

Abstract

We're gonna need a bigger boat: achieving widespread educational change

This keynote will consider successful strategies for widespread pedagogic development through the lens of the SCALE-UP project at Nottingham Trent University.

SCALE-UP (Student-Centred Active Learning Environment with Upside-down Pedagogies) is an active learning approach pioneered by Robert Beichner at North Carolina State University. It is highly collaborative, studio- and problem-based, and uses a technology-rich learning environment. While SCALE-UP is not a new pedagogy, it does combine educational methods and environment in an interesting way and has been shown to have a positive impact on student learning outcomes.

In 2013, NTU became the first UK University to pilot SCALE-UP in an institutional, multi-disciplinary project, with 37 modules, across Levels 4-7, in 7 schools. Early success allowed us to expand and there are now over 200 colleagues using SCALE-UP. Wider benefits include a shift in institutional discourse about pedagogy and changes to the learning spaces we are building.

For developers thinking about engaging groups and teams, an important consideration is *how* we introduced this pedagogy, rather than the pedagogy itself. We used our work on SCALE-UP as an opportunity to build a community across the University, and one with the right conditions for sustainable change. With that central theme, this keynote will explore:

1. Why we chose this pedagogy
2. How we achieved widespread adoption
3. What happens next: using active learning to address attainment disparities.