In recent years there has been an increased focus on student engagement, both within the curriculum and outside. The pandemic focused this attention further and challenged the sector to consider how to maintain and grow further student engagement in a virtual and remote world of HE. However, as we now look at student engagement in the new model of HE, with blended learning experiences, greater uses of technology than ever before and focused intentional in person activities it is obvious that many students still only engage with the core curriculum. Many traditional students do not maximise the student experience by engaging in the plethora of activities that the community of the HEI can provide, and this is even more exaggerated in mature students, commuter students, students with caring responsibilities and other minority groups within the student population. So whilst they may acquire the programme learning outcomes required they may not be maximising their chances of further success or the enjoyment of their student experience.

This conference will focus on meaningful, active participation by students, both within the curriculum but in wider activities across the institution and within their community that will enhance their student experience and ultimately increase student success.

How can we increase student engagement, by increasing the number of students engaged in the wide variety of opportunities available to them, increasing the diversity of students engaged and addressing the power imbalances in student engagement structures? How will the new access and participation focus of the OfS change the work around participation of students within the HE sector and move from ensuring fair access to ensuring fair participation across the student experience?

During the day sessions will seek to explore how we can make the following meaningful, active and accessible to all learners:

- Student engagement in and beyond the curriculum
- Student engagement with research community
- Student engagement with the local community/civic engagement
- Student engagement through work-based learning/work-integrated learning.
Programme

09:30 Platform opens & informal networking

10:00 Welcome
Kay Hack, Principal Adviser, Advance HE

10:10 Interactive session: Who’s Zoomin’ who?
An opportunity for colleagues to reflect on, and share, the co and extra-curricula opportunities they provide, and how engagement with them is measured.

Chair: Kay Hack, Principal Adviser, Advance HE

11:30 Break

11:45 Keynote plus Q&A

12:15 Lunch

13:15 Panel Session: Opportunities beyond the core curriculum

Chair: Dan Tinkler, Governance Manager, Advance HE
Fanni Zombor, Vice President Engagement, OU Students Association
Dan Chevalier, Vice President Education and Welfare, Winchester SU

14:15 How are we capturing and measuring student engagement in different areas? What are our strategies, models and metrics?
Insights from the sector via parallel sessions

15:15 Break

15:30 Panel Session: Connecting engagement with student success. Examples of practice

Chair: Jonathan Neves, Head of Business Intelligence and Surveys, Advance HE
Alexis Brown, Director of Policy and Advocacy, HEPI
Tamara Reid, Inclusive Curriculum Consultants Programme Lead, Kingston University

16:25 Plenary

16:30 Close