TLSD Academic Development and Policy Bulletin

Division of Teaching, Learning and Student Development (TLSD)

1. Institute of Teaching and Learning

- **National Teaching Fellowship awards news**

Three University of Manchester academics have been recognised for their "outstanding" work at this year's Advance HE Teaching Excellence Awards for Higher Education.

Professor Jackie Carter and Drs Senathirajah Ariyaratnam and Bhuvaneswari Krishnamoorthy have all been named National Teaching Fellows (NTF). The NTF scheme celebrates and recognises individuals who have made an exceptional impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in higher education.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the scheme and just 56 fellows from Universities nationwide have been named. Each institution is limited to just three nominations with all of Manchester's contenders winning the award this year making it a full house. It is the first time this has ever happened for the University.

"For our University to have not one, but three National Teaching Fellows in a single year, and from such diverse discipline areas, demonstrates the strength, depth and innovation of our teaching and learning provision here at Manchester."

Professor April McMahon, Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students.

For more details, please see:
https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/three-is-the-magic-number-for-manchester-academics-at-teaching-excellence-awards/

1. Institute of Teaching and Learning (continued)

- **Institute Fellow Project: Survey on student-staff partnership**

[The Institute of Teaching and Learning](#) coordinates and supports a wide range of projects designed to enhance our teaching excellence across the University. [Institute Fellows](#) are colleagues from across the University who are working with the Institute on a short-term project that will support the University in achieving its goals in teaching and learning.

One of the current projects is looking at student-staff partnership. This survey aims to capture the experience of staff engaging in current or recent student-staff partnership practice at The University of Manchester. Your views and reflections on the impact of partnerships will help inform future support and development for partnership practice across the University. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

A useful definition of student-staff partnership practice is:

"a way of thinking and practicing in higher education that re-positions students and staff as active collaborators in the diverse processes of teaching and learning – empowering students to be actively engaged in, and share the responsibility for, their own education"
([Cook-Sather et al, 2014](#))

To take part in the survey, please see:
https://manchester.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/student-staff-partnership-survey

For questions relating to this survey, please contact john.owen@manchester.ac.uk.

- **Digital wellbeing workshops**

When we think about how to look after ourselves, how much do we consider the impact of the technologies around us? Join Jane Mooney and Sarah Shepherd to explore the impact of digital on your wellbeing in this new staff-focused online workshop.

In this one-hour session, we will:
- Discover what is meant by 'digital wellbeing', both professionally and personally
- Explore how digital (using technology) affects our wellbeing, analysing the personal gains and challenges
- Guide you in creating priorities to support positive digital wellbeing

We will run multiple sessions over the next few months with small groups and chance for discussions. All University staff are very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Upcoming dates:
- Wed 12th August 3pm - [book a place](#)
- Wed 26th August 3pm - [book a place](#)

1. Institute of Teaching and Learning (continued)

- **Guidance on software for online teaching – semester 1, 2020/21**

Information and guidance about software for use in online teaching is now available on the ITL website. The guide outlines the recommended solutions and software available to teaching staff for the delivery of online teaching. A range of products is listed that are available across the University. Each Faculty also provides additional, specialised products appropriate to their disciplines, and links to the Faculty support pages are provided at the end of the guidance.

https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umitl/teaching-toolkits/online-teaching/

2. Peer Support/Student Engagement

- **Stellify and Step Up and Lead**

The Stellify Award is an honour uniquely offered to graduates of the University of Manchester. In order to receive the award on graduating, the student must complete a variety of different tasks and responsibilities throughout their studies, proving that they are a graduate with a transferable skillset alongside their degree. Students are required to complete 3 Ethical Grand Challenges, undertake 40 hours of volunteering within the community, and take on at least 2 Step Up and Lead roles.

This Academic year, 350 students graduated from the University of Manchester with the Stellify award, a huge leap forward from the previous year's 112. Within Peer Support, we offer lots of opportunities to undertake Step Up and Lead Roles. Alongside the typical roles of PASS Leader, Peer Mentors, students can also get involved as a Student Coordinator for their scheme. We also offer Basic Life Support training, where students can learn basic skills to help save lives and then run training sessions for others! This year, 1,312 students undertook two or more Step Up and Lead roles, whilst 3,753 were in at least one!

It's a huge success for the Stellify scheme, and the Peer Support team is incredibly proud of all the students that got involved!

For more details of Stellify, please see: https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/stellify/

STELLIFY

stel·li·fy (verb)
to change, or be changed, into a star

3. Information from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

- **Handling complaints and appeals during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The QAA's latest paper looks at how the pandemic has had an impact on how students' complaints and appeals are handled, and what universities and colleges are doing to ensure that students are not unfairly disadvantaged by matters that are outside their control.

For details, please see: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/news/handling-complaints-and-appeals-during-the-covid-19-pandemic

- **Enhancing quality in digital learning environments**

As universities and colleges work to develop innovative digital learning environments, QAA has published guidance to help providers develop a toolkit in order to enhance the quality of digital learning for their students.

Drawing on discussions with QAA member institutions, our latest publication offers key considerations and reflective questions to support higher education providers as they plan for next academic year. It also links to a range of helpful sources for further reading.

For further details, please see: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/news/enhancing-quality-in-digital-learning-environments

- **QAA blog posts including 'The lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: conversations with sector leaders'**

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted renewed questions concerning the fundamental nature of higher education, as well as the social and economic role the sector plays in society. QAA has published the first in a short series of blog posts reflecting on the sector today. The first one relates to conversations with senior sector leaders across the UK about the lasting impacts of COVID-19 and what, as a sector, we can learn from the events of the past few months.
Other blogs include 'What have PSRBs done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?' and 'Managing adversity through partnership: representing students in quality through a time of rapid change'.

For details of the blog posts, please see: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/blog

4. Contact

If you are aware of other staff members who would like to be added to the 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/