I-Explore Modules

In launching the Learning and Teaching Strategy we made a commitment to provide a broader and more inclusive education experience for our students. In pursuing this objective, all new undergraduate students starting their programmes from 2019/20 onwards will take a for-credit module from a suite of options outside of their academic discipline.

The I-Explore Modules will consist of a wide range of cross-College modules grouped into four categories:

1. Horizons+ Modules
2. BPES Modules
3. STEM Modules
4. Interdisciplinary Modules

All I-Explore Modules will be offered for degree credit attracting 5 ECTS. All departments will need to reserve 5 ECTS within their new curricula for an I-Explore Module and decide which year to offer this out of years 2, 3 or 4 of an undergraduate programme (or a combination thereof). By choosing a combination of years in which to offer I-Explore modules, a Department will provide their students with greater flexibility to shape their curriculum.

We intend that all students will be able to select from the same full set of I-Explore Modules whichever year/combination is offered by a department. This flexibility should allow curriculum review teams to decide what works best in their curriculum design and for their students.

The timetable slots currently reserved for Horizons & BPES will be retained [i.e. Tue 4-6 pm (1st years); Mon 4-6 pm (2nd years), Thurs 4-6 pm (3rd/4th years), with BPES modules running mainly in lunchtime slots (12-2 pm, Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri)]. The new STEM Modules will likely also run in some of these slots. The new Interdisciplinary Project and Horizons Modules may also run in timeslots outside of the normal timetable (e.g. over summer vacation periods).

Please see this LTS blog post for more details on I-Explore Modules: http://wwwf.imperial.ac.uk/blog/learning-and-teaching-strategy/2018/08/29/developing-i-explore-modules/

Curriculum review paperwork and exemplars

The curriculum review paperwork (curriculum redesign proposal form, curriculum review programme specification and curriculum review module specification) can be found on our resources page.

These three forms include guidance on how to complete the form fields. For additional guidance, please refer to the exemplar programme specification and the exemplar module specification.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind teams that curriculum review covers programmes in their entirety. Therefore, Curriculum Review Teams should complete a review of, and submit paperwork to cover, all years and all modules of each programme.

Curriculum Review Reference Panels

We have established Curriculum Review Reference Panels to support departments in reviewing their taught course provision to take account of the College’s Learning and Teaching Strategy. The panels will provide advice and guidance to departments and make recommendations for enhancement on the revised curricula in terms of content and presentation.

The panels will review and endorse all programme and module specifications prior to their submission to the relevant Faculty Education Committee. The Panel Convener assigned to your department will be in touch soon.

Support for curriculum review

As well as meeting with your Reference Panel, don’t forget that there are many colleagues from across the College who are ready and willing to support you in Curriculum Review. The teams listed below have a
wealth of resources, knowledge and expertise that you can draw upon in designing and developing your curriculum and we encourage all curriculum review teams to engage with the help they can offer.

Educational Development Unit  
Centre for Academic English  
Library Services  
Careers Service  
Graduate School  
Student Shapers  
Digital Learning Hub

If you are looking for support not listed here or you’re unsure of who best to ask, please contact Hailey Smith (Project Manager – Learning and Teaching Strategy) who will be very happy to help you to find a solution.

Talking Teaching survey

Many thanks to everyone who has attended and spoken at Talking Teaching this year. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the engaging talks and subsequent discussions and hope you all did too.

We will now start planning for next academic year’s Talking Teaching events and we would greatly appreciate your input into this.

We have put together a short survey of five questions to find out what you value about Talking Teaching, the topics you would like to hear talks about and who you would recommend as a Talking Teaching speaker for next year. Many thanks in advance for filling out the survey.

Teaching Toolkit: educational research methods

The Teaching Toolkit has recently been updated to include information on educational research methods. The EDU have designed the Teaching Toolkit to support the College-wide Curricula Review and Pedagogical Transformation process and to complement their workshops and PG programmes.

The information under educational research methods is split into four sections:

- The nature of educational research
- Before you start
- Methods in educational research
- Networks, funding and further resources

In these sections you’ll find important principles to think about when considering educational research, tips for planning and preparing a successful project, practical introductions to research methods and information on engaging with the wider educational community. Please take a look, discuss the ideas with your colleagues and keep checking back as the resources section will be routinely updated and expanded.

Learning Outcomes and Modular Architecture follow-up workshop
4th September, 14:00-16:00, room 122, SAF, room 122, South Kensington Campus

On 11th July, Martyn Kingsbury (EDU) and Dan Todhunter (Registry) ran a Curriculum Review Workshop to examine the role and purpose of intended learning outcomes (ILOs) and to explore modular curriculum design. Given the very positive feedback this session received, we have arranged for a follow-up workshop on Tuesday 4th September 2018, 14.00 – 16.00 in SAF, room 122.

Martyn and Dan will run this workshop in a surgery style, helping teams to build on the discussions held in the first session and think more specifically about where ILOs are delivered in the curriculum and to consider the mapping of key assessment. If you have any questions about ILOs or your programme design, this would also be excellent opportunity to seek feedback and workshop creative solutions.

Perspectives in Education. Changing Pedagogical Spaces: A Praxis-based Approach
20th September, 11:00-12:30, Room 509, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, South Kensington Campus
Staff interested in:
- developing a greater sense of belonging and encouraging all students to participate in teaching and learning spaces,
- learning to evaluate their teaching in a richer, more insightful and evidence-based way,

should join the EDU to discuss these points and more at Perspectives in Education with Penny Jane Burke on Thursday 20 September. She will introduce a series of film 'think pieces' designed to provoke and stimulate rich discussion about the pedagogical challenges of addressing diversity and difference and building a sense of capability and belonging in and through higher education participation.

More information and registration (via Eventbrite) can be found on the event page.

Academic promotions briefings (educational research pathway)

We are holding two academic promotions briefings for staff interested in finding out more about applying for promotion to Associate Professor of Education, Reader in Education and Professor of Education in the new educational research pathway within the Learning and Teaching job family

The Vice-Provost (Education) Professor Simone Buitendijk and Director of Educational Development Professor Martyn Kingsbury will give a short presentation about the new roles and the promotions process and will be available to answer questions.

The briefings will be held:
- 9th October, 16:00-17:00, Charing Cross Campus. Further details and RSVP.
- 11th October, 10:30-1130, South Kensington Campus. Further details and RSVP.

Communication and news

We are committed to supporting faculties and departments to efficiently and effectively implement the Learning and Teaching Strategy. To assist departments with this we are continuously updating content and information on our webpages and blog. Please keep an eye on the website and blog for updates, and encourage your colleagues to visit these pages.

More generally, we are keen to identify the information you need in the formats you want. If you have any specific requests, please send your suggestions to lstategy@imperial.ac.uk

Many thanks,

Alan Spivey
29th August 2018