



Principles informing Learning and Teaching

For more than 150 years, the charter of the University of Sydney has been 'to promote liberal education and useful knowledge ... for the benefit of all'. During that time the profile and reach of the University has grown nationally and internationally with an expanding network of partner institutions and the exchange of ideas, research and disciplinary advances. Our students are participants in a global culture of research at the University. This in turn shapes in unique ways their experience of learning - which means the act, process and experience of gaining knowledge and skills.

The University of Sydney is an international research institution which values:

- Excellence – of students, learning environment and learning experiences
- Intellectual inquiry
- Academic Freedom
- Diversity of defensible opinions and values
- Integrity and ethical practice in academic endeavours

Seven major principles support learning and teaching at the University of Sydney:

1. The University promotes research-led teaching

The University's research ethos and strengths infuse all undergraduate and postgraduate learning and teaching. Our research-led teaching emphasises the partnership of academics and students as they engage in the critical challenge of open exploratory inquiry. It points to learning and teaching that encourages active learning, critical creative thinking and lifelong learning.

We value and reward creativity and inquiry and we support students in developing critical faculties on existing theories, approaches and wisdom. We expect staff and students to be active risk-takers, comfortable with the continuous testing of ideas, and active collaborators, refining and expanding together our domain of knowledge.

2. The University fosters lifelong learning

Infused with the highest ethical values and the challenge to make a difference to their society, our students will become global citizens and lifelong learners. Our students learn how to access, use, evaluate and add to knowledge during their lives and professional careers. To this end, the University provides students with an effective knowledge base of language, concepts, key technical skills and learning structures to both assimilate and create new knowledge.

3. The University offers a complete student experience

We support students' intellectual, emotional and social well-being by providing a broad spectrum of personal, health and welfare and academic student support services, including student-led facilities and services. The variety of student clubs and societies offers rich experiences to students: a 'second curriculum' that complements their formal study, contributing to a vibrant on-campus society and to education for life.

4. The University promotes student-centred learning and teaching

We value both individual and collaborative student effort. In a student-centred and campus-based learning environment we emphasise growth through the innate desire of students to learn; reward student's achievements with the enhancement of their inherent sense of self-worth and competence, and encourage student collaboration with peers and mentors.

5. The University offers an exciting and stimulating environment for learning and teaching

The intellectual engagement and passion of students finds support, inspiration, and direction in the knowledge and experience of our teachers. Teaching at Sydney explores new ideas; tests received knowledge and questions conventional wisdom. Programs of study are designed to challenge students to learn collaboratively from each other and in partnership with their teachers. Our students become participants in the creation of new knowledge through their access to and participation in research.

6. The University recognises and celebrates the diversity of its students

The diversity of cultures, ethnicity, values, gender, age, life experiences, socio-economic status, disabilities and religions of our students and staff reflects the larger community of which the University is a part. Diversity strengthens the learning experience of all students, especially the opportunities to learn about social justice and fairness in a complex and continually changing world. Our learning and teaching has an international focus; values and expresses diverse views; ensures that beliefs and values are contested and explicitly rejects racism and prejudice.

7. The University is committed to continuous improvement in its learning and teaching

Our teachers are committed to innovative practice and continuous improvement in their teaching, the design of the curriculum and the feedback and interaction with their students. Systematic feedback is sought from a variety of sources, none more important than from our own students. Our teachers are active researchers and ensure that curriculum content is current and relevant, reflecting both changes in the corpus of knowledge and changes in student needs.