# Enhancement Themes

Have you ever thought it might be easier to make changes in your department if there were other departments or universities who have done something similar? Enhancement Themes may be able to help!

## What are Enhancement Themes?

Enhancement Themes are topics that all Scottish universities focus on at the same time, to try to make the quality of their teaching - and your learning - even better. Each university does some work on this topic in their own campuses, and they all come together to share what they've learned with each other. In this way, everyone can work together to make Scottish universities better across the board.

The Enhancement Themes are run by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, and each one usually lasts two or three years. The current Theme (until July 2014) is called '**Developing and Supporting the Curriculum**'.

## What can class reps do with Enhancement Themes?

On the other side of this leaflet are some questions to help you think about the current Enhancement Theme. Here are some ideas on how to use them in your role as a class rep.

- Think about your own course. Does it need development in any of these areas? Why not bring them up with staff in the department?

- Staff in your department might not know about the Enhancement Theme. Ask them to find out how it might help them make changes to your course.

- Tell the students' association about any issues your department is struggling with that might need support from the university.

- Get involved at a national level - find out more here: www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk

Right now, universities across Scotland are asking these questions about their teaching. You could think about them too!

1    How is the curriculum, in its broadest sense, shaped and delivered?

How could teaching and assessment methods be improved?
- Does your course develop your employability skills?
- Does the assessment on your course help you to learn?
- Is there appropriate choice in courses or assessment types?
- Could technology help deliver teaching more effectively?
- How much say do students have in the way courses are designed and taught?

2    Who is it for - how is the student body changing?

Who are your classmates? Do they all respond well to the same style of teaching? How could your course meet the needs of all students more effectively?
- Are they all from the UK?
- Do they all study full-time?
- Do any of them have learning difficulties?
- Are any the first from their family to go to university?

3    What support is required for staff?

How do universities help their staff make the necessary changes? Will they need any extra resources or training?
- Does the department have the resources to make changes?
- Are other departments able to give them advice?
- Are staff trained to use technology effectively for teaching?

Keep up to date with the Enhancement Themes at
www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk