

Terms of Reference

The Flinders Learning and Teaching Academy provides a structure within which to consolidate and leverage existing activities for learning and teaching innovation, enrichment, and scholarship.

The objectives of the Flinders Learning and Teaching Academies are to:

1. Create an environment to explore and support innovative learning and teaching.
2. Promote and support excellence in teaching.
3. Position Flinders University as education experts.
4. Improve teaching quality and practices within and between colleges and portfolios.
5. Increase Flinders brand awareness.
6. Raise the profile and build awareness of teaching excellence at Flinders University.
7. Generate and facilitate scholarship of Learning and Teaching opportunities.
8. Communicate key learning and teaching developments to Education governance committees.
9. Facilitate student voice and students as partners approaches in learning and teaching activities.

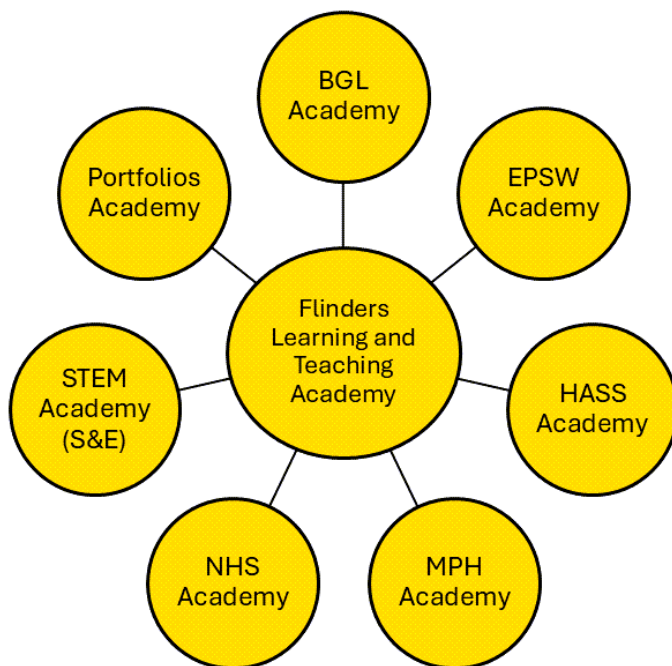


Figure 1: Flinders Learning and Teaching Academy Hub and Spokes Model

The Flinders Learning and Teaching Academy as illustrated above operates in a hub and spoke model with an Academy in each college, one for non-College staff, and an umbrella academy to facilitate coordination between the colleges and support university wide activities.

The umbrella Flinders Learning and Teaching Academy will coordinate university-wide activities enabling inter-College/portfolio activities and sharing via:

- guest speakers/workshops relevant to all Colleges and areas
- university wide communities of practice
- university wide learning and teaching celebrations
- coordination of submission of professional recognition applications, including awards and fellowships.

Membership and Responsibilities

To ensure coordination across colleges the governance of this entity is enabled via a *Steering Committee* consisting of:

- Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching Innovation) – Chair
- Dean (Education), College of Business, Government and Law or their delegate and two additional nominees*.
- Dean (Education), College of Nursing and Health Sciences or their delegate and two additional nominees*
- Dean (Education), College of Medicine and Public Health or their delegate and two additional nominees*.
- Dean (Education), College of Science and Engineering or their delegate and two additional nominees*.
- Dean (Education), College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences or their delegate and two additional nominees*.
- Dean (Education), College of Education, Psychology and Social Work or their delegate and two additional nominees*.
- Academic Director, Flinders University Academy or their delegate and two additional members from portfolios or central areas*.
- At least three student representatives including the Student Representative or their delegate and the FUSA Education Officer or their delegate.
- Steerco will report on the work of the Academy and Communities of Practice and seek feedback from University Governance Structures.

The College/Portfolio based Learning and Teaching Academy will assist educators to:

- be leaders in disciplinary learning and teaching excellence and innovation
- strengthen the connection between College based and central projects
- work on key College-based activities to support University/College initiatives
- assume College leadership roles in learning
- engage in peer mentoring and peer review (both within and outside of the Academy)
- engage in professional development and share practice
- promote and embed engagement with higher education teaching networks
- meet the expectations related to being a teaching specialist.

Deans (Education) (or delegate) for each College are responsible for the establishment and running of their College Learning and Teaching Academy.

Composition

The Flinders Learning and Teaching Academy events are open to all Flinders University staff and titleholders interested in learning and teaching. Teaching specialists are expected to participate.

Recognition in the form of a certificate will be provided for all active participants of the Central academy. Active participation is defined as attending at least three centrally run events in a calendar year and presenting at one event and/or participating in a community of practice.

Recognition will also be provided in the form of a certificate for active members who also mentor and support other members in the form of leading Advance HE Accountability groups, grant/award or SoTL mentoring groups and/or Communities of Practice.

*Additional staff nominees on Steerco should be leaders in learning and teaching as demonstrated by Advance HE or other teaching fellowships, active participation in external teaching networks (e.g. HERDSA or disciplinary learning and teaching networks) or leadership of university and/or college/area-wide teaching projects/activities.

Relevant events will also be advertised to students via the Student Steerco members and student attendance at events will be welcomed.

Reporting

Reports will be provided to Education Committee twice per annum.