

Session title: The Inclusive Higher Education Framework

Session type: Workshop (60 mins)

Main presenter: Katharine Hubbard, University of Hull

Co-presenter: Paula Gawthorpe

Session summary:

This interactive workshop will explore Inclusivity in Higher Education, which underpins student and staff wellbeing. It will present a cross-institutional Inclusive Education Framework developed collaboratively between academics, professional services, educational developers and students. We share findings from the project, impact thus far and lessons learned. Participants will share their practice, learn new strategies to embed inclusion into curriculum design and identify actions for future development. The framework can be accessed via <https://www.inclusiveeducationframework.info>

Session outline:

In this session we will explore what is meant by Inclusivity in Higher Education, and how staff can be supported to embed inclusive educational approaches into programme and module design. We cannot design curricula to enhance student and staff wellbeing unless we are truly inclusive. We will consider the differences between accessibility, inclusivity, equality and equity in the context of HE, and what impact these different framings have on curricula. The workshop will be structured around our Inclusive Education Framework, developed through a QAA collaborative enhancement project between seven institutions. The framework is grounded in academic literature, insights from focus groups and partnership working between academics, educational developers, professional services staff and students.

The framework identifies five key areas of action; (i) Structures and Processes, (ii) Curriculum Design and Delivery, (iii) Assessment and Feedback, (iv) Community and Belonging and (v) Pathways to Success. These are supported by key principles including wellbeing of staff and students, leadership, accountability, evaluation, support and training. We will explore each of the five dimensions, and invite participants to share examples and experiences of addressing them in curriculum design. We will also present resources generated by the project, including inclusive education checklists, case studies and an interactive self paced learning resource.

The focus of the workshop will be on identifying actions. The framework can be used for the development of modules, programmes or whole institution efforts to embed inclusivity, and we will share examples of each of these. The workshop will involve multiple opportunities for discussion as well as interactive presentations facilitated via Mentimeter. Delegates will leave having shared practice, reflected on barriers to embedding inclusion, and identified actions to implement in their local context.

References:

<https://www.inclusiveeducationframework.info>

Hubbard, K., Gawthorpe, P., Fallin, L., & Henri, D. (2020). Addressing the hidden curriculum during transition to HE: the importance of empathy. In *The Hidden Curriculum of Higher Education* (59-76). Heslington, York: Advance HE

Hubbard, K. and Gawthorpe, P. (2022) The Inclusive Higher Education Framework, Inclusive Education Framework. Available at: <https://www.inclusiveeducationframework.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Inclusive-Education-Framework-3.pdf> (Accessed: 25 September 2023).

Thomas, L. and May, H. (2010) Inclusive Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Higher Education Academy. Available at: <https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=HFPuvgECAAJ>.