

BUSINESS SCHOOL LEARNING CHARTER

Considerable research into student learning in higher education suggests that students learn most effectively when teaching staff create learning experiences that attempt to encompass some of the following characteristics.

ENGAGE



1. **Active engagement** with the learning process supports learning.¹
2. **A climate of inquiry** that challenges students and engages them with research encourages learning.²
3. **Activities designed to be interesting and challenging**, but that also create opportunities for students to have fun support learning.³
4. **Occasions for reflection** that encourage students to continuously reflect, explore their experiences, challenge their current beliefs and develop new practices and understandings assists effective learning.⁴

CONTEXTUALISE



1. **Recognising students' prior experience and knowledge** can make their learning more effective.⁵
2. **The professional, disciplinary and/or personal relevance** of content to students can increase their engagement with the learning process.⁶
3. **Creating a learning community** through dialogue between students and teachers, and among students (in and out of class) increases student motivation and engagement.⁷

ASSESS



1. **Designing assessment to achieve desired learning outcomes** supports effective assessment.⁸
2. **Using self-assessment and peer assessment** can facilitate the development of independent learners.⁹
3. **Explicit assessment criteria** improves effective learning.¹⁰
4. **Focused, meaningful and timely feedback** supports students' effective learning when it is designed to build confidence and motivation for learning.¹¹

DESIGN



1. **Clearly articulated expectations, goals, learning outcomes, and course requirements** increase student motivation and improve learning.¹²
2. **When students take responsibility for their own learning**, they are more likely to develop higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.¹³
3. **Developing graduate attributes within a disciplinary context** increases the successful and effective acquisition of those skills and qualities.¹⁴

INCLUDE



1. **The diversity of student experiences**, when acknowledged, valued and drawn-on during learning and teaching approaches and activities, enhances the experience of all students.¹⁵
2. **Using multiple teaching methods and modes of instruction (visual, auditory, kinaesthetic and read/write)** support the various ways that students learn.¹⁶
3. **Using diverse learning and teaching resources** (Blackboard announcements, discussion boards, podcasts, readings) support students' engagement with learning activities.¹⁷

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- ³ Ramsden, P., *Learning to Teach in Higher Education*, Routledge, London, p. 102 (1992).
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- ⁶ Ramsden as in 3 above
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