

Higher Education Strategies: Glossary of terms

Active learning	A term for learning and teaching methods which put the student in charge of their own learning through meaningful activities. Students think about and apply what they are learning, in a deliberate contrast to passive learning where attention in lectures begins to wane every 10-20 minutes. Active learning promotes recall and deeper understanding of material as students are engaging with the content, rather than simply listening to it. Active learning can be a good way of preparing students for future employment. By integrating activities such as case studies and problem based learning scenarios into the teaching, students are able to practice skills which are essential for the workplace.
Active reflection	Looking back on an experience and considering what could have been done differently or what has been learned from it. When a student reflects on their accomplishments and the opportunities for improvement, they are better able to take on future challenges. Each learning experience becomes more meaningful and more productive.
AdvanceHE	A member-led, sector-owned charity that works with institutions and higher education bodies across the world to improve higher education for staff, students and society. Support is delivered through professional development programmes and events, Fellowships, awards, student surveys, and includes accreditation of teaching and learning, equality charters, research, and the sharing of knowledge and resources.
Cultural capital	'The essential knowledge that students need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.' (Ofsted 2019)
Curriculum	In higher education, this refers to the process of connecting and integrating university learning and teaching into coherent and meaningful educational experiences for students, not just simply the programme of study.
Formative assessment	Activities used in a lesson in order to discover what students know while they're still in the process of learning it. This enables adaption to the teaching to ensure student's knowledge and understanding is reinforced.
HEA	The Higher Education Academy (HEA) was a British professional membership scheme promoting excellence in higher education. The HEA advocated for evidence-based teaching methods and awards fellowships as a method of professional recognition for university teachers. The HEA was responsible for the UK Professional Standards Framework for higher

	education practitioners. In 2018, the HEA merged with the Leadership Foundation and the Equality Challenge Unit to form Advance HE
HESA	The Higher Education Statistics Agency - the experts in UK higher education data, and the designated data body for England.
Human capital	An individual's capabilities, knowledge, skills and experience as well as the capacity to add to this reservoir of knowledge, skills, and experience through individual learning. Usually used to refer to the value of an employee to an organisation
Identity capital	'Identity capital is an individual's collection of personal assets. It is the repertoire of individual resources assembled over time. Some identity capital goes on a résumé, such as degrees, jobs, test scores, and clubs. Other identity capital is more personal, such as how we speak, where we are from, how we solve problems, how we look. Identity capital is how we build ourselves—bit by bit, over time.'(Jay 2013)
Learner centred	This refers to moving the focus of instruction from the teacher to the student. It aims to develop learner autonomy and independence. focuses on skills and practices that enable life-long learning and independent problem-solving
NERUPI	Network Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions. NERUPI is a community of practice for those seeking to reduce inequalities in higher education access, participation and progression - a partnership of over 70 higher education organisations working together to create a new approach to evaluation using the framework developed by Annette Hayton, University of Bath and Dr Andrew Bengry, Bath Spa University.
Neurodiversity	The concept that differences in brain functioning within the human population are normal and that brain functioning that is not neurotypical should not be stigmatized
OfS	Office for Students -the independent regulator of higher education in England. Helping students to get into and succeed in higher education by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helping students stay informed. 2. Making sure that students get a high-quality education that prepares them for the future. 3. Protecting students' interests. The OfS's other functions include the administration of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and the Register of higher education providers.
Pedagogy	The theory and practice of teaching and learning , and how this process influences, and is influenced by, the social, political and psychological development of learners. Pedagogy, taken as an academic discipline, is the study of how knowledge and skills are imparted in an educational context.
Peer review	The evaluation of work by one or more people with similar competencies as the producers of the work (peers). It functions as a form of self-regulation by qualified members of a profession within the relevant field

Polar quintiles	<p>All universities are required by the Office for Students to increase the proportion of students they take from 'low participation' areas. One of the main ways they do this is to flag up on applications the 'Polar quintile' the applicants live in. POLAR is an acronym which stands for Participation of Local Areas.</p> <p>POLAR classifies local areas into five quintiles based on the proportion of 18-year-olds who enter HE aged 18 or 19. Quintile 1 is the fifth of areas with the lowest proportion of progression to HE.</p>
Psychological capital	The concept of Psychological Capital is strongly linked to increased mental wellbeing, and levels of satisfaction with life and work. The positive developmental state of an individual as characterized by high self-efficacy, optimism, hope and resilience.
Social capital	The links, shared values and understandings in society that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and so work together
Stakeholder	An individual or group that has an interest in any decision or activity of an organization.
Summative assessment	Summative assessments are any method of evaluation performed at the end of a module, or period of study, allowing teachers to measure a students' understanding against standardised criteria. They usually result in the student receiving a determined grade
TEF	<p>The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) is a national exercise, introduced by the government in England. It assesses excellence in teaching at universities and colleges, and how each higher education provider ensures excellent outcomes for their students in terms of graduate-level employment or further study. There are systems in place to help ensure that all UK colleges and universities meet national quality requirements.</p> <p>The TEF looks at what they are doing in addition to these requirements, and participating universities and colleges can achieve either gold, silver, bronze, or a provisional award (meaning that they do not yet have enough data for a full assessment).</p>
Transition pedagogy	An approach to learning and teaching that aims to support students as they enter higher education, and as they progress through their programme of study and beyond. It recognises that students have diverse needs and experiences and that these are addressed in order to ensure successful completion of a students HE journey.
UAL	University of the Arts, London.
UEA	University of East Anglia

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