

ROYAL HOLLOWAY 100

Report



Date:

Thursday 21st March 2024



Panellist Attendance:

30%



Departments in Attendance:

**Student Engagement, Internal Communications,
Strategic Planning, Careers, Volunteering, Student
Journey, Performing and Digital Arts**

Discussion Topic 2 – Skills for Choice and Opportunity

For the second topic of this panel, panellists analysed the fourth ambition statement: **Skills for Choice and Opportunity**. Panellists worked with industry experts to co-design this ambition with a focus on attributes gained and developed during their time at Royal Holloway.



Panellists informed the university that...

- The top 5 attributes that they deemed to be most important after graduating were:
 - Resilience
 - Communication
 - Critical thinking
 - Collaboration
 - Adaptability
- The main ways students gain different skills and attributes during their time at Royal Holloway is through the extra-curricular activities that they take part in.
- They also wanted more of the activities that the university currently runs such as interview practice, focus groups and alumni talks.
- Students would like wanted more variety in opportunities with closer links to their course.
- They would like more opportunities created so that they can network and interact with other people.



Panellists therefore suggested...

- It would be good to have a way/platform to record and reflect on the skills that they have gained.
- Incentives for students to get more involved with activities in which they can learn more skills. For example, a type of loyalty card or reward system.
- The gaining and development of skills should be integrated into teaching and the curriculum. Departments could work more closely with academic societies to foster these skills and there could potentially be a skills/attributes module for students to complete.
- Using different methods used for teaching and assessment e.g., group work helps them to develop teamwork and communication skills etc.



Next steps

The team will review and revise the vision statement. They will edit the accompanying paragraph, ensuring that there are no buzz words and finalise the objectives, which will then move the strategic ambition towards the next phase of work which will be implementation planning.



Appendix

1) What do you think are the most important attributes to succeed after graduation? And why?

Top 5 attributes

- 1) Resilience (6 times)
- 2) Communication (5 times)
- 3) Critical thinking (4 times)
- 4) Collaboration (3 times)
- 5) Adaptability/Motivation (2 times)

2) How should we at Royal Holloway empower our students to hone these attributes?

- Lecturer drop-in – promote as being open always, not just when struggling, timetabling an issue (drop-in hours often overlap with lectures)
- Workshops
- Seminars
- Practical application of knowledge – to give you the skills you need for the workplace but also how you would use that skill – so not just theoretical or learning in a vacuum.
- Setting challenges that are topic specific but require resilience/proactive (etc. the attributes above)
- Ideal world employer challenges/real life problems/scenarios
- Promoting extra-curricular activities: many are available, not enough, incentive

3) How could we support our students to articulate their attributes?

- More focus groups
- Range of assessments – real world applications, presentations, positive views on challenging approaches, visits to employers, range of module and senior approaches
- Identifying gaps in skill sets – self-awareness, then enables confidence. Guidance – not presuming that students have been prepared for the jump to university and the skills required to succeed in doing that.
- Skills workshops in each area
- Loyalty card for using the uni services
- Recognise stuff that qualifications don't recognise
- Diary for interview with all your skills you've learnt over uni
- Networking events – getting in front of the right people