



Making your unit relevant to your students (USE item 6)

“When our interest is aroused in something, whether it is an academic subject or a hobby, we enjoy working hard at it. We come to feel that we can in some way own it and use it to make sense of the world around us. And this is even more likely if an explanation is added as to why the particular method or fact that has to be learned will be useful in the future.”

Ramsden, P. 1998, *Learning to Teach in Higher Education*, London: Routledge, p. 96.

If your students highlight this as an area of concern in their Unit of Study Evaluation you might try the following:

- Use scenarios and tasks that are related to **professional practice**
- Create opportunities for **first year students to mix with more senior students** in order to give them a sense of direction, a sense of belonging, and to stimulate interest in the discipline for example, in a discipline social club or through the PASS mentoring scheme
- Give students the **opportunity to choose their own approach to presenting an assignment for example**, choosing their own business context as a case study
- **Invite graduate speakers** to talk to your students about the particular area they work in, how their undergraduate and postgraduate studies led them there, and employment prospects in the field. Record these so you can reuse them later as a podcast. [See University advice on how to do this.](#)
- **Use guest lectures by leading practitioners** in different branches of the discipline can be used to raise awareness of the variety of professional opportunities and practice available
- **Provide opportunities for greater contact with industry and employers**
- Bring in current newspaper articles that are relevant to what you are discussing
- **Use role-play activities to relate students’ learning to real life situations.** Role-play can be an effective strategy in helping students to understand different perspectives from key stakeholders within (and outside) the field. For ideas see the [Enrole project website](#).