Curriculum Strategy

2020-2025

Edge Hill University

Curriculum Strategy

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Summary

This strategy aims to facilitate the design of inclusive and high-quality taught curriculum which supports the delivery of the University's goals - to provide students with a high-quality learning experience and to produce graduates who are capable of demonstrating the skills which are valued by employers.

To achieve this, the strategy sets out five principles for all its curriculum, underpinned by specific aims and objectives which enable their delivery. Key performance indicators are identified and will be overseen by the Academic Planning Committee.

Glossary of Terms

There are no surprising terms within this strategy.

Purpose

The Curriculum Strategy outlines the University's plans for its curriculum in the medium term, detailing its main priorities and approaches. It provides a framework for the development of new taught curriculum by Faculties that will support highly skilled employment opportunities for our graduates and encourages a consistent approach to these new portfolio developments.

Introduction

The aim of this strategy is to outline the planned approach for the university's curriculum over the next five years, providing a framework for curriculum developments and review of the portfolio offer. This strategy relates to taught curriculum only.

Our current Curriculum Strategy has enabled the design and implementation of a host of new provision over the previous five years and has been successful in providing a broad framework for these developments. This new strategy builds on this approach and is facilitative and focussed in its content, providing a framework for which proposals for new curriculum may be measured against. On a practical level, the aims and objectives detail how these principles may be realised, and performance against these will be monitored regularly.

Principles

All taught curriculum at Edge Hill University is designed based on the following principles:

1. **High quality**
   Well-designed curriculum which retains its value, facilitates a high-quality academic experience for all students, and provides our graduates with highly skilled employment opportunities.

2. **High value**
   Aligns with the priorities of the University and contributes to a broad and attractive portfolio offer.

3. **Cutting edge**
   Curriculum based on pedagogic best practice, the latest subject research, professional standards and is designed with the needs of our students, employers and partners at its heart.

4. **Flexible**
   Flexible by design to allow for alternative delivery modes and patterns to adapt to changing needs and makes best use of technology.

5. **Outcome-focused**
   Curriculum is designed to be inclusive, ensuring all students are supported to achieve their best and graduate with skills to support them in their future lives and careers.

Additionally, we recognise the valuable role of our students (and alumni) as co-creators in our curriculum and actively seek opportunities to involve them in design discussions for curriculum developments.

Aims and Objectives

The following aims and objectives support the delivery of this Strategy's principles over the next five years:

1. High quality

a) To maximise engagement with the University's Taught Degrees Framework[1] and ensure that the framework aligns appropriately with this Strategy.

b) To seek appropriate opportunities for accreditation and endorsement of programmes by recognised professional bodies, adding value and longevity to qualifications.

c) To ensure all curriculum meets and exceeds baseline threshold standards as set out in the FHEQ, by providing appropriate levels of academic challenge and stretch.

d) To design curriculum which encourages student engagement with their learning so they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

e) To embed employability development in programme design, embracing opportunities to embed work-related learning and placement opportunities for students and ensuring that students acquire knowledge, skills and understanding that are most highly valued by employers.

f) To offer comprehensive training on current approaches to effective curriculum design and other relevant areas to support staff developing new proposals.

2. High value

a) To broaden our postgraduate offer for students across all Faculties, providing an attractive variety of programmes that embed external engagement.

b) To continue to strengthen existing international collaborations and identify opportunities for high-quality partnerships for the delivery of our curriculum.

c) To continue to develop partnerships with employers in order to ensure the curriculum enhances our community as well as student employability opportunities.

3. Cutting edge

a) To encourage greater collaboration between and within Faculties in curriculum design and delivery.

b) To utilise our new and existing, sector-leading expertise to identify and implement innovations in learning, teaching and curriculum design and delivery.

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[1] Available to staff via the Go portal at the following weblink: https://go.edgehill.ac.uk/display/ufr

c) To engage with, and embrace, technology in curriculum design and delivery to enhance the student experience.

d) To continue to engage our students, partners, employers and subject experts in curriculum review and design processes.

e) To ensure our curriculum is research-led, informed by the latest developments in the relevant disciplines and also feeds back into ongoing research activity.

f) To be responsive to the impact in all discipline areas of any significant changes in the environment and culture.

4. Flexible

a) To offer a diverse range of modes of delivery and continue to develop our blended and virtual offer across our curriculum.

b) To embed international perspectives into our curriculum at the point of design, including providing appropriate opportunities for overseas learning.

c) To continue to understand and respond to the needs of our employer partners and professional bodies to adapt to workforce requirements, recognising that such partners may be local, regional, national or international. Examples include apprenticeships and CPD provision.

d) To regularly review our portfolio, taking into consideration student feedback, to ensure its continued relevance to both our students and potential employers.

5. Outcome-focussed

a) To design curriculum which directly addresses employer needs and provides students with transferable intellectual and professional skills which they can clearly and succinctly articulate.

b) To embed a focus on social capital into our curriculum to produce graduates who engage positively with civic responsibilities and support local communities.

c) To ensure that all students are supported to succeed with appropriate support built into delivery approaches, cognizant of the University's widening participation agenda.

d) To develop curriculum which is inclusive by design and in its delivery and aligns with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

KPIs

- Improved performance in student highly skilled employment outcome data.
- Increase in the proportion of programmes with validated blended and online delivery modes.
- Increase in the numbers of programmes receiving accreditation or endorsement from professional, statutory or regulatory sector bodies.

- Increase in the variety of postgraduate programmes available for students.
- Increase in the number of cross Faculty collaborations in curriculum design and/or delivery.
- Increase in international partnership activity.
- Increase in numbers of staff attending curriculum design staff development sessions.
- Evidence of a continued participation by students, alumni, partners, employers and subject experts in curriculum review and design processes.
- Reduction in the gap between widening participation student achievement and other students.

Governance
The Academic Planning Committee is responsible for this Strategy and will receive regular updates on progress against the aims and objectives and shall periodically review the key principles to ensure their continued relevance.

Key to Relevant Documents
The Curriculum Strategy should be read alongside the following University documents:

- University's Strategic Plan
- Edge Hill University's Taught Degrees Framework
- Learning and Teaching Strategy
- International Strategy
- Employability Strategy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Quality Management Handbook
- Access and Participation Plan

These can be accessed via the following weblink:
https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/corporate-information/strategies-policies/

Endmatter

Title	Curriculum Strategy
Policy Owner	Chair of Academic Planning Committee
Approved by	Academic Board
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