

SEDA Spring Conference 2024



Session Title: How the University of Leeds is redesigning curricula through its 'Curriculum Redefined' programme

Session Type: Lightening talk (10 mins)

Main presenter(s): Dr James Forde, University of Leeds

Co presenter(s): N/A

Session Summary: This talk highlights how the University of Leeds is redesigning curricula through its 'Curriculum Redefined' programme. This initiative asks staff to adopt design thinking and co-creation tools and methodologies to enable student-centred design to take place. The professional development and staff support opportunities available are vital to the long-term success of this programme. This talk outlines how staff are supported and how the University aims to embed long-lasting and meaningful change as a result.

Session Outline: The University of Leeds' Curriculum Redefined initiative is an ambitious programme of change that aims to encourage academics across the institution to revise and refresh module and programme curricula in line with teaching and learning best practice, and in consideration of students' needs and expectations. Central to the programme's aims is encouraging and supporting staff to adopt design thinking and co-creation methodologies when undertaking their learning design work.

Key to the success of the programme over the next 5 years will be the support and development opportunities made available to staff to enable them to redesign curricula in ways that are innovative, evidence-based and emblematic of authentic co-creation. This talk will outline how the University of Leeds is doing this, including the introduction of a dedicated academic development consultancy team and the establishment of the Learning Design Agency (LDA). These services, available to all staff, provide bespoke guidance to staff, whatever the stage they are at in their learning design journeys, or regardless of their knowledge or expertise in this area.

The Learning Design Agency, in particular, provides staff with opportunities to adopt truly people-centred approaches in their design work. The Agency plans and delivers design sprints for staff in a unique and innovative approach to curriculum design. These sprints are intensive bursts of design work with all key stakeholders present, including students, alumni, academic and professional staff, subject matter experts and industry partners. By undertaking this approach, staff receive thorough and detailed insights work to inform the design and are left with realistic and tangible outputs. This talk highlights some of the successes and challenges to date for the Agency, and how the University aims to use this function as a way to encourage staff members to drastically rethink their approaches to learning design.



References: N/A