

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

Excellence PLUS Policy Statement

The University of Bradford's Learning and Teaching Strategy outlines its strategic aims and objectives to support all students in developing the knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable each of them to fulfil their intellectual and personal potential. The University recognizes that students will be living and working in a multicultural society. It is therefore committed to ensuring that the higher education it provides embodies an awareness of the challenges and opportunities relevant to this through a contemporary curriculum that meets diverse needs. *Excellence PLUS* was developed and endorsed by the Senate to ensure that these aims, objectives and commitment can be best implemented and successfully achieved.

The overarching University Corporate Plan outlines Bradford's commitment to 'making knowledge work' through a quality and relevant curriculum as demonstrated through its Learning and Teaching Strategy. Performance against achievement is regularly monitored and measured through the annual operating statement as required by HEFCE.

Excellence PLUS has two symbiotic elements:

Excellence refers to the delivery by the University, in all of its programmes, of relevant and up-to-date curricula, delivered by staff committed to a diversity of teaching methods and to support the varying styles of its learners. *Excellence* is recognised by stakeholders including employers as the attainment of 'excellent' ratings in external government reviews, through validation by professional bodies and other appropriate performance quality measures. *Excellence* is ensured by University quality assurance and enhancement policies and procedures for the approval, monitoring and periodic review of all taught programmes.

Excellence puts Bradford in the top flight of institutions whilst *PLUS* makes us distinctive. *PLUS* is the systematic approach to the development of key skills and personal attributes that is offered to all students during three separate but inter-related stages of study to support the enhancement of employability. The implementation of *Excellence PLUS* considers past, present and future stepping stones of a student's learning experience whilst at Bradford. These stages are identified below as:

- A) *Identifying and developing key skills on entry*
- B) *Embedding key skills in the curriculum*
- C) *Developing key skills for the future.*

These three stages are developed and supported through an institutional framework established to deliver *Excellence PLUS*. These 'enablers' include programme specifications which identify the learning outcomes that a student can be expected to achieve on successful completion of their course; work based learning opportunities to help students develop key skills required for the world of work; the introduction of the HE Progress File to enable students to record their achievement and engage reflectively on personal development planning; and access to the use of appropriate on-line learning support mechanisms.

This policy statement encompasses a significant number of elements to which the University is already committed either through new QAAHE requirements or as part of our Learning and Teaching Strategy. Additional elements are significant but are very much in the tradition of the University. What is new is the proposal that the University takes a systematic approach to the development of key skills at an institutional level. However, engagement with and successful implementation of *Excellence PLUS* across the University will indeed project the distinctive nature of study at the University of Bradford.

The *Excellence PLUS* Policy is accompanied by an implementation plan which has been developed to ensure that activities associated with *Excellence PLUS* are identified and addressed. The implementation plan is located on the *Excellence PLUS* website at <http://www.brad.ac.uk/excellenceplus/> alongside other materials and resources that help to disseminate *Excellence PLUS* across the University.