Insights Event

Turning University Education into Flexible Innovation: Experiences from the Pandemic
7th September 2021, 9.30am-12:30pm, Virtual

Overview

The 2020/21 academic year has been like no other in Higher Education, with institutions around the world rapidly transitioning to online and blended modes of education delivery. Fundamental to this has been the importance of supporting colleagues through this transition, to re-develop courses and content to provide a compelling experience for students and educators alike, often using new tools and platforms. Simultaneously, co-creating education with students, seeking and responding to continuous feedback, has been crucial, in understanding how they have experienced this year and its impacts on their engagement, confidence, attainment and wellbeing. In looking ahead to the 2021/22 academic year and beyond, the lessons learned this year will surely shape the future of education.

This Insight Event, delivered in partnership with the University of Exeter, will explore the process of supporting a university community through the transition of the last 12 months. We will discuss how educators, professional services colleagues and students have been engaged and supported, on the basis of institutional principles which promote local innovation based on foundations of institutional consistency. We will also explore key themes emerging from student feedback, including around belonging and connectedness within a learning community, and the relationship of these to confidence, wellbeing and attainment. Looking ahead, we will discuss the opportunities to address these issues next year and in the longer term, as part of holistic approaches to tackling key priorities such as wellbeing, mental health and the accessibility of education.

This event will be led and facilitated by Professor Tim Quine (Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Education), Professor Janice Kay CBE (Provost) and Professor Rob Freathy (Academic Dean for Students) from the University of Exeter. A full agenda will be published shortly.

Programme

9:15am  Waiting room opens
9:30am  Main room open/housekeeping
9:35am  Welcome and Keynote: Transforming University Education into Flexible Innovation: Experiences from the Pandemic
        Professor Janice Kay – Provost, University of Exeter
10:00am  Panel discussion: Supporting Learning Communities, Engagement and Wellbeing
Chaired by Professor Rob Freathy – Academic Dean for Students, University of Exeter

10:30am  Breakout discussion: Supporting Learning Communities, Engagement and Wellbeing

Breakout discussion to pursue the themes raised in panel discussion.

11:05am  Break

11:15am  Panel discussion: The Pedagogic Conundrum – Blended Learning Benefits and Student Expectations

Chaired by Professor Tim Quine – DVC (Education), University of Exeter

11:45am  Breakout Discussion: The Pedagogic Conundrum – Blended Learning Benefits and Student Expectations

Breakout discussion to pursue the themes raised in panel discussion.

12:20pm  Conclusions

Professor Tim Quine – DVC (Education), University of Exeter

12:30pm  Close