



Aston Learning & Teaching Strategy

Aston University is a distinctive and leading provider of graduates for business and the professions. The accessible journey of active learning our students take is one of high aspiration, inspiration and achievement. We emphasise access, success, study and employability towards positive outcomes for all. Thus our Learning & Teaching Strategy aligns our Key Guiding Principles with our Shared Outcomes for Success.

Aston's Key Guiding Principles

- **Co-ownership of our Strategy** – a shared ethos of accessible and ethical 'partnership' across our learners, staff and colleagues in industry, embracing mechanisms to discuss and disseminate insights
- **Active Inclusivity** – a positive culture which promotes knowledge sharing and dissemination, international partnerships, innovation and integration of research into excellent teaching and the growing of meaningful skills
- **Global Significance, Local Impact** – striving for impact across the local community and the world, through innovative research, employable graduates, sustainability and wider community engagement.
- **Proactive People** – students and staff who actively seek out and lead positive change, challenge the status quo, build networks and enhance their personal development and their wider environment.
- **Digital Technology** - recognised as an integral part of Aston's response to teaching excellence and integrated into our curriculum design processes
- **Recognition and Reward** – emphasising and recognising transformational professional development and continual enhancement of quality
- **Disruptive Efficiency** – A University that is both flexible and responsive to the changing nature of students and their needs via structures, processes and forums which promote continuous improvement and transparent change.
- **Embedded Employability** – A University which embeds work-based learning, employability and progression throughout the Aston Journey, from employer-informed curricula through to placements and high impact skills development.

Aston's Shared Outcomes and Goals for Success

Our relationships both locally, internationally and with industry, the professions and the public, underpin our commitment to these aspirational outcomes and goals:

- **Recognising, Valuing and Supporting our Excellent Teaching through:**
 - A clear direction and inclusive partnerships with students and industry
 - Professional accreditation and recognition for highly qualified staff
 - Supporting our staff to continuously improve teaching quality
 - Communicating successes and disseminating effective practices
 - Professional mentoring and recognition of students and staff
 - Embedding leadership of positive change in creative development programmes for colleagues, supporting practices across Schools
 - Digital capabilities embedded into our recruitment, staff development, appraisal, reward and recognition processes

- **Continually Developing our Innovative, Effective and Rigorous curriculum that Challenges and Stretches Students through:**
 - Recognition of digital technologies as an integral part of Aston's response to teaching excellence integrated into our curriculum design
 - Increasing the employability of our graduates and postgraduates via placements, work-based learning and apprenticeships
 - A holistic, inclusive and co-ordinated approach towards student-led data analytics, retention, progression, attainment and employability
 - Critical awareness of the range of contact points with our students
 - Assessment *for* and *as* learning, developed with our students

- **Enhancing the Aston Learning Environment through:**
 - Furthering an ethos of 'belonging', citizenship and student attendance
 - Inviting social learning spaces both physical and virtual
 - Flexible pedagogies for personalised learning on campus and online
 - Professional mentoring recognising the embodied nature of learning

- **Scholarship, Research and Professional Practice through:**
 - Encouraging curious and enquiring minds
 - Learning from and growing our international partnerships and networks
 - Aspirational projects recognising interrelations between TEF and REF
 - Research-informed teaching and support for student-led research
 - Critically inclusive, engaged and exciting communities of practice
 - Communication, collaboration and peer observation
 - Recognition for scholarship and leadership of teaching and learning