and supporters of learning within HE
- **Core Knowledge** that is needed to carry out those activities at the appropriate level
- **Professional Values** that someone performing these activities should embrace and exemplify

Who does it belong to?

The Framework has been developed by the HEA on behalf of the sector as a whole and so it is the property of all of those with a direct interest in the HE sector.

How does the HEA use the Framework?

The HEA provides a recognition and accreditation service which enables staff providing teaching and/or learning support to be recognised, depending on their role and experience, as an Associate Fellow (AFHEA), Fellow (FHEA), Senior Fellow (SFHEA) or Principal Fellow (PFHEA) of the Academy.

What is the UKPSF for?

The UKPSF's central purpose is to help those seeking to enhance the learning experience of their students, by improving the quality of their teaching and learning support. It has a wide range of uses, but it could, for example, be used to:

- Promote the professionalisation of teaching and learning support within the HE sector;
- Foster creative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning;
- Enable HE staff to gain recognition and reward for developing their capabilities as teachers and supporters of learning;
- Facilitate and support the design and delivery of initial and continuing education development programmes and activities ;
- Demonstrate to students and other stakeholders the professionalism that staff and institutions bring to teaching and support for student learning;
- Support Senior Staff seeking to:
 - develop policies and systems for the recognition and reward of teaching and learning support staff
 - promote a strong culture of teaching and learning support.

How can you use the framework?

The Framework has been designed to cover all aspects of teaching and learning support. If you have a substantive role in the education of students or staff, it will be relevant to your situation. Depending on your specific role you can use it to become an Associate Fellow, Fellow, Senior Fellow or Principal Fellow. This will give you global recognition as a higher education educator. Review the descriptors to see which one would be appropriate for you. You don't necessarily have to start as an Associate Fellow and work through to Fellow, Senior Fellow and Principal Fellow. You can gain recognition as appropriate to your current role and recent experience.

You can use the Framework to plan and guide your CPD in the area of teaching and learning. There is a natural progression through the Framework as the scope of your teaching/learning support role widens and deepens over time and the Framework can help you at whichever stage and whatever your goals in this field of activity.

If you are involved in the training and development of teaching and/or learning support staff, you can use the Framework to design and structure your development programmes. You can also make use of the accreditation service provided by the HEA. Accreditation provides external and independent confirmation that professional development is aligned to the UKPSF for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education and provides participants with the opportunity to be professionally recognised through the Higher Education Academy's Fellowship scheme.

If you have a senior managerial role, you can use the Framework to help you to enhance the quality and prominence of the teaching and learning activities within your remit. There are many ways in which it can be used. Two examples are:

- its requirements can be included in job descriptions for posts with substantive teaching requirements;
- it can form the basis for policy statements with regard to teaching and learning.

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more, please go to <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ukpsf> for further information. Alternatively you can contact the Fellowship team directly by calling 01904 717 500.