engage: Student Partnership in Quality Systems

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Student engagement in quality

- Period of flux - move towards a tertiary approach and quality framework.

- Building on the established practice that students should be partners in the formulation, operation and evaluation of an institution's approach to enhancement.

- Embedding student partnership at the heart of the new quality framework and arrangements.
How are we doing that?

- Developing a tool that supports institutions to explore, reflect and evaluate practices of student engagement in quality.

- Provide a sector reference point on what student engagement in quality looks like.

- Enable conversations around what effective partnership is and how institutions promote partnership working between staff and students across quality arrangements.

- Provide a shared understanding of what partnership is and the values and principles around partnership, whilst not defining a single methodology or approach.
What does student engagement in quality look like?

Student Learning Experience
Dialogue with students
+ feedback and survey data;
+ other evidence of student success.

Student as . . .

Partner
Collaborator
Contributor
Informer

sparqs, October 2022
Exploring the model

Intends to support and enhance student engagement in quality process at all levels of engagement and in **various activities of the arrangements**, such as external reviews or preparing a self-evaluation report.

Recognises that student engagement will be happening across all levels. Expectation that there is more activity taking place at the partner level but that students will continue to **engage at every and all levels, sometimes simultaneously.**

Removes hierarchy: it is not intended to be used like a ladder, where you move up from informer to contributor and so on; rather the levels are like **building blocks**, focusing on the importance of building a partnership approach.
To be used **strategically** to explore the **culture of partnership** across an institution and different levels of staff, such as academics, professional services staff, and senior leaders.

Provides a **coherent and consistent approach to language** in categorising and understanding what student engagement looks like at different levels.

Enables and promotes a self-evaluative approach as part of the quality arrangements and supports institutions to **evidence** their approach to student engagement.
Informer

Students are aware of, and understand, the opportunities that exist to provide feedback and engage in those processes.
Contributor

Students are identified as key providers of insight for specific projects and generate clear objectives that shape change.
Collaborator

Students are recognised as having a role in shaping processes and can identify areas that they have influenced. They will support the generating and using of evidence and data in development, analysis, and action planning.
Partner

Students are actively engaged and involved on an equal basis in all aspects of the process, from co-design to implementation.
What do you think?

- What do you like about the model? What would you change?
- Is the language correct? Are the descriptors accurate? Does it work visually?
- Does it seem fit for purpose? Is it user friendly?
- What additional supporting documents and guidance is needed to support use of the model? What support is needed from SPARQS?
How will the model be used this year?

We will work with universities undergoing their Quality Enhancement and Standards Review (QESR) as part of the Phase 1 arrangements.

Questions we will consider with institutions:
• What might engagement with the model look like over the next two years?
• How can the model support institutions when thinking about student partnership?
• How does the model support institutions to reflect and evaluate their own practices around student partnership in quality?
• How does the model build on existing structures and processes that supports student partnership in quality?
• Can the model help institutions to develop and enhance practices to see more activity take place at a partnership level?
What next?

We will continue to develop and test the model with staff and students across the sector.

We will work with institutions undergoing QESR this academic year, as well as with colleges and their quality arrangements.

We will produce an end-of-year report evaluating the use of model and impact on student partnership, which will help support the ongoing development of phase 2 arrangements.