

Questions to ask students.....

The following questions have been devised by course representatives from around Scotland as part of the **sparqs** course representative training. This list is not exhaustive and you will need to come up with new and different ideas to find out about the strengths and weaknesses of your course. **Remember** to explore the issues using open questions, and to communicate well, you will get more information that will actually be useful to you this way.

Learning and Teaching Process

Subjects and Materials

- Are all the subjects relevant to your course?
- Is your course material challenging?
- Does your timetable change at short notice?
- Were the lecturer's handouts effective and helpful?
- Do you feel intellectually challenged?
- Do you understand the language used in the class?
- Are teaching methods varied enough?

Lecturers

- Do you feel that your lecturers are approachable?
- Are your teachers motivating you throughout your course?
- Do tutors teach you to merit standards or just to pass?
- Is there enough input from lecturer's?
- Are lecturers adaptable to change?
- Are the tutors teaching methods up to date?
- Do you feel confident of your lecturers competence in their field of teaching?
- Do you get enough feedback from your lecturers?

Misc.

- Did the class work as a team to improve results?
- What would you change about your course?
- Is there enough information about your placement to help you prepare?
- Does your course cater for disabled students?
- Are placement supervisors giving you enough support?

Accommodation for Learning and Teaching

- Are your classes suitably sized to suit you class?
- Where the study materials and facilities easy to use?

Programme Design

Induction

- Does the prospectus match the course content being taught?
- Did your induction give you all the information you needed?

Expectations

Did your course fulfil your expectations?

How easy was it to get information on the college and/or course

Timetable

Is your timetable suitable for everyone?

Is your timetable well organised/student friendly?

How much time do you spend in college?

Is your class rushed?

Planning

Do you have a good balance of theory and practical?

Do you get industry visits/placements?

Are you comfortable with the pace of study?

Is the workload too heavy or too light?

Are all the modules you cover relevant?

Has the size of your class affected your learning?

Does your course include a work placement?

Are you happy with the time given for each individual aspect of your course?

How often do lectures get cancelled?

How often are tutors absent?

Is the course relevant to your future?

Is there enough scope for you to specialise your interests in the course?

Quality Assurance and Improvement

Are you satisfied with the lessons?

Do you find your classes useful preparation for Uni.?

Does the equipment and environment meet health and safety standards?

Do you feel that the student voice is heard?

Are you aware of the contents of the last HMIe

Guidance and Learner Support

Support

Do you get regular guidance meetings?

Are you getting enough support with your work?

Are you getting enough support from staff?

Do you get support to find future employment?

Is your guidance teacher approachable?

Are placement supervisors giving you enough support?

What can be done to stop students leaving their courses? Is their enough support?

Students with Disabilities

Is the college well enough equipped to give access to disabled students?

Is the college well enough equipped to give access to disabled students?

Discrimination

How does the college deal with discrimination against student's sexuality?
Is their equality of teaching discipline in class?

Misc

What changes have been made following student meetings?

Assessment

Preparation

Are you warned in advance of assessment?
Do tutors give you the right information about your assessment?
Does the practical work you do prepare you for the assessments?
Do you feel confident that you will pass the course?
Do you think your assessments are explained to you clearly?
Are you given enough revision time?

Overload?

How many assessments do you have?
Are you assessed too often?
Are you over assessed?
Where your assessments spaced out or where you under pressure to cram?

Appropriate?

Do you feel that assessments are appropriate?
Do you feel the assessments measure your knowledge?
Do you find your assessments fair and accurate?

Learner Progress and Support

Previous Students

Did the previous students on this course enjoy it? Where there any problems?

Drop out/Pass rate

What is the drop out rate for previous years in your course?
What is the pass rate of your course?
Is there clear information about pass rates and student progress beyond graduation?
Is there a higher pass rate for mature/younger students?
What is the pass rate of your course?
Do you think your end result is reflective of your course work?

Information and support

Do the lecturers provide you with the right information and materials?

Employment

Does your course provide you with good employment prospects in your field of study?

College/University

How many students graduated and went on to study further or employment?
Do top ranking Universities accept your qualification?

Equipment and Materials

Availability

Are the textbooks and information you need available at your college/campus?

How do you find/access the materials?

Are there enough resources?

Appropriateness

Have you got appropriate resources for your study?

Did you have the right resources to allow you to complete the course?

Do you have good referencing resources?

Health and Safety

Is the equipment up to industry standard?

Do staff assess the health and safety risks?

Latest equipment?

Do you have the most up to date software and computers?

Are you using the latest equipment?

How often does equipment get updated or replaced?

Students from the following Colleges have developed these questions;

Adam Smith College

Angus College

Anniesland College

Ayr College

Borders College

Central College of Commerce – Glasgow

Coatbridge College

Cumbernauld College

Dumfries College

Dundee College

Glasgow Metropolitan College

John Wheatley College

Kilmarnock College

Motherwell College

Oatridge College

Reid Keir College

Stevenson College

West Lothian College