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What Students Value in Higher Education

Considerations for future strategy

**WORLD
CHANGING
GLASGOW**





Biggest Challenge

Lack of support into University (Medics exam)	Coping with academic load changes and life changes	Assistance to international students including fees and visa	Entry routes disparity (Singapore-Cambridge) A-levels
Elitism of Universities	Transitions and supporting those	Entry requirements disparity	Support for International Students
Transitions	Coming back to University/Education	Fees and finances	Mental Health Support



Expectations of University

More freedom & flexibility in what they are studying – more courses & combinations	Skills to enter the workforce (embedded in study, employability)	Expectations of 1 st year not matching (hours/how much to revise, social aspect)	Thought they would need to focus more on academics instead of what they really need
Transparency of course before arriving – course was miss-sold	Independence (positive) – wanted out of their comfort zone	Intellectual discussions expected – sharing ideas.	Learning more difficult subject matter
Broad learning – not specific enough	Not enough contact hours (lack of)	Group Work	Too independent too soon perhaps



Value of a Degree – What are the expectations of students?

Work Experience	Transferable/ Employable Skills	Learning skills that are applicable to a career	Critical thinking
Choice in Education	Quality of staff	Passionate individuals	Research being done
Well supported in times of need	High Standards	Equipping to be well liked and enabled to implement change	Open Minded
Free Thinking	Professionalism of staff	Professors Experience	



One thing they don't want to lose

Flexibility of degree	Diverse module	First 2 years giving you time to settle	Group work
Practical labs and prelims	Extracurriculars & societies	Lecture Recording	Integrity
Flexibility of degree	Group Work		



Core Values

Equality and Diversity	Inclusion	Inclusivity	Degree Value
Forward Thinking	Open Minded and Diverse	Progressive	Diversity Accessibility
Student Rights	Opportunity	Support	Sustainability
International nature of degree structures	Support	Feeling of Inclusion	Fairness of Equality



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Key Themes

- Graduate Attributes
- Employability Skills
- Group work
- Internationalisation
- Flexible Degree Structure

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Graduate Attributes & Employability

- Graduate Attributes
 - Is the GA Matrix being used?
 - Where are we falling behind?
- How does a degree help people in to the working world?





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Group Work

- Socialising in an academic setting
- Practical, lab-based group work
- Small seminars
- Encouraging intellectual discussion
- Peer assisted learning or study support





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Internationalisation

- Key theme of last strategy
- How does this affect the curriculum – attracting the best students? Is this fully integrated?
- What are degree programs going to look like post-Brexit?
- How are our degrees relevant in an international world?
- What do they equip you with?





Flexible Degree Structure

- A massive selling point to students
- However, not flexible enough in practice
 - More choice wanted in 1st & 2nd year
 - More choice in 3rd subject
 - **Medics take 5 weeks out to study something different**
- Opportunity to obtain more skills
 - Languages for International Mobility
 - Coding, business, policy & strategy





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What have we not mentioned that you think we should have?

- Where are staff and students not aligned in their thinking?
- Is there anything you disagree with?
- Where do you think the sector is going and what do we need to change to get there?





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Thank you!

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