

OCTOBER 2021

TLSD Academic Development and Policy Bulletin

Division of Teaching, Learning and Student Development (TLSD)



1. Policy or procedure updates

- **Assessment Commitments 2021-22**

As noted in the interim Bulletin mailing on 14 October 2021, the University has agreed additional assessment measures for all students this year to account for any ongoing effects of the pandemic, known as [Assessment commitments](#), to cover the 2021-22 academic year. Further information and guidance can also be found in the following areas:

- [Mitigating circumstances and extension requests: staff guide](#)
- [Mitigating circumstances and extension requests: student guide](#)
- [Assessment commitments 2021-22: staff guide](#)
- [Additional policy guidance in response to the Coronavirus outbreak](#)

2. Teaching and Learning Surveys

- **PGT Dissertation Survey**

The Postgraduate Taught Dissertation Survey launched on 11th October and had received around 1800 responses by the end of its second week. As was the case last year, the survey provides students with an opportunity to reflect on their whole programme, as well as their dissertation specifically.

The survey closes at 11.59pm on 31st October and final results will be available for Schools to download directly via EvaluationKIT from 1st November.

- **Unit Surveys**

Preparations are underway for semester 1 Unit Surveys, which will be running between 13th December 2021 and 9th January 2022. We will provide more information about them in next month's bulletin once further details have been finalised.

For questions relating to all Teaching & Learning surveys, please contact our new dedicated email address: teachingandlearningsurveys@manchester.ac.uk.

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3. Student Success and Engagement/Peer Support update

- **Student Success and Engagement**

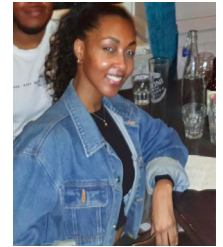
Over the summer, the team has expanded as we welcome our new 21/22 grads! We'll let the grads take it away with intros...

Intro to Grads

Hi, I'm Mila the new Student Partner Graduate Officer! I studied Politics and Sociology and was involved in the Women's Committee last year. One thing I've enjoyed in this role so far is getting back on campus and meeting new people!



Hello, I'm Ali, and I'm one of the new Student Engagement (Peer Support) Graduate Officers! I studied chemical engineering over the last 3 years and was involved with Dogs Unleashed for 2 years (yes, that dog society). Something I've liked about my role is seeing how some students are passionate about wanting to give back to their courses through Peer Support regardless of their scheme.

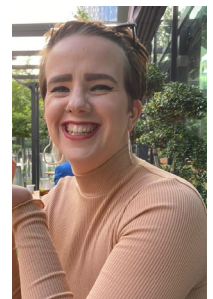


Hi, I'm Leanne! I'm one of the new Student Engagement Graduate Officers working in Peer Support. I studied History of art and Screen Studies and I was a Peer Mentor in my final year of university, I was also head of docs at Fuse TV. Since joining taking on this role and joining the team, I've really enjoyed getting to meet some of the passionate and creative students who go above and beyond for the other students in their schemes.



Hi, I'm Charlotte, one of the new Student Engagement Graduate Officers! I studied Sociology and Social Anthropology and was a peer mentor in my second year. One thing I have really enjoyed in this role so far is being able to meet lots of students, in person, from different degrees and schemes.

Hi, I'm Emily! I'm one of the new Student Engagement Graduate Officer working in Peer Support and I studied Music at university. I was a Peer Mentor and PASS Leader going on to be a PASS Coordinator for Music. Additionally, I was involved in the outreach orchestra program through the university's music society, MUMS. One thing I have really enjoyed in this role so far is getting to interact with the students face to face again.



Hybrid Working

Since September, we have been trialling hybrid working with a majority of the team working on campus for 3+ days a week. Whilst there have been a few IT hurdles along the way we have found ways to collaborate and bring the atmosphere back to campus. As part of this, we have ran a mixture of events and training on campus and online. There seems to be a clear appetite from students to have more face-to-face activity throughout the year.

3. Student Success and Engagement/Peer Support update (continued)

We are happy to answer any questions about hybrid working and how we've navigated any technical hurdles.

