

‘Academic Citizenship: Agent for Change’

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Overview

Academic Citizenship is recognised as an integral theme within the Empowering University strategy at DMU.

The Leicester School of Pharmacy was the first at DMU to achieve the Bronze Award for Athena Swan, and Academic Citizenship is integral to the LSP ethos, where we advocate a culture that embraces a strong collegiate approach, to benefit *all of us*; as individuals, our colleagues, and our students. Academic Citizenship is embedded within The Leicester School of Pharmacy (LSP), where it provides the integral core that underpins all of our other existing School, Faculty or Institutional commitments. It directly influences our recruitment, outreach, external engagements, administrative duties, personal tutoring, regular meeting attendance and making informed contributions, volunteering, and is an outlet for support (mentoring, coaching, training, and overall wellbeing).

Furthermore, this enabled us to proactively face the challenges of the Covid-19 response together, via the planning, coordinating and facilitation of clearing, timetable responses, and the communication of the no detriment policy, amongst other demands. Additionally, constructive outputs have included scheduled sessions for: Wellbeing, Remote Buddies (digital technology support for teaching) and return to campus updates. Such collegiate activities have been sustained providing the strong underpinning for the Education 2030 process as well as the recent transition to the new VLE Learning Zone.

Macfarlane (2007) proposes a ‘service taxonomy’ of Academic Citizenship, with a hierarchical pyramid structure: Students, Collegial, Institutional, Discipline-Based (Professional), and Public Service. Here, we celebrate the multiple facets of Academic Citizenship exhibited with the LSP and have interpreted it as a visual model.

Ultimately, offering opportunities for colleagues from other Faculties and Directorates, and as further evidence for embracing sustainability across the institution.



Summary

- DMU ‘Empowering University’ strategy highlights importance of Academic Citizenship (AC)
- AC provides core to The Leicester School of Pharmacy(LSP) - integral part of our culture and ethos
- AC enhanced the LSP Covid-19 response, Ed 2030 process and Learning Zone transition

Recommendations

- Other Faculties and Directorates embed Academic Citizenship
- Utilise the LSP model as a starting point
- Further evidence of embracing Sustainability and ESD (Education for Sustainable Development)

