

**Title:** Observing the UK Professional Standards (UKPS) in HEA accredited provision: a tool towards defining teaching excellence and effective teaching environments for refining the Teaching Excellence Framework metrics

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### Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Identify the UKPS that can be readily observed in teaching practice
- Recommend how the standards may be used to define Teaching Excellence in relation to future refinement of the TEF metrics.

### Session Outline

Whether and how the UKPS can be observed and used to assess effective teaching environments and teaching excellence and to propose how observation of the UKPS could inform future TEF metrics

Although the initial metrics for the Teaching Excellence Framework do not include a direct measure of academics' qualifications and effectiveness in HE teaching, TEF2 and HESA require information on the number of academics qualified to teach in HE. The Teaching Excellence Framework: year two specification (Sep 2016) specifies that:

"Teaching excellence is defined broadly to include teaching quality, the learning environment, and student outcomes and learning gain.", and the Teaching quality assessment in TEF 2 will include:

"The extent to which a provider recognises, encourages and rewards excellent teaching"

TEF2 guidance lists Teaching observation as one of the indicators for teaching quality. Both TEF and TEF 2 will focus on effective learning environments and one of the best ways to assess these is by observing how lecturers create and enhance these environments. To do this effectively we need to be able to compare them consistently both within HEIs and across the UK HE sector and the UKPSF could provide a suitable tool for this purpose.

At Bath Spa University we have been recording when the UK Professional Standards have been observed during our Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Learning in Higher Education (CPLHE) teaching Observations since 2013-14 to assist our new lecturers in evidence provision for gaining FHEA. This process was introduced in the Academic year leading up to our successful re-accreditation of the Programme in August 2014 as an initiative to more closely align the Programme to the UKPSF.

This workshop will share the analysis of the records collected at BSU and some feedback from our colleagues studying for the CPLHE as a stimulus to an activity to define and discuss whether the Standards can be readily evidenced by observation and how they could be used to assess effective learning environments (and teaching excellence) for future refinement of the TEF metrics.

### Session Activities and Approximate Timings

- Presentation of BSU analysis of observation records of the UKPSF focusing on learning environments and the standards relating to teaching excellence and context setting with TEF2 metrics (15min)
- Participant reflection on how the UKPS are evidenced in their own institution/context (5min)
- Focus group discussions to gather experience from other HEIs and PGcert HE programmes on which UKPS can be observed indicators of teaching excellence and creation of effective learning environments. These discussions will collate experiences of how the UKPSF can be evidenced by teaching practice observations in a range of HEIs and define how the UKPSF could be used to assess effective learning environments for the TEF metrics. (20min)
- Recommendations, concluding comments and end of session evaluation on post-its (5 min)

### References

- Race, P. (2007) *Lecturer's Toolkit* p. 127-9
- UK Government, Dept. for Education (2016): *Teaching Excellence Framework: year two specification*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/556355/TEF\\_Year\\_2\\_specification.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/556355/TEF_Year_2_specification.pdf) (13/11/16)

- HEA (2011) *UK Professional Standards Framework*

[https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/system/files/downloads/ukpsf\\_2011\\_english.pdf](https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/system/files/downloads/ukpsf_2011_english.pdf)  
14/11/16

BSU (2016) Teaching observation for CPLHE participants In: *Certificate in Professional Learning in HE Mentors handbook* ps. 3-10 (copies to be supplied at conference session)