

IDEAS framework: notes for External Examiners



IDEAS is a curriculum model designed to support teams with inclusive practice at all stages of the programme lifecycle: from the conception of a new programme, through programme design, delivery, annual review and quinquennial review.

The five elements of the model are:

- Inclusive Learning
- Digital Inclusion
- Employability Learning
- Assessment for, as and of learning
- Sustainability Mindset

These are the elements that research and sector best practice tell us need to be embedded within our curriculum if it is to be truly inclusive, enabling all students to feel a sense of belonging. The intention of our inclusive curriculum is that it is:

- Accessible and attractive to a wide range of prospective students
- Enables all students to succeed to the best of their ability
- Creates graduates who have a positive social impact.

IDEAS is similar to many other HE inclusive curriculum models in the elements that we are focusing on, but it is distinct in the way that it places the students at the centre of the model. Each of the five elements is composed of a set of questions, phrased in the student voice, that prompt teachers to consider the perspective of diverse learners when designing or delivering teaching and learning experiences.

The model is put into practice using the Design Thinking approach. This is a human-centred design process that ensures we first understand the needs of students and other collaborators (employers, professional bodies etc), before we design the curriculum. All staff are encouraged to work collaboratively with students in designing programmes.

Taking this approach means the approach of each team will be unique, taking into account the needs of their students, the strengths of the team, and the shape of the discipline. The IDEAS model is very much a design tool that supports inclusive practice, rather than a set of instructions to be included in every programme.

More information about the model and the Design Thinking approach is available in the [IDEAS Toolkit](#)

What you should expect to see

All programme teams must engage with IDEAS at key touchpoints in the programme lifecycle. Specifically, this is during new programme validation, quinquennial review, and the annual review (AQMR) process. In documentation you should see evidence of:

- Collaboration with students and other stakeholders
- Reflection on how engagement with IDEAS has changed practice
- Student-facing documentation addressing the IDEAS elements (e.g. a copy of the teams' responses to the questions made available in the Programme Handbook).