

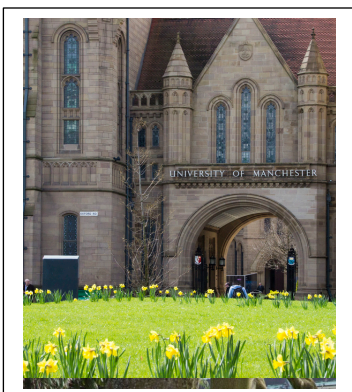
JUNE 2020

TLSD Academic Development and Policy Bulletin

Division of Teaching, Learning and Student Development (TLSD)

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1. New/revised policies and procedures: Taught Programme Team update

- **Updates to programme amendment processes in response to OfS Guidance Consumer Rights and COVID-19**

We have recently strengthened current [programme amendment processes](#) in response to the publication released by the Office for Students (OfS) on 10 June to provide guidance to providers on [student and applicant consumer rights in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic](#).

As a result of the OfS publication, it was necessary to strengthen existing guidance especially where there was reference made to obtaining consent from impacted existing students. To reassure colleagues, we are able to manage this within broader existing arrangements and it is not expected that students should respond directly to communications to provide their individual consent.

Our current interim processes and accompanying guidance already ensures that we meet our obligations regarding consumer law by providing timely, clear messaging when communicating with students, and in maintaining an open dialogue with them to build a strong rationale for change and to indicate options available. By continuing to apply these principles, alongside those highlighted in the attached documents we will remain compliant and will have taken sufficient steps to address regulatory expectations.

Updates have been added to the [TLSD microsite](#) where we have published all information relating to the management of programme approvals, amendments, withdrawals and suspensions in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

If you have any queries about this information, please contact Jo Hicks (email: jo.hicks@manchester.ac.uk).

- **NSS Results Publication Update**

The UK funding and regulatory bodies have agreed to a revised date for the publication of the NSS 2020 results. The data will now be published on **Wednesday 15 July 2020**, and not 01 July as previously communicated.

2. Institute of Teaching and Learning

- **Web-based training for staff: Creating online materials for blended learning**

A short, practical, 5-part course, [Creating online materials for blended learning](#), that can be completed at your own convenience.

Created by Professor Becki Bennett (The University of Manchester), it covers how to create online learning materials that allow active learning and online interaction **within your existing Blackboard space/s**. The course itself was created in Adobe Spark (an online and mobile design app). Spark templates can be provided for integration with your Blackboard site/s. For more information contact: elearning@manchester.ac.uk or teaching.learning@manchester.ac.uk

Other tools covered include:

- Blackboard Collaborate
- Zoom
- Video portal
- Quizlet
- TurningPoint
- Voicethread
- Open educational resources

Note: To view this course, please use Firefox, Chrome or Safari internet browser. (Not Explorer or Edge).



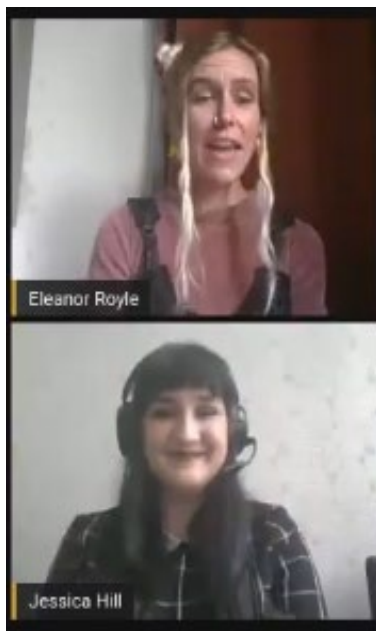
Part of the Guidance for Online Teaching and Learning webpages:
https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/teaching_and_learning_remotely/courses-for-staff/

Contact: teaching.learning@manchester.ac.uk.



3. Peer Support/Student Engagement

It's been an eventful month for the Peer Support team in TLSD. Earlier this month, we collaborated with the brilliant Student's Union team, and held our annual Peer Support Awards evening - online! Granted, it was perhaps the most unusual awards evening to date as we could not come together physically to celebrate. Nonetheless, the evening was spent rewarding and celebrating our student's incredible hard work and commitment to Peer Support this year. With almost 2000 student volunteers there's been an abundance of great work to celebrate!

