

CONNECTOR
PROGRAMME

Developing a whole institutional approach to evaluation at University of Sussex

NERUPI Convention 15th – 16th September 2021

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What is the Connector Programme?

The **Sussex 2025 Strategic Framework** outlines the Sussex values, what the university aims to achieve and how.

The Learn to Transform area prioritises:

**MAKING STUDENTS PARTNERS IN THE
BIG DECISIONS THAT SHAPE OUR
UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE**



The **Sussex 2020-25 Access and Participation Plan** outlines the university's commitment to facilitating fair outcomes for students.

The APP identifies student groups which are under-represented, and how it will provide fair access, on-course and progression support.

The Connector Programme sees students and staff working as equal partners, collaborating to improve the student experience at Sussex.

What is the Connector Programme?

Since the programme began, over 230 Connectors have worked 23,500 hours on more than 30 different projects.

Every Connector project must take a co-creative approach, and must aim to benefit the student body.

5 Connector Themes

- Careers
- Digital
- Engagement
- Communication
- Academic



How have we used NERUPI?

- Worked with students in the Student Experience Connector team to map our programme objectives alongside the NERUPI framework
- Used the NERUPI toolkit to create and categorise questions by: engagement, social networks, and expertise
- Identified and implemented two strands of evaluation: pre & post surveying, and pulse surveying



These evaluation techniques were co-created with Student Connectors, including the surveys and tools to support students to undertake self-evaluation

Achievements and challenges

- Co-creating evaluation process
- Good response rate for pre & post survey
- Combination of qualitative and quantitative feedback
- Creation of our impact report
- Confirmation of achieving programme objectives
- Identifying areas for programme development
- Evaluating our evaluation
- Reliability of self-evaluation from Connectors
- Evaluating 'intangible outcomes'
- Engaging Connectors in evaluation
- Measuring impact on whole institution

The background of the slide features two women. On the left, a woman with dark hair and glasses is smiling, holding a water bottle. On the right, a woman with short curly hair is gesturing with her hands while speaking. A large, dark circular graphic is positioned in the center, partially overlapping the two women.

Activity!

Activity

In breakout rooms:

- Scan the QR code to add your thoughts to the padlet
- Discuss the following questions

“How do we support students to have the self-awareness, confidence and self-reflection to effectively complete surveys?”

“How do we ask questions about intangible things such as increases in confidence and a sense of belonging?”

- Add any questions you have to the ‘general questions’ column





Feedback

Looking forward

- Learning from access colleagues who have been successfully using the NERUPI framework for a number of years
- Learning from Connector pilot to roll out evaluation strategy across APP programme
- Focussing on student success & progress
- Developing our own toolkit to address institutional priorities





Questions?

Contacting us



Get in touch!

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CONNECTOR
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Thank you!

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OF SUSSEX