

Centre for Alternative Technology

Student Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Strategy

Introduction

This strategy sets out CAT's ambition in relation to student learning and teaching enhancement. All CAT students' learning will be developed and enhanced by excellent, up-to-date teaching, enriched by comprehensive student support and engagement, and by research and scholarship.

We will support each student not only to acquire or further develop the knowledge and skills necessary to practise as an environmental professional, but to adopt the attitudes of reflective practice, lifelong learning and critical thinking.

We seek to deliver the highest quality learning experience for all our students and to instil in them the motivation and skills to engage fully with their programme and make the most of all the resources we provide, within a nurturing and collegial environment.

This strategy then shows how CAT is taking deliberate steps to improve the quality of students' learning opportunities. In so doing we review, identify and set strategic priorities to improve our specialist provision and show how we will achieve them.

This document has been the subject of extensive consultation with staff and students across CAT.

Higher Education at CAT

HE at CAT is unique. All on-site teaching takes place in one intensive week per month. A high level of contact is maintained between staff and students in the interval between 'onsite weeks' when students are typically at home. The MSc Sustainability and Adaptation (MSc SA) courses accept students from a wide background including those with no post-school qualifications but who can prove equivalent experiential learning. Students can take the course part time or full time, attend on campus or follow the course as distance learning and can move seamlessly between these modes. The student learning and teaching enhancement strategy has to reflect this uniqueness.

Key Aims and Priorities of the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy

Key aims:

1. To offer a high-quality student experience, delivering programmes that are academically rigorous, professionally relevant and providing what is needed to address the academic and professional development needs of our students and the requirements for accreditation of relevant professional bodies.

2. To enable all students to engage as partners in the assurance and enhancement of their educational experience across all aspects of their life at CAT.
3. To challenge and support students to realise their ambitions through active engagement with their studies and full participation in the academic community.
4. To enhance learning opportunities for students by using a variety of approaches to teaching and learning, delivery formats and methods of assessment across all programmes.
5. To continue to recruit, develop and value well-qualified, professional staff and to ensure that all staff are appropriately qualified, supported and developed.
6. To ensure that our facilities and resources are of high quality and appropriate for the specialist nature of our programmes.
7. To enhance practices and provide new opportunities that improve the retention, progression and attainment and employability of our students.
8. To enhance opportunities for the personal development of each student, both within and outside the curriculum to support their progression into employment, further study or to enhance their potential for career progression.
9. To identify and share good practice from within and outside of CAT across all CAT HE.
10. To encourage participation by all who can benefit from the CAT student experience.

We will underpin and support the achievement of these aims through an academic infrastructure that enables us:

- To operate effective academic committee structures which oversee and evaluate the effectiveness of learning and teaching enhancement policies and initiatives.
- To develop and implement our Regulatory and Quality Monitoring and Enhancement Framework to define and secure the academic standards of our programmes and encourage the continuous improvement of learning and teaching.
- To provide all staff, students and prospective students with easy access to accurate, consistent and up-to-date information to support their work, studies and decision-making.

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