

Student Engagement in the Biosciences

The UK Centre for Bioscience takes an active role in developing and promoting student engagement within its communities, and is involved in a number of related initiatives that span all levels of Higher Education. You can see an overview here, and full details are available on our website: www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/studenteng.aspx

Dimensions of student engagement

Individual Learning

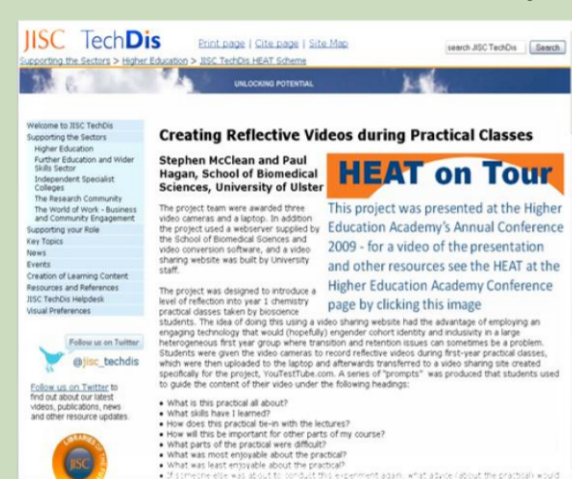
Students engaged in their own learning through formal academic study.

For example:

- Self-reflection about their own learning
- Participation in extra-curricular activities
- Learning with and from their peers [see below]

Creating Reflective Videos During Practical Classes

Designed to introduce a level of reflection into year 1 chemistry practical classes taken by bioscience students. Using video-sharing engaging technology to engender cohort identity and inclusivity in a large heterogeneous first year group where transition and retention issues can sometimes be a problem.



tinyurl.com/BioReflectiveVideos

Curriculum Design and Delivery

Students involved in the design and delivery of their own learning.

For example:

- Evaluation during course with rapid feedback and response
- Students participating in research projects
- Students generating materials for others to use [see below]
- Post graduate students who teach

Development of Enquiry-Based Learning (EBL) for Undergraduates

Two undergraduate interns from Biological Sciences joined a group of seven from across five faculties at the University of Glasgow, and were trained in EBL methods. The interns produced an EBL guide for staff and students, an accompanying website and posters, then worked with staff, developing an intervention in a lecture on ethics, and an EBL exercise for 1st year biology students.

A Virtual Laboratory for Bioscience e-Learning Projects

A six-step framework for a course to train and support final year students who opt for e-learning projects. Students plan, design and develop e-learning resources that support the undergraduate curriculum and contribute to the Faculty's overall e-learning strategy.

Discipline Level

Student membership of discipline-focused student networks.

For example:

- Membership of professional body, subject centre or discipline advisory groups
- Subject in discipline-specific pedagogic research, focus groups and surveys
- Student Award [see below]
- Bioscience student network [see below]

Student Award

The UK Centre for Bioscience Student Award, open to all UK higher education students studying a pure or applied biological science, aims to raise awareness in the bioscience teaching and learning community students' opinions and experiences of learning in the biosciences.

Bioscience Student Network

This work builds on a pilot project run in association with SPARQS to bring together current course/class representatives from across five different subject areas to look directly at students' education and the learning they receive.

School / Department Level

Student representation (membership) on school committees / faculty boards.

For example:

- Student Rep sitting on Staff - Student Liaison Committees
- Summative evaluation (usually questionnaires) at programme and course level
- Membership of faculty boards
- Student involvement in internal subject review

Institutional Level

Student membership of institutional student representation groups.

For example:

- Students engaged in institutional quality processes
- Student Union Activities
- Institutionally relevant items on NSS / questionnaires
- Student involvement in university governing bodies

UK Policy Level

Student membership / consultation on cross-sector working groups or projects.

