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
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.
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
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.