

Measuring Learning Gain: Implications for development, enhancement and evaluation

Learning Gain – the attempt to measure the different ways in which students benefit from their learning experience – is now a core part of the Government’s plans for higher education. A focus on student outcomes is signalled in the Higher Education White Paper and learning gain is a key strand of inquiry in the Teaching Excellence Framework. New approaches to quantifying learning gain and new metrics are being developed through 13 HEFCE-funded pilot projects across England.

What does this focus on evidence and impact mean for institutions? Does this signal a shift from a sector-wide interest in teaching to more emphasis on learning? What does this mean for staff development? Where can or should the student voice be in enhancement and evaluation? These questions will be explored and debated and policy implications discussed.

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