As we get back onto campus, we are maximising on our shared priorities across the Peer Support and Student Partner Programme portfolios. Going forward, these updates will be a chance to share the great work we are doing across teams.

- **Peer Support**

We have nearly 2000 Student Leaders working with us in Peer Support for the 2021/22 academic year. We have 995 PASS Leaders of which 824 are new Leaders and 171 are returning Leaders. There are 832 Peer Mentors, 709 of which are new and 171 are returning. We also have 159 Student Coordinators; these students are usually 3rd or 4th years who have been a PASS Leader or Peer Mentor before and help to run Peer Support within their subject. We could not run Peer Support without our Student Leaders and we are incredibly grateful for all the time and effort they put in to help other students.

With all these new Peer Support students to train we've spent the past 4 months on Zoom running training sessions most days with the help of staff and students involved with Peer Support. A big thank you to all those who helped out! We are also really pleased to have been able to run our final PASS Leader and Peer Mentor training session of the year in person, and we're glad we didn't forget how to do it!

- **Student Partner Programme**

We have kicked off our partnership projects for this Academic Year, from delivering student workshops with the Flexible Learning Programme team, working with ITL Fellows, developing Manchester 10/10, and the future of Student 360. Alongside this work, we have been looking at our wider student development opportunities. Throughout their time as a Student Partner, students get the chance to take part in consultations, LEAP, and develop their skills in leadership and time management.



4. Institute of Teaching and Learning (ITL)

- **Celebrating Teaching Excellence**

The University's 2021 Teaching Excellence Awards Celebration took place on 16 September 2021, attended by 90 members of staff.

Despite the extraordinary circumstances we all found ourselves in over the past 18 months, the Institute of Teaching and Learning received a truly impressive range of Teaching Excellence Award nominations from colleagues involved in teaching and learning across the university, and this was the first time many of us had been back on campus for months. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and it was a pleasure to the Whitworth Hall bathed in sunlight as so many colleagues enjoyed the opportunity to catch up or meet new people with a similar enthusiasm for teaching, learning and the student experience.



Our thanks to all nominees for their valued contributions to teaching and learning at The University of Manchester, and congratulations again to the winners.

The Institute of Teaching and Learning will be sharing more information about the winners' practice in due course, in the form of blog posts, case studies and other events.

- **Leaders in Teaching Programme – Call for applications (deadline 6pm, Monday 13 December)**

We are delighted to invite applications for this year's **Leaders in Teaching** programme. The programme has been designed to support and develop those involved in or aspiring to teaching and learning leadership positions.

The programme will be shaped in conversation with the participant group during the first session to ensure that it offers what you need and will explore topics such as the development of teams and collaboration, effective communication, awareness and empathy and the ability to respond positively to challenges.

4. Institute of Teaching and Learning (ITL) (continued...)

Over the course of six months, the programme will offer a combination of:

- Workshops to meet and work with a cohort of colleagues on topics of direct relevance to teaching and learning leadership
- Individual or group fieldwork between sessions to help you apply your learning and to get the most out of the sessions
- Online learning space enabling you to access workshop resources and to discuss key topics from the sessions with the cohort at a time that is suitable for you
- Support and challenge from your peers, as well as from external and internal facilitators

How to apply

To apply for a place on the Leaders in Teaching Programme please complete the online application form below. You will need to include 250 words telling us why you think attending this programme would be beneficial to you and your role and also how you plan to cascade the knowledge gained from this course through your area.

- [Apply for the Leaders in Teaching programme](#)

The deadline for applications is **6pm, Monday 13 December**. Please note that places on the programme are limited and will be allocated across the three Faculties and Central Services. All applications will be reviewed by a panel.

Further information

For more information about the programme, including workshop dates and titles, please visit the programme website.

- [Leaders in Teaching programme](#)

If you have any queries about the programme, please contact Holly Dewsnip-Lloyd at teaching.learning@manchester.ac.uk.

