

Strategic enhancement programmes Call for participation

Closing Date 15th September 2014

The Higher Education Academy (HEA) invites expressions of interest from HEA subscribing higher education providers from across the UK to participate in three strategic enhancement programmes commencing in October 2014:

- Embedding Employability into the Curriculum
- Internationalising the Curriculum
- Engaged Student Learning

These programmes form key elements of the HEA's four enhancement workstreams 2014-15: curriculum design; innovative pedagogies; student transitions; and, staff transitions. These workstreams will make a wide range of resources and support available to institutions, departments and individuals, including research, enhancement frameworks, toolkits and continuing professional development opportunities.

A call for participation in two further strategic enhancement programmes relating to Flexible Learning, and Retention and Attainment, will be issued in October 2014.

Participating institutions will receive HEA-facilitated support for enhancement initiatives that they are taking forward during 2014-15 that align to the programme. Support will take the form of a series of network meetings tailored for each of the three programmes, plus bespoke support for each participating institution. Specific projects designed to strengthen the evidence base in the areas covered by the programmes will be commissioned by the HEA.

The programmes will enable further refinement and development of HEA enhancement frameworks and resource toolkits, to inform the development of institutional and academic practice across the sector. These will be designed to support enhancement activity at institutional, faculty, departmental and discipline level.

Aim and Scope

The aim of each strategic enhancement programme is to support providers through a structured development programme to further enhance the student learning experience in a strategic priority area. Specifically, through participation, providers will:

- be supported to enhance current institutional strategies, approaches and practices in aspects of learning and teaching that relate to their institutional context and priorities;
- develop and use evidence to improve the effectiveness of institutional strategies, approaches and practices in key areas,
- participate in a national network, with the benefits of exchange of practice and learning;

- understand and evaluate the process and impact of their enhancement programmes;
- inform the further development of the HEA's evidence-informed support and resources for the sector.

Scope of Programmes

Embedding Employability into the Curriculum builds on existing HEA work in this area, including *Defining and Developing Your Approach to Employability: a framework for higher education institutions* published in 2013, which provides a process for providers to review and enhance their employability provision in a systematic and holistic manner. Identifying key questions for academic managers and practitioners, it is a key resource to facilitate discussion and change in relation to embedding employability into the curriculum through engaging a range of stakeholders, and can be adapted to address particular areas of development.

Internationalising the Curriculum will focus on the use of the *Internationalising Higher Education Framework*, launched by the HEA in July 2014. This was developed through extensive consultation and collaboration with a range of stakeholders committed to the process of internationalising higher education learning and teaching, with the vision of promoting a high quality, equitable and global learning experience for all students studying UK programmes, irrespective of their geographical location or background. It can be utilised for a range of purposes including: institutional self-evaluation; professional development; curriculum planning and design.

Engaged Student Learning builds on the HEA *Framework for Partnership in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education*, and an accompanying report, launched in July 2014. It offers a tool to work with institutions to support them in the identification and development of effective practice in enhancing engaged student learning. The programme will assist participants in identifying and further developing 'high impact' pedagogical approaches at institutional and discipline level that are effective in generating engaged student learning, including through the use of digital technologies. There will be a focus on applying and developing the institutional and sector-wide evidence base to support effective enhancement.

Structure

Programme activities will begin in October 2014 and run through the year to July 2015.

Participating institutions will:

- Undertake a new initiative within their institution, or work on an existing initiative, with the support of the HEA, to enhance their work within the programme area;
- Participate in three facilitated network meetings, sharing practice and learning across the network group as the programme develops;
- Have the opportunity to participate in specific funded projects to enhance the evidence base;
- Share their learning, experience and developed institutional practice, e.g., through showcasing their practice at an HEA enhancement conference or contributing case studies or exemplars for use in HEA frameworks and toolkits;

- Participate in impact evaluation of this initiative.

An outline timetable is set out below.

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| July 2014 | Call for applications opens. |
| Monday 15 September 2014 by 12 noon | Call closes (deadline for applications). |
| Monday 29 September 2014 | Institutions informed of outcomes. |
| October – November 2014 | First facilitation meetings. |
| January – February 2015 | Second facilitation meetings |
| April - May 2015 | Third facilitation meetings |
| July 2015 | 2014-15 programme concludes |

Benefits of participation

Participating institutions will have the opportunity to benefit in the following ways:

- Taking forward a specific strategic development project or initiative with support of the HEA and benefiting from interaction with other institutions;
- Complementing and/or enhancing current institutional approaches and strategies by using an HEA framework and other resources/expertise;
- Accessing expert input from HEA staff. This will include one site visit from an HEA Consultant in Academic Practice and two virtual meetings, in addition to interactions at network meetings;
- Being part of a national strategic enhancement programme, contributing learning and showcasing good practice for the benefit of individual institutions and the sector at large.

How to apply

Applications are invited from all HEA subscribing higher education providers in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Institutions wishing to participate in a programme should complete the application form [separate document accessed from the web page] and submit this to:

SEP2014@heacademy.ac.uk

Institutions should indicate their preferences for participation in these programmes in ranked order.

To participate in a programme, institutions will be asked to identify a core working group of four to six people to include at least one senior manager and one student and/or student representative. It is asked that for each HEA-facilitated meeting at least two members of the working group attend.

The deadline for submission of applications is: **noon on Monday 15 September 2014.**

Please address any enquiries about participation in the enhancement programmes to: SEP2014@heacademy.ac.uk or by telephone 01904 717500.

Selection criteria

Please complete all sections of the application form. The application should be supported by a senior manager (for example a Pro-Vice Chancellor or Vice Principal) of the institution, and signed and dated accordingly.

Only the information provided on the submitted form will be considered by the HEA. It is anticipated that the HEA will select around 20 higher education providers for each of the strategic enhancement programmes.

The following criteria will be used to aid selection:

- Reasons and interest to participate
- Clarity of alignment with strategic objectives and existing/planned work in the area.
- Strength of leadership and institutional commitment.
- Level of student engagement and participation.

Outcomes of the selection process will be communicated to institutions by email on **Monday 29 September 2014**.

Further information

If you require any further information or would like to discuss any of the strategic enhancement programmes further, please contact, Sarah Cutforth or Jo Masterson at SEP2014@heacademy.ac.uk or by telephone 01904 717500.