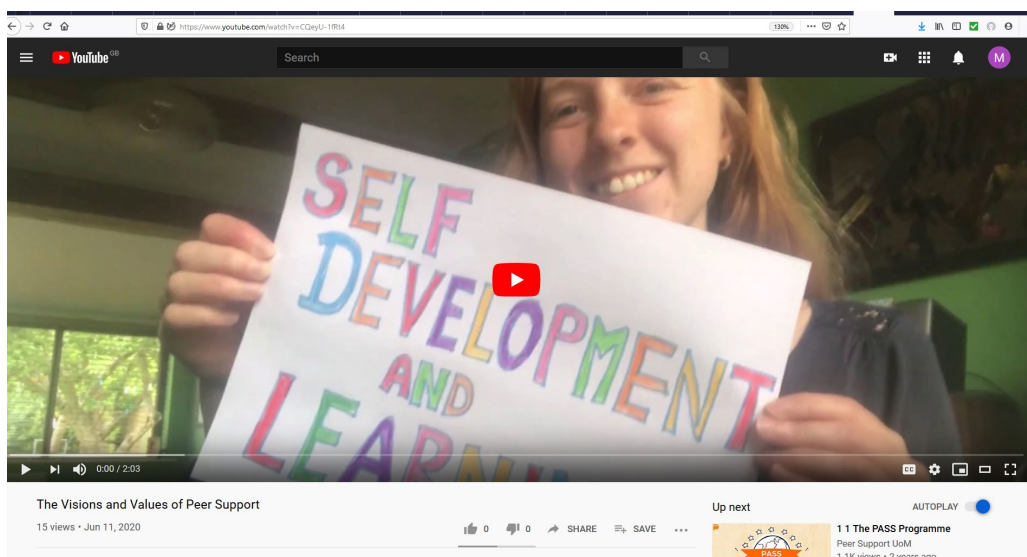


For the past few months we have been receiving and sorting through almost 100 separate nominations, which were shortlisted and presented to an awards panel, chaired by Professor Judy Williams, Director of the Institute of Teaching and Learning, where the winners were decided! This year we awarded 5 Outstanding Scheme Awards and 19 Outstanding Contribution Awards. The Outstanding Scheme Awards were presented on the basis of certain schemes going above and beyond, for example, Social Anthropology's multiple charity collections, and the School of Biological Sciences' innovative Global Buddies Scheme!

The Outstanding Contribution Awards were awarded to small groups, or individuals, who showed a dedication to Peer Support that exceeded all expectations. All winners and nominees demonstrated how their experience as part of the Peer Support community had had such a positive impact on their mentees. It has been an unbelievable year for engagement!

3. Peer Support/Student Engagement (continued)

This year was special in another way, as it marked 25 years of Peer Support at the University of Manchester! Over these 25 years, Peer Support has shifted and morphed, but our core values have not budged. As part of our joint celebration of not only our fantastic Peer Support community, but also our longevity, we asked 'What does Peer Support mean to you?' We were overwhelmed with responses from student and staff, as well as Peer Support alumni, who all delivered powerful messages about Peer Support and the impact it has on students, and Teaching and Learning. The responses are summed up in our Peer Support Values video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQeyU-1fRt4>



We had some great feedback following the evening, both locally within the team and from our wider community. Our Graduate interns had a great evening. The team spirit which came through as a result of the online awards was heart-warming. There was an ADP team Zoom watch-along, whilst other PASS and Peer Mentor schemes were hosting virtual gatherings to watch the winners be announced, and many more caught up on the recorded fun afterwards. Eleanor Royle and Jessica Hill were excellent hosts and although we sadly couldn't have a face-to-face awards ceremony, they certainly brought some Peer Support sparkle to the proceedings.

And don't think we stopped there! We have had another successful round of LEAP applicants this spring, with five more members of the Peer Support Community achieving their Associate Fellowship of Higher Education Academy status! That brings the Peer Support total of successful applications to 14 this academic year, with a 100% success rate!



4. Information from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

- **Preserving quality and standards through a time of rapid change: UK Higher Education in 2020/21**

The QAA has published new guidance - [Preserving Quality and Standards Through a Time of Rapid Change](#). Developed in collaboration with sector leaders and representatives from QAA Member quality teams across the UK, it sets out principles and advice relating to staff and student safety, the maintenance of quality and standards, engagement and flexibility.

- **Contracting to cheat in Higher Education: How to address essay mills and contract cheating (second edition)**

The QAA has recently published [Contracting to Cheat: How to Address Essay Mills and Contract Cheating](#) - new guidance for UK higher education providers to help protect academic integrity and combat the use of essay mills in their institutions. The guidance - which is published with the support of governments across the UK - offers strategies, good practice and case studies regarding education and support, reducing opportunities to cheat, detection and institutional policies.

Both sets of guidance can be found on the QAA's [Covid-19 support and guidance webpage](#).

5. Contact

If you are aware of other staff members who would like to be added to the ADP Bulletin mailing list to receive future editions of the Bulletin, please contact Miriam Graham (email m.graham@manchester.ac.uk).

If you are from a Collaborative Partner and you are having difficulties accessing any of the linked documents or web pages, please also contact Miriam Graham.

The TLSD Academic Development and Policy website is available at:
<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/>

