Reflections On Student Partnership

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Student Partnership – What Does it Mean?

- **Fancy words!** Across the UK HE Sector, we use all sorts of fancy words to describe how we want to work with students!

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Students as Partners	Student Ambassadors / Buddies	Course Reps, Sabbatical Officers	Student Engagement
Students as Consultants	Student Reverse Mentoring	Students As Peers & Mentors	Student Co-Creators/ Collaborators

Principles of student success…

Student success is *about the learner* – as an individual, with a specific educational legacy, someone who is learning to think about themselves in relation to their subject, a person likely with multiple identities, with different expectations, with a different approach to learning as a cohort, and with their own roles and responsibilities

Belonging	Mattering	Community	Connection	Expectations	Engagement
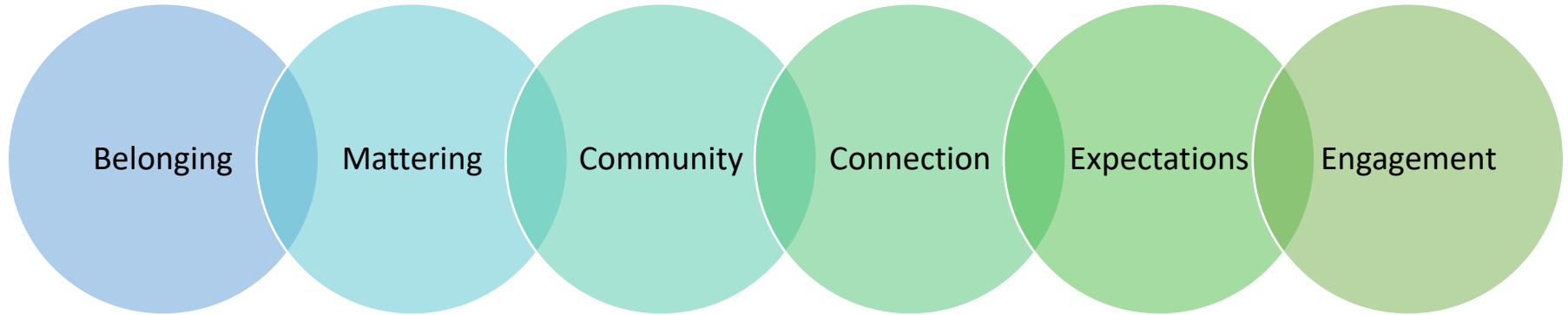
Do we talk of student successes (plural?) and student experiences? What's the difference?
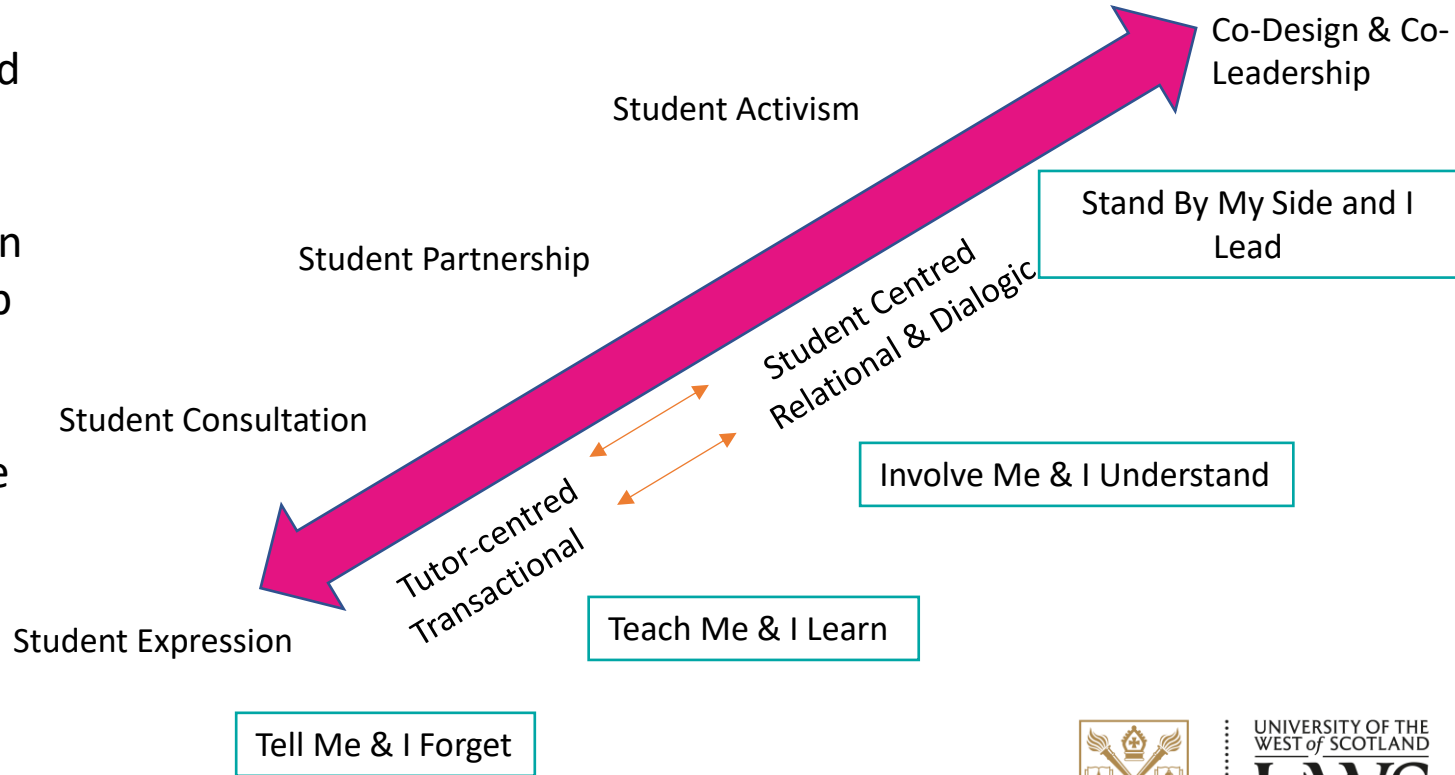
But It All Starts with Belonging and Community

