**Learning & Teaching Centre**

**Higher Education Academy Mike Baker Doctoral Studentship**

**‘Evaluating the impact of student-staff co-created curricula in higher education’**

We are delighted to announce that we have received funding from the Higher Education Academy for a three year full time PhD studentship focused on ‘Evaluating the impact of student-staff co-created curricula in higher education’. This studentship will be situated within the University of Glasgow’s Learning and Teaching Centre. The successful applicant will be supervised by Dr Catherine Bovill from the Learning & Teaching Centre and Professor Vivienne Baumfield from the School of Education.

Increasingly academic staff and higher education institutions are realising the benefits of engaging students more meaningfully in decisions about their learning experiences. Despite many calls for students and staff to co-create the curriculum (often from schools ‘student voice’ discourse, popular education and critical pedagogy literature), we have not engaged meaningfully in enacting co-created curriculum in higher education institutions until relatively recently (Little et al, 2011; Bovill, 2012). Compelling beneficial outcomes are emerging where students have been co-creating curricula including: increased motivation for study; academic staff and students relating differently with enhanced dialogue; academic staff and students gaining a greater meta-cognitive awareness of the learning process (Bovill et al, 2011), and some reports of enhanced student performance in assessments as a result of students’ deeper understanding of, greater engagement in, and enhanced responsibility for, learning (Bovill, 2013).

Approaches to co-creating curricula are founded on principles of inclusivity and emphasise the importance of hearing student voices that are often under-represented in more traditional learning environments (Fielding, 2004). Thus enhancement through co-created learning offers a particularly valuable opportunity for improving the experience of our diverse range of university students. At present the use of co-creative approaches to curriculum tend to be confined to small scale practices supported by individual academic staff, although there are emerging a number of larger scale programmes focused on students as consultants or co-researchers into learning and teaching (Dunne & Zandstra, 2011; Cook-Sather, 2010; Neary, 2011). The co-created curricular initiatives that exist in higher education have often not been evaluated or the outcomes disseminated widely. Therefore, this project aims to investigate the processes and outcomes of co-created curricula in a range of different UK higher education institutions.

Specifically, this research project aims to:

* enhance understanding of the impact of student-staff co-created curricula in higher education, in terms of a) student outcomes, b) staff outcomes, c) departmental and institutional outcomes;
* investigate a range of facilitating factors and barriers to co-creation, informative to the HE sector in supporting sustainable models of co-created curricula in the future;
* disseminate a range of examples of co-created curricular approaches and lessons learned as well as identify elements of good practice that will be of benefit to the international higher education sector.

The student will have some flexibility to develop the scope and focus of this project from its original conception. The student will become part of a vibrant PhD research community within the College of Social Sciences and will be able to access a range of support and training opportunities within the College of Social Sciences, Learning and Teaching Centre and School of Education.

Informal enquiries about the scholarship are encouraged and should be directed to Dr Bovill [Catherine.bovill@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Catherine.bovill@glasgow.ac.uk) who can discuss any queries you have about the scholarship.

**Eligibility and details of the award**Please note that this Scholarship is only available to Home/ EU applicants on a full-time study basis. The scholarship will run for a maximum of three years commencing on **Monday 9th September 2013** and will provide:

* an annual bursary equivalent to the RCUK rate – currently £13,861 for 2013-2014
* tuition fees at the standard Home/EU rate
* a research support budget of £850 per annum

**How to Apply**Applicants should complete the following documentation:

* application form
* two references (one referee should be an academic or research related referee such as your Masters project supervisor or individual who can comment on your research and/or writing abilities)
* a writing sample e.g. a piece of assessed work from your studies to date, or a report you have written on any topic, and in the region of 1500-2500 words long.

Please send your application by email to Dr Catherine Bovill [catherine.bovill@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.bovill@glasgow.ac.uk) by **5pm on Friday 3rd May 2013** stating that you wish to be considered for the scholarship.

**Selection Process**  
Applications will be reviewed by a Learning & Teaching Centre/College of Social Science selection panel. Interviews will take place in early June 2013. Applicants are encouraged to consider the following criteria within their applications as all applications and interviewees will be reviewed against these criteria:

Essential:

* a Masters level qualification;
* an interest in research into higher education learning and teaching;
* good oral and written and oral communication skills;
* a high level of self-motivation;
* evidence of the ability to complete work to meet deadlines;
* the ability to work within a team as well as to take individual initiative;
* the ability to take a critical and creative approach to work.

Desirable:

* a Masters level qualification in a social science discipline;
* experience of using educational research methodology and/or evaluation methodology;
* experience of undertaking a research project.