

Responsible Futures Project Plan 2020 - 2022

Project Summary

Introduction

Responsible Futures is an externally-assessed certification from SOS-UK of a whole institution approach to social responsibility and sustainability (SRS). By 'whole institution', that is a Partnership between the Students' Union and the University.

The scheme provides a framework for action that will help facilitate institutional change. The accreditation mark recognises and celebrates progress being made along a journey of change, rather than it being certification of an endpoint. Once awarded accreditation lasts for 2 years. UW has held accreditation since 2015 and most recently reaccredited in April 2020. The Sustainability Strategy Group provides the forum for the monitoring of the Responsible Futures Project Plan, developed jointly by Worcester Students' Union and the University, which seeks to build on our accreditation successes and set out a pathway for development and successful reaccreditation.

The key recommendations from the April 2020 re-accreditation audit were:

- Ensure that the SU has a stronger voice/role in the partnership.
- Ensure evaluation of all RF activities.
- Shape student expectations and experiences of ESD in the formal curriculum, ensure this is more embedded and there are clear opportunities for students to assess their engagement.
- Gain feedback on the impact of RF work on students.
- Communicate RF work more extensively to the student/staff body and more widely to local communities.
- Enhance awareness of social sustainability issues.
- Engage with other RF partnerships to share good practice.

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	Element	current situation	actions next period				Owner	Progress
			Semester 1 2020/21	Semester 2 2020/21	Semester 1 2021/22	Semester 2 2021/22		
1	RF accreditation audit.	Full report of the April 2020 audit received August 2020.	Review audit and recommendations at meeting of SSG and develop project plan.	Monitor project plan progress at June SSG meeting.	Review project plan elements and progress at October SSG.	Prep for re-accreditation audit summer 2022.	KB/HB/TH-B/SU officers	RF audit report discussed and plan developed.
2	Embedding SDGs in the formal curriculum.	New L and T Strategy approved July 2020 – education for sustainable futures one of the key goals.	Strategy for embedding SDGs to LTSEC for approval.	Participation in the SDG Teach-in. Development of a workshop for course teams on embedding the SDGs	Delivery of workshops to course teams. Development of SDG curriculum mapping.	Participation in the SDG Teach-in. Review impact of strategy for embedding SDGs.	HB/DLTQE	Strategy approved by LTSEC and monitoring through university LTQE plan. Increased participation in SDG teaching including SU sessions during the two weeks. Workshop developed for roll out.
3	Embedding sustainability – EfS curriculum projects.	Review 'Learning for Responsible Futures' (LrRF) scaffolding projects.	2020-21 LrRF proposal call launching in New Year.	Projects proposals reviewed and agreed new	Review LrRF scheme for re-launch.		HB/KB	Inquired about 'For Good' – no further action.

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			Explore SoS-UK 'For Good' platform.	projects to start.				LfRF launched Jan 2021 – one proposal received, not accepted. Scheme to be reviewed.
4	Measuring engagement of students in sustainability and impacts of RF work	Preparation for launch of SuLiTest for all new student starters in August 2020.	Review results of SuLiTest uptake by Sept 2020 starters	Invite S2 starters to take SuLiTest. WPI project on student engagement with sustainability (with SoS-UK co-sponsor).	SuLiTest available to be taken by new starters in August 2021.	Invite S2 starters to take SuLiTest. Further WPI project on engagement with wider cross university work.	HB/KB/THB	SuliTest made available but late so limited engagement. Also available for S2 starters and better % uptake. WPI project completed.
5	Student action for EfS	UWSU Sustainability Network established.	Sustainability Network chair as member of SSG EfS/SDG session at 'Repsival' for course reps.	Review strategy for engagement of course reps with SDGs and EfS.	Develop course rep role descriptor to include sust. and develop supporting training for reps.		HB/TH-B/SU network	Sustainability Network established and chair participating in SSG. SDG session at Repstival did not take place.
6	Embedding SDGs in SU work/campaigns	Beginning of mapping SU work to the SDGs	Develop mapping of SU activities and	Embedding SDGs into Elections	Green checklist for SU clubs and societies		TH-B/SU	Mapping complete

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			campaigns/posters the SDGs.	training and delivering Network led SDG teach in sessions. Delivering SDG newsletters for SU staff.	sustainability awareness raising with other societies and networks eg BAME, LGBTQ+, etc.? SU staff training in SDGs		network	SDGs now included in all SU design request to ensure mapping across all promotions, SDG Teach-in Sessions took place. 3 staff newsletters sent in 2020-21
7	Communication/dissemination https://www.worcester.ac.uk/documents/communications-and-community-engagement-strategy.pdf	STO Digital creatives Comms link- two new students recruited to the team. review site and back office over the summer	student lead content	Continue in semester two	promoting research active colleagues	Cont in semester 2	KB	Excellent student STO team
8	Carbon literacy training	University and SU have declared a climate emergency (carbon neutral by 2030). Need for further training and awareness raising.		Launch carbon literacy training in GGW Feb 2021.	Wider dissemination of carbon literacy training to students and staff.	Extended into community	KB/GS/SE	

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9	Networking and dissemination	Engage with SoS-UK RF partnership network. Disseminate practice via media posts conferences and publication.	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	Attend planned SoS-UK RF partnership catch-ups	HB/KB/WUSU	Worcester attendance at all catchups. Meeting with Keele SU officers. Advance HE conference April 2021
	Further ahead work programme				PRME alumni Awareness raising SWAY Education in Climate Emergency SU coms		KB T H-B EL	