- **Social interaction and engagement** – inclusive events, societies and clubs, sports teams

- **Academic support and collaboration** – group projects, research opportunities, workshops and seminars

- **Supportive environments** – welcoming culture, accessible resources, responsive staff

- **Student voice and representation** – student representatives, feedback mechanisms, partnership initiatives

- **Campus facilities and services** – social spaces, support services, access to technology

- **Diversity and inclusion** – cultural diversity, inclusive policies, international student support

Enabling Student Partnership & Leadership

Start small – the road to student partnership is a ladder, or a mountain – something to climb – your engagement in meaningful interaction will make a huge difference to our university community – and encourage others to feel like they belong…

Co-Design & Co-Leadership

Student Activism

Student Partnership

Student Consultation

Student Centred
Relational & Dialogic

Tutor-centred
Transactional

Student Expression

Stand By My Side and I Lead

Involve Me & I Understand

Teach Me & I Learn

Tell Me & I Forget

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DOCTRINA PROSPERITAS

The 3 C's Model (Source: McIntosh & May, 2024)

Co-Creation: genuine co-creation is inherently dialogic and can only be built on the strength of various key relationships within the learning experience, many of which are of a supportive nature.

Collaboration: two or more members of the community working together
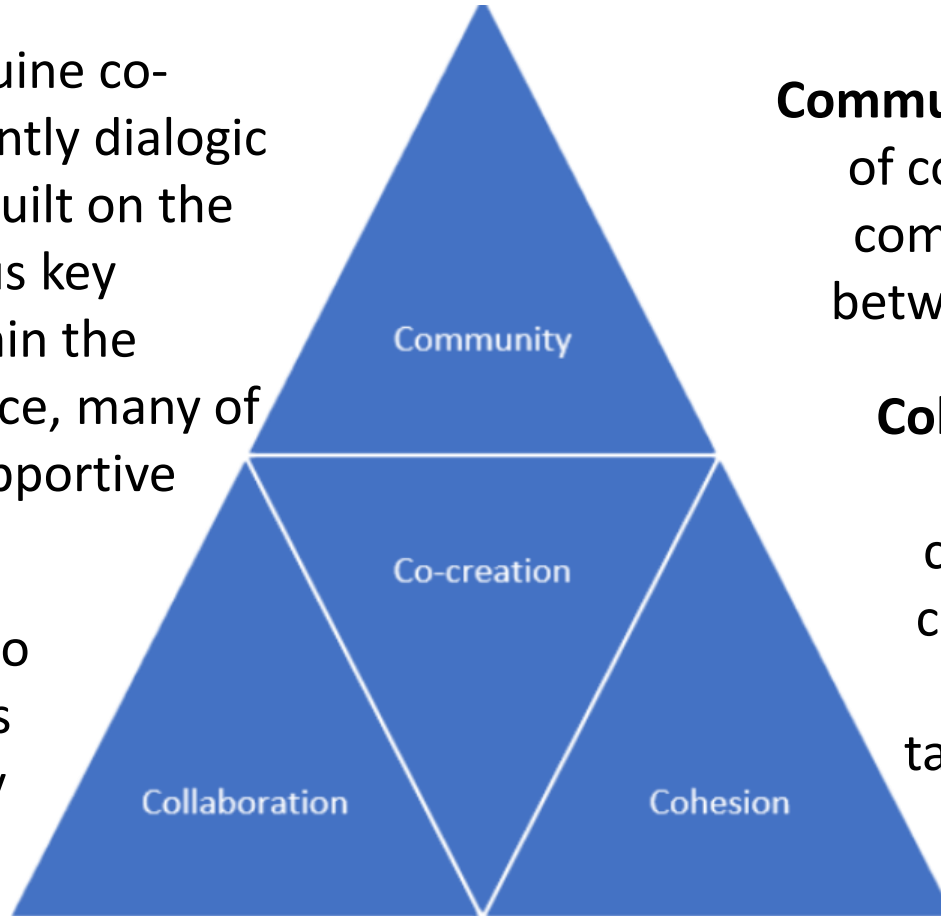
**Community:** a felt sense of connection and common purpose between a group of people

Cohesion: unity between members of the community and their collective endeavours (whether strategic, tactical or operational)

TQEF Vision and Principles

"Our shared vision is for a more coherent and streamlined tertiary education system from the student perspective that delivers the best learning experience for students."
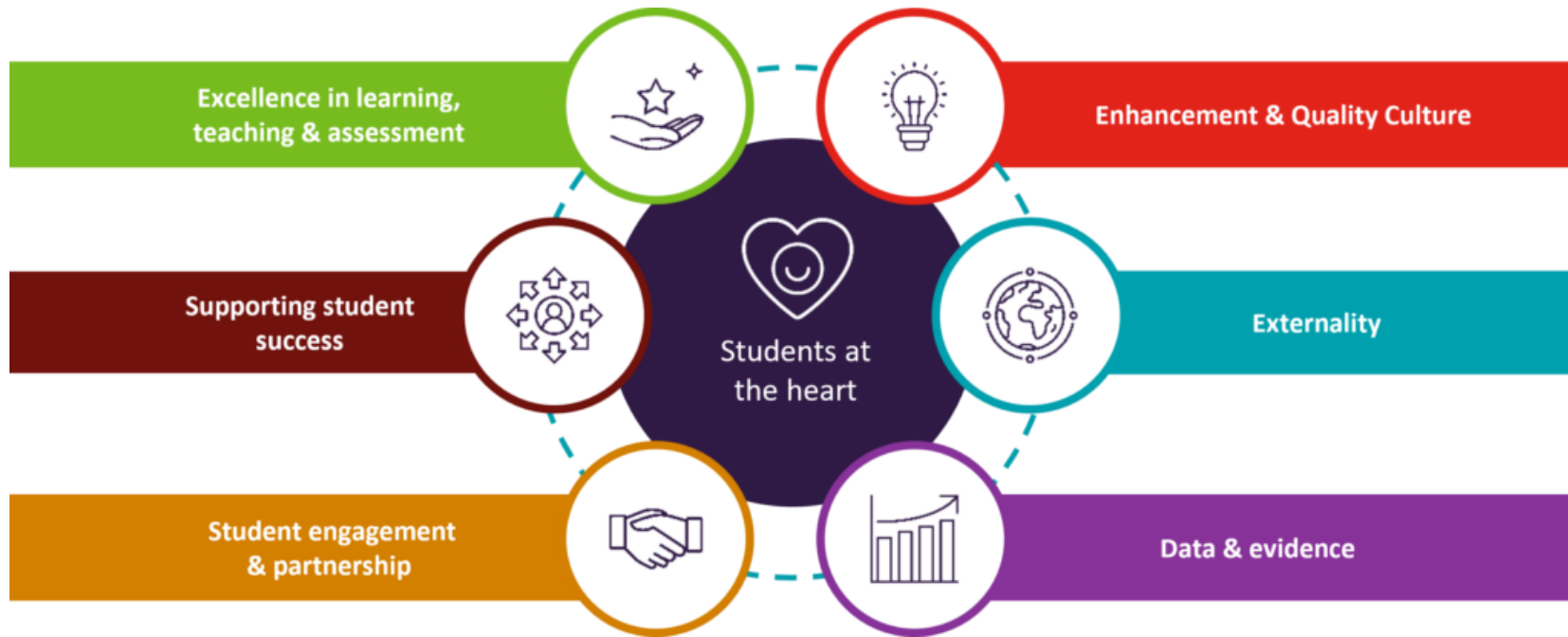
Principles of the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework.

