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**Survey to assess contributions to sustainability competencies**

**Introduction**

This survey was developed during the *QAA Collaborative Enhancement Project* on *Monitoring and evaluating education for sustainable development in Higher Education* (2022-23). More information on this project is available here <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/membership/collaborative-enhancement-projects/education-for-sustainable-development/monitoring-and-evaluating-education-for-sustainable-development-in-higher-education> .

We advise that the survey is used:

* after discussion with students throughout a module about the intention to support development of competencies
* in class, with time and support for discussion if desired
* in a reflective manner that enhances learning
* in part, if you are focusing only on one or a few competencies in a module
* with ethical approval from your local Ethics Committee, if you are planning to use the data for research (hence considering anonymity, informed consent and choice)

For further questions on the survey, please contact Rehema White [rehema.white@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:rehema.white@st-andrews.ac.uk) We welcome feedback on the survey and on findings from its use.

Table 1:Definitions of generic sustainability competencies

(drawing from UNESCO 2011, Giangrande et al 2019, QAA/Advance HE 2021)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Competency** | **Definition** | **Demonstration** | **Contribution** |
| **Systems thinking** | holistic way to see the world, recognizing complexity and relationships between factors | ability to frame contexts holistically, recognize interconnectedness, work across scales, analyse interactions, deal with uncertainty, identify adaptation to system changes | Ways of thinking |
| **Future thinking** | imagining new possibilities and considering their applications within an uncertain world | ability to understand and evaluate multiple outcomes, create visions for the future, apply the precautionary principle, deal with risks, understand influences of history |
| **Critical thinking** | rigorous analysis of information to develop a judgement | ability to question norms, practices and opinions, reflect on different perspectives, analyse information, assess the credibility of information sources |
| **Interdisciplinary and problem-solving competencies** | drawing on different forms of knowledge and theory and applying these to practical challenges | ability to work within a discipline and across disciplines, link theory to practice, apply different problem-solving frameworks to complex sustainable development problems | Ways of doing |
| **Collaboration competencies** | capacity to work effectively and empathetically with others | ability to learn from and with others, respect different needs and perspectives, tackle conflicts, undertake collaborative problem solving |
| **Strategic competencies** | capacity to design goals and complete practical action plans | ability to develop and implement strategies and action plans for sustainable development |
| **Normative and cultural competencies** | consideration of different cultural norms and worldviews | ability to understand and reflect on norms and values underpinning actions, appreciate other worldviews, negotiate fair cross- and inter-cultural approaches | Ways of being |
| **Self-awareness competencies** | capacity for personal reflection and emotional intelligence | ability to reflect on own values and actions, monitor feelings and needs, support mental resilience |

**Survey to assess contributions to sustainability competencies**

I consent to participation in this study. Yes / No (Please ask educator for further participant information)

At which institution are you studying?

Which degree or programme are you studying?

What age are you? 17-20, 21-25, 26-35, 35-55, 55-67, over 67

What gender are you? Male, Female, Non-binary, Other, Choose not to say

On which module are you reflecting in this survey?

We will now ask you to rate the extent to which the module has supported or strengthened your generic sustainability competencies. Please respond based only on the module on which you are reflecting in this survey.

Not all modules address all of the competencies and we do not expect that you will have strengthened your competencies in all areas, so please do not feel worried about disagreeing with any of the options below.

[next statements are Likert questions from 1 strongly agree, 2 somewhat agree, 3 neither agree nor disagree, 4 somewhat disagree, 5 strongly disagree]

**Systems thinking**

***– holistic way to see the world, recognizing complexity and relationships between factors***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| -understand that many sustainability issues are connected in systems |  |  |  |  |  |
| -be able to identify interconnected elements and complexity within a system |  |  |  |  |  |
| -know how a system functions, such as development of resilience, feedback loops and tipping points |  |  |  |  |  |
| -map a system in either real or virtual ways, for example, mindmapping or network analysis |  |  |  |  |  |

**Future thinking**

***– imagining new possibilities and considering their applications within an uncertain world***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| -imagine and envision sustainable futures |  |  |  |  |  |
| -connect with history, heritage and culture when looking to the future |  |  |  |  |  |
| -identify future scenarios and use them to inform decision making |  |  |  |  |  |
| -consider fairness across generations in decision making and planning |  |  |  |  |  |

**Critical thinking**

***– rigorous analysis of information to develop a judgement***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| -be able to question social norms, practices and opinions |  |  |  |  |  |
| -reflect on my own values, perspectives and actions |  |  |  |  |  |
| - assess the source and legitimacy of information |  |  |  |  |  |
| - analyse and synthesise multiple sources of information |  |  |  |  |  |

**Interdisciplinary and problem-solving competencies**

***-drawing on different forms of knowledge and theory and applying these to practical challenges***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| -be aware of different forms of knowledge (e.g. academic, practitioner, Indigenous) |  |  |  |  |  |
| - explore an academic discipline and know its definition and norms |  |  |  |  |  |
| - work with people and ideas from other academic disciplines |  |  |  |  |  |
| -be able to see and interpret the world from different viewpoints |  |  |  |  |  |

**Normative and cultural competencies**

***– consideration of different cultural norms and worldviews***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| - engage with and understand different world views |  |  |  |  |  |
| -appreciate different cultural contexts |  |  |  |  |  |
| -explore fairness, justice, or ethics |  |  |  |  |  |
| -consider value-based responses to sustainability issues |  |  |  |  |  |

**Strategic competencies**

***– capacity to design goals and complete practical action plans***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| - prioritise and manage my time effectively |  |  |  |  |  |
| - set goals and develop a strategy |  |  |  |  |  |
| - develop and undertake an action plan |  |  |  |  |  |
| - make effective decisions and analyse consequences |  |  |  |  |  |

**Collaboration competencies**

***– capacity to work effectively and empathetically with others***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| - work well with other people |  |  |  |  |  |
| - communicate in different ways to different audiences |  |  |  |  |  |
| - address conflict and develop mediation skills |  |  |  |  |  |
| - express and enact empathetic leadership |  |  |  |  |  |

**Self-awareness competencies**

***– capacity for personal reflection and emotional intelligence***

This module has supported me to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree  1 | Agree  2 | Neutral  3 | Disagree  4 | Strongly disagree  5 |
| -be able to know when I am stressed and take steps to support my mental and emotional health |  |  |  |  |  |
| -find meaning and value in the work that I do |  |  |  |  |  |
| -be able to overcome challenge |  |  |  |  |  |
| -be able to use strategies to seek inner peace, mindfulness and/or presence |  |  |  |  |  |

Please add any additional comments regarding these or other competencies you felt you gained in the module

Through which activities did you find these competencies strengthened? (please tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Tick if applicable |
| Lectures |  |
| Readings |  |
| Class discussions |  |
| Fieldtrip |  |
| Essay assignments |  |
| Other assignment (please detail) |  |
| Other activity (please detail) |  |
| Extra curricular activities undertaken at the time of the module |  |
|  |  |

Which specific sustainability competencies do you feel the module allowed you to strengthen? (e.g. knowledge of climate change adaptation strategies, understanding of circular economy, ability to produce a scientific poster on sustainability tools for action)

Any other comments:

***Thank you for your participation***