For example:

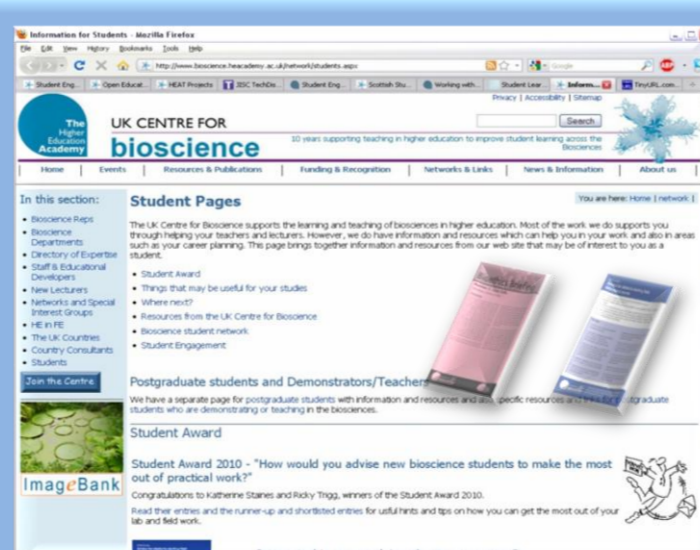
- National representation on NUS
- Membership of National Student Forum (NSF)
- Representation on SPARQS steering committee (Scotland)

The UK Centre for Bioscience is working with SPARQS to run a series of events for students to help them play a role in shaping their curriculum.

Bioscience Student Pages

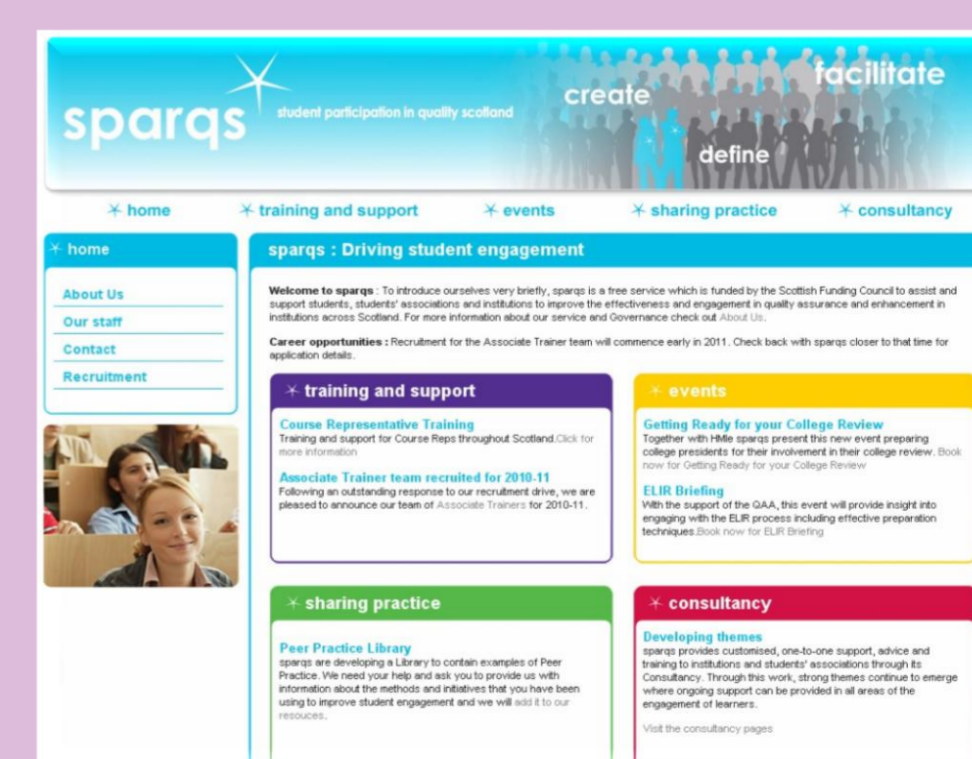
Information for students on:

- Bioscience Student Award
- Things that may be useful for your studies
- Where next after graduation?
- Resources from the Centre
- Bioscience student network



tinyurl.com/BioStudentPages

Student Participation in Quality Scotland



www.sparqs.ac.uk