Students at the heart
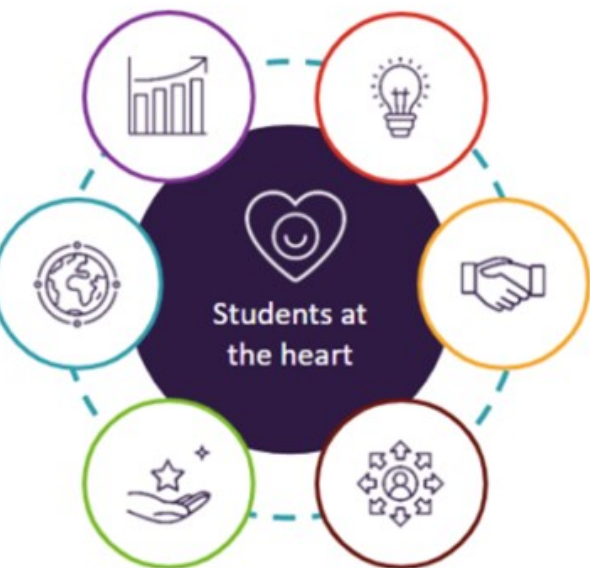
Data and evidence

- Student outcomes
- Common dataset for reporting
- Institutional PIs/QIs
- Institution-led self-evaluation and action planning
- Use of student and staff feedback
- Outcomes of review activity

Externality

- External institutional peer review
- Sector reference points/requirements
- External specialists/experts
- Public information and assurance

Excellence in learning, teaching & assessment

- Academic standards and awarding
- Strategic leadership of learning and teaching
- Curriculum planning, design and delivery
- Learning environment, resources and technologies
- Professional development
- Currency of learning and teaching
- Peer review and evaluation of learning, teaching and assessment
- Innovation in learning, teaching & assessment

Enhancement & Quality Culture

- Institution wide culture of assurance, improvement and enhancement
- Institution-led review/activity and action planning
- External institutional peer review
- Sector enhancement activity
- Impact of collaboration
- External outlook – globally responsive

Student engagement & partnership

- Engaging students as partners in their learning experience
- Students at core of review and enhancement activity
- Student voice – every place, every level
- Effective support for student representation
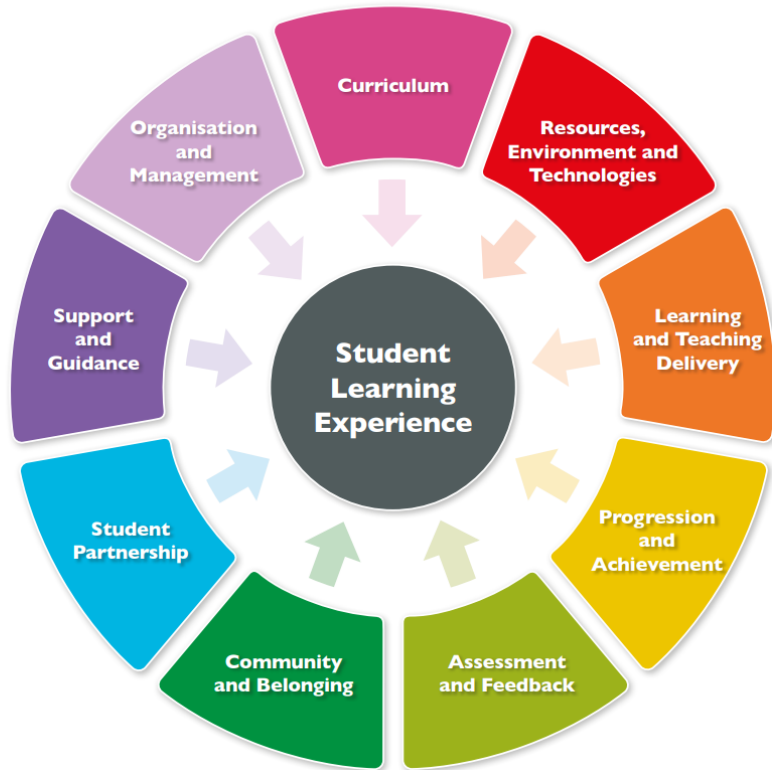- Responsiveness to student feedback

