

Is Teaching at the Centre of the Student Experience?

Professor Craig Mahoney
Higher Education Academy

22nd November 2012

Teaching - the activities of educating or instructing, activities that impart knowledge or skill - should be at the heart of our higher education sector and the mission of every higher education institution.

David Willetts, 2012



Ten Questions You Could Ask

1. What is involved in teaching?
2. What is good teaching?
3. How are teachers developed?
4. What do we mean by the student experience?
5. If teaching was at the centre of the student experience what would higher education look like?
6. Do we want students or learners?
7. Do we know what governments want?
8. What do students want?
9. What don't students want?
10. Where next?

What is Involved in Teaching?

- Delivering content
- Pedagogy
- Assessment
- Feedback
- Attendance
- Engagement
- Contact
- Technology



What is Good Teaching?

When asked to define a good teacher [they said] it was a person who turned up early and told them exactly what they had to do to get a good mark.

Guardian, 20th Nov, 2012

- Academic knowledge
- Skilful delivery
- Motivating
- Inspiring
- Credible
- Facilitative
- Approachable
- Real life experience



Instruction or Facilitation

How are Teachers Developed?



Learn the best presentation skills in the business. Teach lessons your class won't want to end.

Teaching maths has always been a rewarding career, and talented maths experts are more in demand than ever before. You could receive a substantial tax-free training bursary of up to £20,000*. There is a comprehensive programme of support available from the Teaching Agency to guide you all the way through the application process.

Search 'get into teaching' or call 0800 389 2500.

**Rewarding
Challenging
Teaching**

What is the Student Experience?

- Is it about being a good student?
- Is it the learning experience?
- Is it the classroom experience?
- Is it about employability?
- Is it about getting a 1st or 2:1?

THE STUDENTS' FAVOURITES		
University	2011 rank	2010 rank
University of Dundee	1	5
Loughborough University	2	1
University of Sheffield	3	2
University of Oxford	4	6
University of Cambridge	5	4
University of East Anglia	6	3
University of Southampton	7	10
Aberystwyth University	=8	9
University of Glasgow	=8	7
University of Leeds	=8	8

(THE Student Experience Survey 2012, n=14,000)

At the Higher Education Academy we concentrate on enhancing the student learning experience, but the entire experience, as now recorded by the HEAR, has relevance to post-completion aspirations.

2012 National Student Survey



UK	%	%
	2011	2012
Questions		
1 - The teaching on my course (Q 1-4)	84	86
2 - Assessment and feedback (Q5-9)	68	70
3 - Academic support (Q10-12)	77	79
4 - Organisation and management (Q13-15)	75	77
5 - Learning resources (Q16-18)	80	82
6 - Personal development (Q 19-21)	80	81
7 - Overall satisfaction (Q 22)	83	85
8 - Students' union (Q24)	-	66
9 - NHS practice placements (Q 25-30)	84	85

287,000 students (67%) completed the 2012 survey, up more than 20,000 on 2011

Professionalising Education

The HEA provides support to enhance the value of teaching:



**Good TEACHING
is all about:**

- **BEING**

Who you are!

- **VALUING**

What you believe and value!

- **DOING**

What you do with your kids (or adults)! AND (more importantly) where you "allow" them to go!

