



Student Partnership Strategy 2016-21

To create a culture where students and staff jointly work in partnership to effect change, and enhance the University and its community of learners.



Brunel
University
London

Celebrating
50
years

“We have a shared responsibility for developing our university, and we want everyone to feel that they can contribute to our success”

**Brunel University London
Strategic Plan 2012-17**

“Students will be empowered to work with the University and the Colleges to shape both the way in which we deliver education and the environment in which students learn and live”

**Brunel University London
Education Strategy 2015-17**

“By working together with a philosophy of openness and respectfulness we can ensure that the University’s core values become the lived experiences of each and every member of Brunel’s community”

**Brunel University London Equality
and Diversity Strategy 2015-20**

“We all support the right to study and participate in a community where equality is promoted, diversity and inclusivity are valued, and where student representation and engagement opportunities are valued as a vital contribution to continuous improvement in the quality of quality of learning and teaching”

**Brunel University London
Student Charter 2014**

“Higher Education is not a passive process – it is transformational for the individual, as well as having transactional elements. Higher education providers [should] promote active involvement by students in all aspects of their learning and provide opportunities for students to influence their individual and collective learning journey”

**UK Quality Code for Higher
Education, Chapter B5 2015**



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Changing Culture

Partnership is a culture where students are integral to any activity, and build on a foundation of involvement and engagement.

Introduction

This strategy sets the direction for, and confirms the University's commitment to, working in partnership with our students. Working together to improve the University experience gives staff and students joint ownership of the goals we want to achieve. The contribution of students in shaping their learning and extra-curricular activities fosters a sense of belonging, and students feel valued by being part of the solution, not just the problem. Staff and students who embrace partnership working derive great satisfaction from achieving their goals, and demonstrate that collective engagement and shared responsibility leads to sustainable enhancements. The action plans will allow us to clearly articulate the many and varied activities that support partnership working within the University.

Principles of Partnership

All engagement with students should embed the principles of partnership

- **Commitment** to fostering meaningful engagement between students and staff at all levels and activities of the University
- **Respect** for what individuals bring to the partnership whilst recognising that staff and students may have differing perspectives
- **Inclusivity** to ensure that a wide range of student and staff voices are heard
- Opportunities for **individual and collective engagement** is defined and promoted
- A clear **purpose** so that the importance and remit of contributions are understood
- **Support** for students and staff to engage effectively
- **Valuing success** through joint celebration of enhancements made

Themes of Partnership

All engagement with students should arise from one or more of the themes of partnership

1. Developing independent learners and employable graduates
2. Students are active members of a learning community
3. Students effect change in a continual process of enhancement
4. Students are empowered to evaluate and make informed judgements on the quality of learning, teaching and assessment
5. Effective leadership for student partnership from all stakeholders
6. Activities that support students' wellbeing and encourage a sense of belonging

We will work in partnership through:

All engagement under the Partnership Strategy encompasses three areas of our University community

Learning, Teaching and Research

- enable students to be active members of a learning cohort
- engage in scholarly activity
- co-create learning experiences
- enhance subject content, delivery and assessment
- support learning

Consider how opportunities evolve from attending and participation during learning activities, to student-led sessions; opportunities for being involved in or undertake research; how students' own research can inform teaching; how they can be involved in designing learning and assessment tasks; peer mentoring schemes; academic societies; shaping own learning experience.

Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- monitor and review the academic provision
- develop policy, processes and procedures
- identify priorities for enhancement

Student representation and feedback; development and training to support effective student participation in formal and informal committees; creating opportunities for meaningful participation in quality assurance processes and enhancement of learning and teaching.

Community and Environment

- ensure the student voice is heard at all levels and stages
- develop sustainable and effective leadership of the student partnership agenda
- encourage a sense of wellbeing and belonging
- foster opportunities for students to become change makers

Consider how we create a community where the student voice is valued and contribute to enhancing their own and others experience; strengthen existing structures (academic societies, Tutoring@Brunel; extracurricular activities); define clear leadership; student-led enhancement projects.

Delivering the Strategy

The strategy will be delivered through actions by Colleges (Division/Department), University Professional Services and the Union of Brunel Students, which will be developed and monitored through each SSLC and other student-staff meetings where applicable.