Supporting student success

- Enabling student success – wellbeing, inclusion, equality, student support
- Context and community - meeting the needs of students
- Effective and successful transitions
- Support for employability, skills development and lifelong learning
- Achieving positive outcomes for every learner
- Responsiveness to concerns

Student Learning Experience (SLE) model

Lenses
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainable Development

Student Learning Experience Building Blocks

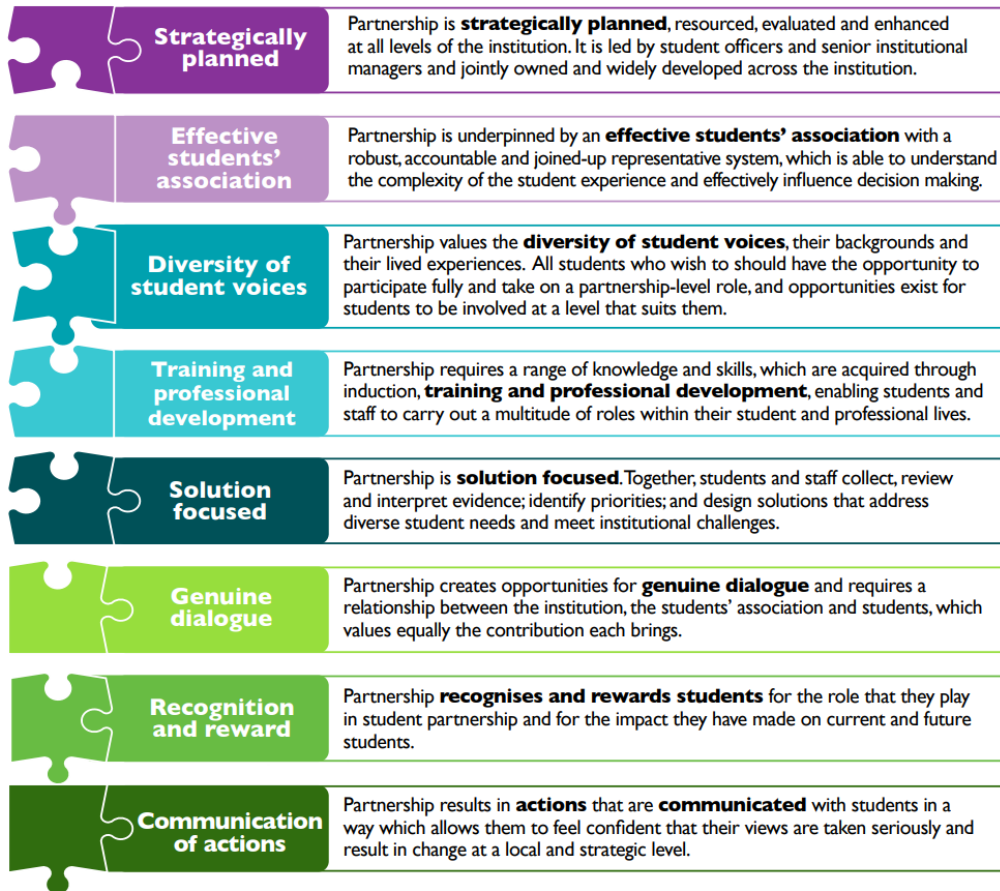|	
Curriculum	Course content; course design and development; optional and compulsory modules; learning outcomes; placements; study abroad opportunities; inclusive curriculum; sustainability in the curriculum.
Resources, Environment and Technologies	Library; IT; Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); learning spaces; course resources; digital technologies such as equipment and software; external learning environments; study spaces.
Learning and Teaching Delivery	Teaching methods; mode of study; independent and group work; contact time; class sizes; staff development; inclusive learning and teaching practices; peer learning.
Progression and Achievement	Induction; support between levels of study; individual academic progress; personal and professional development; employability; transitions to further study; articulation; recognition of achievement.
Assessment and Feedback	Assessment methods; frequency of assessments; marking criteria; consistency of marking; formative assessment and feedback; authentic assessment; quality and timeliness of feedback; assessment and feedback support.
Community and Belonging	Learning community; social opportunities; peer support; sense of belonging; community spaces; inclusive communities; student-led communities; local community engagement.
Student Partnership	Student representation system; student partnership in decision making; students' association; course evaluations; student surveys; student voice policies; student engagement in quality processes; hearing diverse student voices; student-led projects and initiatives.
Support and Guidance	Academic support; personal support; disability services; mental health and wellbeing services; support for diverse student groups; financial support; support for students with additional needs for learning.
Organisation and Management	Admissions processes; communication; timetabling; student administration; governance; transport; accommodation; complaints and concerns; equality, diversity and inclusion processes and policies; equality monitoring.
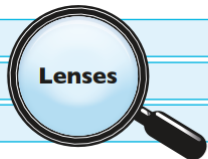
Student Partnership Jigsaw