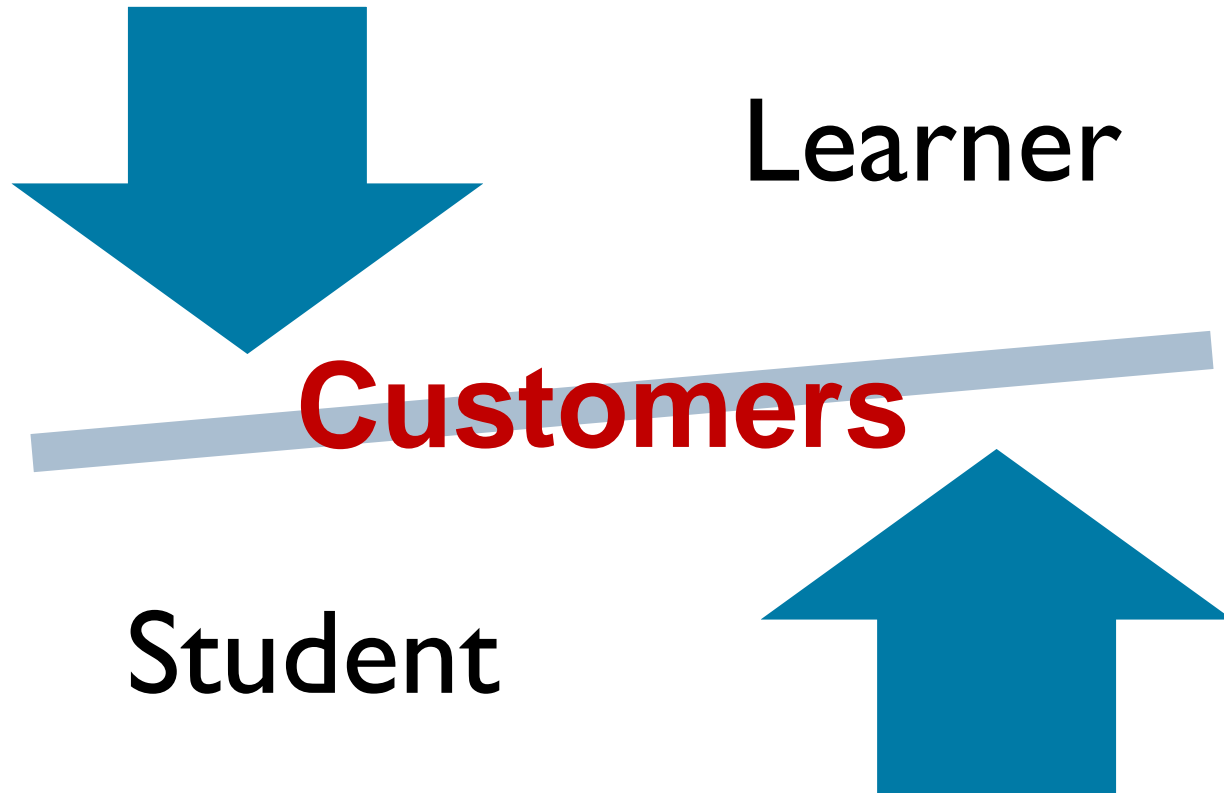
- UKPSF
- Accreditation
- Recognition
- Fellowships AFHEA-PFHEA
- CPD frameworks
- Good Standing & Code of Conduct
- NTFS

Vision Higher Education if Teaching were at the Centre



1. Promotions would be based on teaching performance
2. Vice-Chancellors would be Fellows of the HEA
3. National Teaching Fellowships would be the high point of an academics' career valued by all including the Prime Minister
4. Developing the students' full potential would be the shared role of students and staff linked to degree outcomes
5. The most valued research grants would focus on developing pedagogic knowledge and enhancing teaching performance
6. Employers would have a more intimate role in the learning landscape.

Which Experience?



What do Governments Want?



Employable students

Graduates with higher level skills

Economic benefits arising from investment in higher education delivery

Research outcomes to enhance the economy

What do Students Want?

Good teaching

Inspiration

Support & encouragement

Feedback

Positive outcomes

Modern methods

Graduate skills



What Students Don't Want



Where to Next?

Should teachers in higher education require a qualification to teach?



Should teachers in higher education require an annual licence to practice?

At the End of the Day

Good teaching is about having **fun**, experiencing **pleasure** and **intrinsic rewards**...like locking eyes with a student in the back row and **seeing the synapses and neurons connecting**, thoughts being formed, the person becoming better, and a smile cracking across a face as **learning** all of a sudden happens. It's about the former student who says your course **changed her life**. It's about another telling you that your course was the **best** one he's ever taken. **Good teachers practice** their craft not for the money or because they have to, but because they truly enjoy it and because they want to. **Good teachers couldn't imagine doing anything else.**

Leblanc, The Teaching Professor, 12 (6), 1998