5. Transforming Teaching Together @Manchester

• Unitu Pilot Update

Unitu has now launched across our pilot areas, seeing almost 8000 students gain access to the dynamic student rep led feedback platform. Already we're seeing some fantastic dialogues between our students, reps and staff members. At this very early stage (final subjects only went live Wednesday this week), we wanted to share some facts and figures:

- 78% of staff have fully completed training
- 78% of pilot area Student Reps have activated their accounts
- SBS have contributed the most activated students (490)
- CEAS have the most students activated on a single board (295)
- Pharmacy have the highest activation rate (46%, 272)
- Feedback has been viewed by Students (non-reps) over 3000 times, by over 1000 active users (Showing that students are returning to feedback to look at updates provided)
- 71% of feedback posts created provide an action plan/idea for resolution, co-creating solutions from the very beginning.



5. Transforming Teaching Together @Manchester (continued...)

Finally, we wanted to share a key example of the impact Unitu is having. Within a week of launch for the Geography board, a first year student shared a post explaining they didn't feel part of their cohort, or the department community. Within a day the post had a response from a second year rep, a first year rep and the staff member responsible for level 1 students all sharing messages of support and ideas for the student. Not only would this student have been unlikely to share this sentiment anywhere else so early into their studies, but the feedback post promoted the programme director took the feedback as an opportunity to encourage academics to utilise more small group work, mixing up who students in sessions work with to meet more geographers.

This is just one example of the fantastic feedback dialogue and co-creation opportunity we're witnessing on Unitu. If you'd like to talk to the team about Unitu please contact jo.hicks@manchester.ac.uk or daniel.bayes@manchester.ac.uk

- **Transforming Teaching Together @Manchester – [Implementation Strand Webpages](#) are Live!**

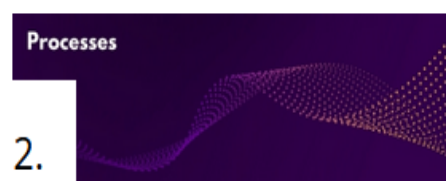
TTT@ will be finalising the implementation plan for the next stages of the project in the coming weeks. The plan has divided activity into six strands each of which has considered feedback from TLEF and will be finalised following discussion and approval from the Task and Finish Group. Following this, the project will move to six strand sub-groups with oversight for the work and activity of the specific strand. Our webpages have now been updated to showcase the six strands and the work that will come underneath them. They will be regularly updated with updates and resources produced by each strand, and will include information of strand membership. You can view the webpages by going to -

<https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/transforming-teaching-together/implementation-strands/>

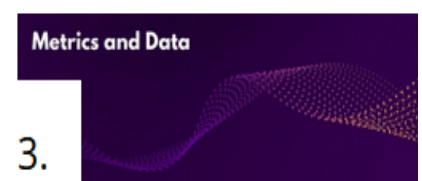
If you are aware of any colleagues from across The Institution who you think would be interested in supporting a specific strand as a sub group member or co-lead please feel free to share our webpages. They can get in contact with Jo Hicks or Daniel Bayes for more information/share their interest in being involved. Strands are likely to meet for the first time towards the end of the year, with work kicking off primarily in January.



Quality Culture



Processes



Metrics and Data



Survey Strategy



Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks



Enhancement

6. Policy/procedure updates from other areas of the University

- **Transition resources from the Library – Library Peer Network**

The University Library offers targeted support for students from [widening participation](#) backgrounds through its Library Peer Network (LPN). With a combination of a strong peer-to-peer ethos and recognising the barriers many students have surmounted reaching university, and continue to be challenged by, LPN aims to support both academic and pastoral development.

Through an invitational Teams space and producing bespoke [open access resources](#), the Library Peer Network aims to be a reactive space facilitated by students, for students with the backing of the University Library's support systems.

For further information, contact [Adam Cooke](#) and the LPN team at lpn@manchester.ac.uk.

7. Contact

If you are aware of other staff members who would like to be added to the Academic Development and Policy TLSD 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 (m.graham@manchester.ac.uk).

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

To find out more information about the Division of Teaching, Learning and Student Development, please visit: <http://www.dse.manchester.ac.uk/our-directorate/tltd/>.

