Focus On: The PGR student experience

Supporting Postgraduates Who Teach

http://enhancementthemes.ac.uk/focus-on

#FocusOnPGR

Training and support for postgraduate students who teach (PGWT)

Our aims

"produce a Statement of Expectations for the support of postgraduate students who teach (PGWT) [to be] used as a reference point for higher education institutions and students."

- National and international scan
- Key Issues document (set of discussion questions)
- Statement of Expectations

Key Issues in supporting PGWT

- Role of PGWT and their place/value within the organisational unit/ institution

- Fair recruitment, pay and conditions

- Discipline specific vs. centralised training

- Mandatory training vs. optional development

- Evaluation of PGWT teaching and feedback

QAA
Scotland

Supporting PGWTs

Statement of Expectations activity

In your groups, read the recommendations in the envelope. As a group, you need to:

1. Rank the recommendations in order of most useful to least useful.

2. Annotate your ranking to indicate how you (as a PGWT, departmental colleague, or institution) might make use of the recommendations.

Be prepared to share your top two recommendations (and reasons) with the whole group.

QAA Scotland

Scan of existing support

Key findings

- No significant differences between Scotland and rUK

- Training widely available in Scottish HEIs in a range of forms

- Institutional policy/guidance helps clarify and communicate

- Peer schemes seem to be under-utilised

- PGWT not routinely included in course feedback

Statement of Expectations

Key recommendations

- **For institutions**
    - Develop an institutional policy/strategy on supporting PGWT.

- **For staff in organisational units**
    - identifying a named colleague within the organisational unit responsible for the coordination, training and support for PGWT.

- **For PGWT**
    - Engage with colleagues and peers, participate in development opportunities and engage with the principles of reflective practice.