

Universeum Working Group on Student Engagement

2018 meeting, Glasgow

The Working Group started by sharing experiences and ideas about student engagement and came up with some important aspects that underlie the value of student engagement and some examples of best practice:

Learning

Learning is a process

Learning as co-production

Varied modes of learning are important (kinaesthetic, digital, oral etc.)

The relationship between collections-based learning and the curriculum

The importance of autonomous, student-lead and social contexts for learning

Research skill development

Discovering research topics and resources

Personal development

Student engagement helping develop a sense of belonging to a place (University history etc.)

Student engagement helping develop friendships and the sense of belonging to a group of people

Importance of creativity

Student engagement is fun

Student engagement builds cultural capital

Vocational

Student engagement activities help develop employability

Developing skills for life and employment

A context for ethical considerations

The Working Group also considered what it could do in the future. There was consensus that it should:

- Meet annually as part of the Universeum network Meeting, but not at other times
- Provide an online 'safe space' which would enable members to share failures and challenges, provide peer mentoring, enable discussion and evaluation.
- While it was agreed not to write a set of guidelines, a toolkit and a set of values could be developed that could be used by members, the Katter perhaps most usefully as part of advocacy by members within their institutions
- Identify an online platform to host this 'network within a network', including the hosting of short videos as well as images and text.

Next year's meeting could focus on a discussion of a set of values, and the ethics and roles of student volunteers and interns.