



POLICY STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

- The University of Aberdeen has, as part of its Strategic Plan 2011-2015, identified the twin principles of sustainability and social responsibility as among its core institutional values
- The University recognises that, alongside careful custodianship of its physical estate, the main sustainability legacy of the university will be realised through the impact of its research and teaching and the contribution of its graduates as active, global citizens
- The University conducts research and supports scholarship into sustainable development and through the provision of a range of curriculum and co-curriculum options, provides a learning environment in which students can develop the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to a sustainable society
- Through the ongoing Curriculum Reform process, the University has placed graduate attributes at the heart of its approach to the development of a curriculum that prepares its students for employment, further study and citizenship
- Through the identification of core, inter-disciplinary Research Themes, the University has identified collaborative scholarship as being integral to its institutional research strategy
- These institutional commitments to collaborative, inter-disciplinary research and the development of graduate attributes are exemplified through the development of a wide range of Sixth Century Courses as part of the Curriculum Reform process
- Alongside a wide range of modules in traditional sustainability disciplines, these innovative inter-disciplinary courses provide students with opportunities to discuss the challenges facing society, and to do so alongside students and academics from disciplines beyond their main degree programme
- Aside from the formal curriculum, a series of co-curricular initiatives encourage participation in community projects and volunteering, with active citizenship recognised and celebrated through initiatives such as our Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) scheme

We will:

- provide a research and learning environment in which societal challenges are discussed and through which active citizenship is supported and encouraged;
- continue to place graduate attributes at the heart of the development of our students as active citizens and will embed sustainable development as a graduate attribute;
- continue to provide a wide range of inter-disciplinary courses and programmes that encourage reflection and discussion of the full range of global challenges facing society;
- recognise and promote the contribution the University is making to the national and international demand for academic responses to the challenges of sustainability;
- investigate how best to support and develop the capacity of academic staff to promote the understanding and inclusion of sustainability themes in their courses;
- update the sustainability indicators used in the undergraduate prospectus to identify courses and programmes with sustainability content across the institution;
- introduce mechanisms to encourage academic colleagues to consider and share how sustainability and social responsibility can be included when developing new courses;
- establish a teaching award to recognise innovation in the teaching or assessment of skills for sustainability in any programme.

Metadata			
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Subject / Description	The statement outlines how the University's ongoing curriculum reform process and the development of graduate attributes, informed by research activity and research themes, supports the institutional commitments to sustainability and social responsibility.		
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