Each of these features is represented as a puzzle piece, as it is when all the features are present that student partnership as an approach is able to flourish.

Student Partnership Features

The features of student partnership are:

Feature	Description
Strategically planned	Partnership is **strategically planned**, resourced, evaluated and enhanced at all levels of the institution. It is led by student officers and senior institutional managers and jointly owned and widely developed across the institution.
Effective students' association	Partnership is underpinned by an **effective students' association** with a robust, accountable and joined-up representative system, which is able to understand the complexity of the student experience and effectively influence decision making.
Diversity of student voices	Partnership values the **diversity of student voices**, their backgrounds and their lived experiences. All students who wish to should have the opportunity to participate fully and take on a partnership-level role, and opportunities exist for students to be involved at a level that suits them.
Training and professional development	Partnership requires a range of knowledge and skills, which are acquired through induction, **training and professional development**, enabling students and staff to carry out a multitude of roles within their student and professional lives.
Solution focused	Partnership is **solution focused**. Together, students and staff collect, review and interpret evidence; identify priorities; and design solutions that address diverse student needs and meet institutional challenges.
Genuine dialogue	Partnership creates opportunities for **genuine dialogue** and requires a relationship between the institution, the students' association and students, which values equally the contribution each brings.
Recognition and reward	Partnership **recognises and rewards students** for the role that they play in student partnership and for the impact they have made on current and future students.
Communication of actions	Partnership results in **actions** that are **communicated** with students in a way which allows them to feel confident that their views are taken seriously and result in change at a local and strategic level.

Towards A Belonging & Community Framework @ UWS

Belonging & Community Framework - Purpose

Student engagement

Student success pedagogies

Advising – curricular, co and extra-curricular: skills and employability focus

Programmatic Academic Peer Groups – informal social engineering & formal PASS

Campus, School Welcome & Programme Induction

Pre-Arrival Experience
Environment, systems, finance and administration

communication

Co-creation, collaboration and partnership

Building relationships, supporting cohorts, enabling mattering, promoting opportunities, autonomy and skills

Fostering cohesion, cohort building representation, connections and settling

Managing Expectations, Promoting Awareness

Building Community and Supporting Transitions

How Can You Get More Involved?

Support and check in on your fellow students	Focus on building relationships – peers and tutors	Your Feedback Matters – Said and Done!
Focus on positives as well as what could be improved	Help us to have a dialogue – from the start	Engage with as much activity as time and money will allow
Engagement in clubs and societies	Peer support initiatives – PASS, Peer Mentoring	Become a student buddy!