DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

LEARNING AND TEACHING CONFERENCE

2021

TEF Gold — Teaching Excellence Framework

Learning with Social Impact: How we responded to the needs of the city during the Covid-19 pandemic

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Introduction

- DMU – our context
- Our Covid-19 response
- SDG 16 Hub and Build Back Better
- New model of collaboration
- Service-Learning at DMU
- Embedding this work
- Get involved
- Questions

DMU Context

- 150-years-old
- Post-92 Institution
- Civic mission
- Proud diversity
- Four strong faculties
- 300 courses
- Strong community links and partnerships

DMU During Pandemic

Staff and student working together on DMU PPE distribution

- 200+ staff and students join humanitarian response

- Newly qualified nurses fast-tracked to the NHS

- Health equipment and PPE donated to NHS

- (PCR) machines to the Royal Army Medical Corps

- Regional PPE distribution centre created

- PPE created using CEM and ADH technology

- The Watershed now a Testing Centre for Covid-19

- Student-learning and experience at the heart

DMU Community Solutions

- Approached by LCC
- Followed UN recovery calls and SDGs
- Mass consultation on six themes
- New model uses teaching and research
- DMU's connects community and authority
- Service-learning growth adds capacity

Education for Sustainable Development at DMU

A university-wide initiative aiming to put sustainability at the heart of everything we do – our taught courses, operations and co-curricular activities

Four aims for students, staff and wider community:

Understanding Sustainability:
Our society's challenges, possible solutions

Transformational Experiences:
Inspiration, indignation, collective action

Taking Action:
Volunteering, projects, making a difference

Developing Competencies to Act:
Motivation, self-confidence, values, big-picture thinking, group-working

<u>**Coming up**</u>: **'Intro to ESD'** staff Training (Feb 17, book on DMUHub); **'SDG Teach-in'** (Feb 22-Mar 5 – link SDGs to your planned teaching); **How-to-advice via meetings and toolkits** – see project website https://esdg.our.dmu.ac.uk or email Andrew Reeves areeves@dmu.ac.uk

Growth of Service Learning

- Centre for Academic Innovation/Education for Sustainable Development/Social Impact and Engagement collaboration
- First university to use teaching as a Covid-19 recovery tool
- Hidden practice
- Massive untapped potential within DMU

"Service Learning is a pedagogical approach that integrates meaningful community service or engagement into the curriculum and offers students' academic credit for the learning that derives from active engagement within the community and work on a real world problem. Reflection and experiential learning strategies underpin the learning process and the service is linked to the academic discipline." (EOSLHE, 2020, Service-Learning section, Paragraph 1)

Pedagogic Benefits of Service Learning

- **Experiential learning (Kolb, 1984)**
  - Conceptualisation
  - Concrete experience
  - Reflection

> *'sense of real world' improve student skills, confidence and applied learning (Hoadley & Kilner, 2005; Wenger 2010; Fearon et al., 2019;)*

- **Service Learning**
  - All the benefits of experiential learning + **reciprocity** (Jacoby, 1996; Zlotkowski, 1996; Reed et al., 2010)
  - Develops ethical concepts, justice, responsibility
  - Potential for boundary spanning

Examples

- Sharing children's stories online - CEM
- Politics in Action – students design SDG projects for mutual benefit - BAL
- Students to deliver youth or community programmes - HLS
- Students to deliver dance workshops online for young people - ADH
- DMU local – expertise to support
- DMU Global– take your community learning abroad (eventually!)

Embedding service learning

- For maximum impact must involve:
  - Classroom learning (concepts)
  - Experience
  - Reflection
  - Reciprocity
- Experience could involve:
  - Live projects?
  - Volunteering?
  - Placements?
- Incorporate into the programme/module design as we move towards more skills development, authentic assessment, interdisciplinarity
- Resources within CAI/ESD/SDG16 Hub

Summary

- Celebrate the levels of community engagement at DMU
- Build on strong track record:
    - o Research
    - o Student Learning
- Service Learning has clear benefits
- Challenge is to properly embed in the curriculum, to include assessment and interdisciplinarity

Please get involved

- Contact mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk

- Follow SDG16 on Twitter/Instagram: @DMUSDG16

- Visit ESD at DMU: https://esdg.our.dmu.ac.uk/about/dmu-esd-project/

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Thank you

Questions??