

**Session title:** How are staff supported to undertake student-staff partnership opportunities

**Session type:** Workshop (45 mins)

**Main presenter:** Dan Axson, University of Sussex

**Co-presenters:** Names tbc from collaboration partners (will be mix of staff and students, in total 2 staff and 2 students, including lead presenter). Partner institutions are: University of Salford, UCL & University of Brighton

**Session summary:**

Preparedness for student-staff partnership activity is an important contributor to the success of such projects. The ability to successfully prepare staff for this type of work enables it to achieve scale within the university. This interactive workshop shares initial insights from a QAA collaborative enhancement project and encourages participants to reflect on and share practices from their own institutions.

**Session outline:**

University strategies increasingly seek to embed student-staff partnership working as part of institutional innovation programmes (Gravett et al., 2020; Marquis et al., 2019) and quality processes to drive impactful change (Cook-Sather et al., 2014; Healey et al., 2014). Whilst it is recognised that the institutional terminology around partnership varies (Bovill, 2019), (for example, at the partner institutions, connectors, changemakers, inclusive practice partners), it is generally agreed that partnership working is a process (Cook-Sather et al., 2014) rather than an outcome.

The success of partnership projects has been linked to effectively establishing the values of partnership working (Luo et al., 2019). As a result, staff facilitators are integral to the ability to successfully scale partnership working across institutions. Otherwise there remains a risk that student-staff partnerships remain small-scale, with staff partners typically drawn from the most engaged groups of staff (Duda & Danielson, 2018).

Despite the importance of skills required by staff, to date, little attention is given in sector guidance or literature to staff preparedness for such partnerships. The findings from this enhancement project will seek to inform the establishment of student-staff partnerships to enhance the learning experience of students.

This project seeks to develop practical insights for the QAA membership to support the establishment of successful student-staff partnerships. It will do so in the context of its own student-staff partnership, working with students and staff from each of the partner institutions.

This workshop is for anyone interested in staff development and student-staff partnership activity.

The session will:

- Provide an overview of the literature on staff preparedness for student-staff co-creation activity
- Introduce participants to the QAA collaborative project
- Outline initial findings from the project

- Encourage participants to share their own experiences and institutional practices

**References:**

Bovill, C. (2019). A co-creation of learning and teaching typology: What kind of co-creation are you planning or doing? *International Journal for Students as Partners*, 3(2), 91-98. Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.15173/ijpsap.v3i2.3953>

Cook-Sather, A., Bovill, C., & Felten, P. (2014). *Engaging students as partners in learning and teaching: A guide for faculty*. John Wiley & Sons.

Duda, G. K., & Danielson, M. A. (2018). Collaborative curricular (re)construction""Tracking faculty and student learning impacts and outcomes five years later. *International Journal for Students as Partners*, 2(2), 39-52. Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.15173/ijpsap.v2i2.3568>

Gravett, K., Kinchin, I. M., & Winstone, N. E. (2020). 'More than customers': Conceptions of students as partners held by students, staff, and institutional leaders. *Studies in Higher Education*, 45(12), 2574-2587. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2019.1623769>

Healey, M., Flint, A., & Harrington, K. (2014). Engagement through partnership: Students as partners in learning and teaching in higher education. *Advance HE*. <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/engagement-through-partnership-students-partners-learning-and-teaching-higher>

Luo, B., Matthews, K., & Chunduri, P. (2019). "Commitment to collaboration": What students have to say about the values underpinning partnership practices. *International Journal for Students as Partners*, 3(1), 123-139. Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.15173/ijpsap.v3i1.3688>

Marquis, E., Jayaratnam, A., Lei, T., & Mishra, A. (2019). Motivations, barriers, & understandings: How students at four universities perceive student-faculty partnership programs. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 38(6), 1240-1254. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2019.1638349>