

University of Westminster

STUDENT-STAFF PARTNERSHIPS: THE FUTURE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING?

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INTRODUCTION

The project considers how crucial student-staff partnerships will be to the future of higher education by surveying academic staff opinion on the topic.

Our aims were to discover what motivates academic staff who have already adopted a partnership and co-creation approach into their pedagogic practice and what factors might encourage others to do so.

Staff opinions were elicited through an online survey, a focus group and an interview and analysed qualitatively.



RESULTS

A small, enthusiastic group of staff are actively developing partnership projects in the University of Westminster. They need more time, support and training in order to develop their practice. The low staff response rate to the online survey suggests that the profile of student partnerships and co-creation needs to be raised significantly within the University. Suggestions for prospective co-creation projects include involving students in developing marking criteria; helping students understand how their performance is evaluated at levels 3-7 against national benchmarks; examining the factors affecting students who are experiencing difficulties; and examining the use and interpretation of data and learning analytics in developing pedagogy and assessment.

WE RECOMMEND

Further research on this topic based on current findings at University of Westminster;

Update the Students as Co-Creators web pages;

Extend the programme to include Professional Services staff;

Publish a register of project topics which groups could bid to fulfil.

