



FOCUS ON: GRADUATE SKILLS

What do students, graduates and employers think of the skills developed in Scottish higher education institutions?

Two research reports, commissioned as part of our Focus On: Graduate Skills project, provide valuable insights into what the sector does well and where it could develop further. We found most students recognised their experience had equipped them with a broad range of skills. 77% of graduates and 80% of employers agreed that students had the skills needed to prepare them for the workplace.

You can find the research reports, along with resources from our related events, on the QAA Scotland website. The following questions have been developed to stimulate discussion in your organisation (institution or students' association) with the aim of highlighting potential enhancements to practice.

- Does your organisation take a **holistic view** of graduate skills, integrating digital and global skills alongside what are sometimes termed 'meta' skills?
- Where in your organisation does responsibility lie for developing and **promoting** skills development opportunities?
- Does your organisation formally **record and recognise** students' skills and achievements - for example, do you use Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) or digital badges?
- Is a **diverse range** of skills development opportunities available within your organisation?
- What is the balance of skills development opportunities between those that are **embedded within the curriculum** and those that are extracurricular?
- How **flexible** is your organisation in terms of timetabling?
- Is there more you could do to remove **financial barriers** that prevent students from participating in skills development opportunities?
- Is there more you could do to develop students' preparedness to live and work in a global society **without studying abroad**?
- What is your approach to **employer engagement**?
- How do you encourage students to manage their **identity, reputation, and career**, particularly in terms of the digital environment?
- How do you ensure that students are not only developing skills, but also **confidence** in those skills and how to articulate them?

Want to know more? Download resources for this and other Focus On projects at: www.qaa.ac.uk/Scotland/focus-on