

Session title: What next for graduate attributes? Exploring institutional approaches to embedding graduate attributes in the curriculum

Session type: Workshop (60 mins)

Presenter: Steph Fuller, Queen Mary University of London

Session summary:

This workshop will explore the extent to which graduate attributes are actively promoted by universities as a way to embed employability within programmes of study. Attendees will be invited to share experiences and approaches to working with graduate attributes through a range of discussions and activities. We will seek to collaboratively explore the importance of graduate attributes and the extent to which different HEIs recognize this, and consider what the future holds for graduate attributes.

Session outline:

This workshop will explore the extent to which graduate attributes are actively promoted by universities as a way to embed employability within programmes of study. Queen Mary University of London has recently launched an updated set of graduate attributes, and defines them as the 'knowledge, skills and behaviours that Queen Mary students develop as a result of their learning and experiences at university.' We are interested in building connections with colleagues across the sector with an interest in employability in the curriculum. Building on the recent work of others such as Wong et al (2022) and Daubney (2022), the workshop will seek to enhance understanding of current engagement with graduate attributes across Higher Education institutions.

Attendees will be invited to share their experiences and approaches to working with graduate attributes through a range of discussions and activities. Via discussion groups, we will consider specific questions intended to uncover and share good practice including:

- Are graduate attributes currently being promoted at our institutions?
- How are staff supported to embed graduate attributes within programmes?
- In what ways are graduate attributes promoted or highlighted to students?
- How are students supported to reflect on their graduate attributes?
- How are students helped to translate their attributes to job applications / LinkedIn profiles etc?

The workshop will also invite the group to reflect on ways of evidencing the impact of embedding graduate attributes and other employability initiatives within the curriculum.

Finally, we will consider what the future holds for graduate attributes in today's ever-changing global marketplace, the implications of AI for employability initiatives and explore evolving disciplinary differences.

References:

Wong, B, Chiu, Y-L T, Copsey-Blake, M and Nikolopoulou, M (2022) 'A mapping of graduate attributes: What can we expect from UK university students?', Higher Education Research and Development, 41 (4): 1340-1355. Available at: [oi.org/10.1080/07294360.2021.1882405](https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2021.1882405)

Daubney, K (2022) "Teaching employability is not my job!": Redefining embedded employability from within the higher education curriculum', *Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning*, 12 (1): 92-106. Available at: doi.org/10.1108/HESWBL-07-2020-0165

Queen Mary University of London (2023). 'Graduate Attributes,' Available at: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/queenmaryacademy/educators/resources/graduate-attributes/>