enhancing the Higher Education student learning experience
The Higher Education Academy and Subject Network

Who we are

ESCalate is part of the Higher Education Academy. As the UK subject centre for Education we are working to enhance the experience for students following HE education programmes throughout the UK. We work directly with those staff in universities and colleges who provide courses in education studies, continuing and adult education, teacher education and lifelong learning.

“Subject centres occupy a unique position in the education landscape. Our independent and pedagogically informed role makes us a valuable and trusted source of ideas and resources for education practitioners.”

Dr Tony Brown, ESCalate Director

Working in Collaboration

ESCalate collaborates in different ways with a range of organisations. We maintain close links with professional bodies such as the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET); The Forum for the Advancement of Continuing Education (FACE); British Education Studies Association (BESA); Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE); the European Educational Research Association (EERA) and the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL). Strong partnerships exist with The Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning, phase 5 (FDTL5), FDTL5 project teams, Centres for Excellence (CETL) and National Teaching Fellows.
What we do

ESCalate provides:
- A regularly updated web site with a wide range of downloadable resources and online event registration
- A wide range of education based book reviews on our website
- A focus on the student experience and on departmental needs
- An inclusive approach to collaboration with colleagues
- Publications, resources and events to support developments in education programmes
- A registration area for easy event booking and access to further resources including the External Examiner register
- Opportunities for networking with like-minded colleagues

The student experience

ESCalate supports departments and staff groups to offer the best possible HE experience to their students. We give advice and support based on current knowledge and understanding. We provide practical information for departments and individual staff to use in the development of teaching and learning. We also provide a wide range of resources dedicated to students – a dynamic area on our website, publications and grants to help with research.

Curriculum Development

We provide articles and discussion papers on a range of topics to support teaching, learning and pedagogic development. You can find information on recently published books through the book review section of our website. National, regional and departmental events are offered each year across the UK to support curriculum development especially through learning technologies. We respond to requests from staff-groups and departments for specialist in-house events.

Research and Evaluation

ESCalate promotes a scholarly approach to teaching, learning, curriculum development and the research-teaching relationship. We provide links to current research and evaluation projects and commissioned research activity.

ESCalate Grant Funding

Each year ESCalate funds three types of grant, Development Grants (up to £5K), aimed at supporting smaller projects focusing on a wide range of curriculum based teaching and learning. Research Grants (up to £10K), for groups working to a given themed topic in education. Student Grants (up to £2k) to help students to kick start their research, enable completion of a project or extend learning opportunities. Dissemination of practical resources produced by and for the community is paramount. Ideally these include workshops, web based resources and scholarly publications. All staff and students in HE including those in FEC’s can apply for grant funding.
Get involved

It’s easy to get involved with ESCalate. You could:

- Register to receive bi-monthly bulletins, termly newsletters and ESCalate publications.
- Attend an event
- Write a book review
- Suggest a short article on a topical issue for our newsletter, bulletin or publication on the web
- Offer an example of good practice in teaching, learning, assessment or curriculum development
- Apply for funding through our project grants. We welcome applications from colleagues with limited research experience
- Become a grant application evaluator
- Offer your services on the External Examiner Register or the Expertise Exchange
- Invite us into your institution as part of your development activities in teaching and learning
- Set up a SIG (special interest group) for online discussion
- Offer to moderate an online discussion of the month.

Selected Links / URLs:

- Initial Teacher Education
  http://escalate.ac.uk/ite
- Education for Sustainable Development
  http://esd.escalate.ac.uk/
- Grant Funding
  http://escalate.ac.uk/projects
- Student Page
  http://escalate.ac.uk/students
- ICS-HE
  http://icshe.escalate.ac.uk/
- HE in FE
  http://escalate.ac.uk/heinfe
- Publications
  http://escalate.ac.uk/publications
- Resources
  http://escalate.ac.uk/index.cfm?action=resources.home

Check the website and click on “Get Involved”
Higher education in the United Kingdom is renowned worldwide for its excellent teaching and research. The Academy’s distinctive role is to work with the sector to enhance the quality of students’ learning experiences.

By the student learning experience, we mean everything to do with the quality of higher education from the perspective of the student – teaching, assessment, the curriculum and co-curriculum – together with aspects of student support, management and infrastructure that bear directly on quality.

Our mission is to support the sector in providing the best possible learning experience for all students.

Our strategic aims are to:

1. Identify, develop and disseminate evidence-informed approaches
2. Broker and encourage the sharing of effective practice
3. Support universities and colleges in bringing about strategic change
4. Inform, influence and interpret policy
5. Raise the status of teaching

Uniquely, we:

- **provide national leadership** in developing and disseminating evidence informed practice about enhancing the student learning experience
- operate as an **independent broker**, enabling expertise to be shared across institutions and subject areas
- work at **multiple levels** – with individual academics, subject communities, departments, faculties and institutions – because the best available evidence shows that this is the most effective way to bring about sustainable change
- work **across the four nations**, recognising the distinctive policy contexts and priorities in England and each of the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but also providing opportunities to share expertise among them.

www.heacademy.ac.uk
We invite you to participate in shaping ESCalate’s future direction and activity. Please contact us at:

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