



# Student Voices

in Higher Education

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 **Student Voices**  
in Higher Education

# From Consultation to Co-Creation: Reimagining Student Voice Through Action, Insight, and Inclusion

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# Student Voice is More than Feedback - it's a Catalyst for Change.

**01**

This session is about action, lived experience, and honest reflection

**02**

Why Student Voice Needs Rethinking

**03**

From Consultation to Programme Design

**04**

The Impact of Listening & Co-Creation

**05**

Give you some practical tools to replicate



# Why Student Voice Needs Rethinking

## Student Experience

Students don't just want to be consulted they want to see their voices **shape real decisions, meaningful change**, and the environments they learn within.

## Awarding Gaps

Persistent gaps remind us that **listening alone isn't enough**; student voice must be embedded into **action, design, and accountability** if outcomes are to truly shift.

## Culture & Belonging

**Belonging grows when students feel heard, represented**, and actively involved in shaping the spaces and systems that define their university experience.

## Lack of Action

When feedback **doesn't lead to visible change, trust erodes** rethinking student voice means moving beyond collection toward co-creation and shared responsibility.



# Insight to Action: A Live Sector Experiment

You are about to experience the same tools students used. Your practitioner insight will inform future programme development and sector learning.

**01**

## From Voice to Action: Where Do We Stall?

1. Each person receives 3 tokens.
2. Place tokens into jars representing where action gets stuck.
3. As a table, write ONE note explaining your top barrier.

**02**

## Staff Perception vs Student Reality

1. Using the Matrix Sheet & Post It Notes
2. Identify which student groups you believe are most at risk.
3. Reflect on where staff perceptions may differ from students.

**03**

## The Change Makers Marketplace

1. Each person receives 3 stickers.
2. Place your sticker on the intervention you would invest in.
3. As a table, discuss why you prioritised certain areas.

# From Consultation Listening at Scale

1

## Phase 1

### Welcome Events

Voting jars at stalls to hear immediate feedback from students



Phase 1

2

## Phase 2

### Targeted Discussions

1-to-1's, focus groups, and roundtables by group characteristics



Phase 2

3

## Phase 3

### Solutions Marketplace

Students vote on how they would invest resources using tokens



Phase 3



- **2000+** Students Consulted
- Top risks were **Cost of Living, Impact of the Pandemic & Progression from HE**
- Demographic data
- Where exactly we should invest

# To Programme Design

## An Honest Reflection

“Sometimes we prioritise what we know or what affects us. But the students most at risk are often those least visible. This work challenged our university’s assumptions and changed our direction.”



### Our Students

1. **360 Black African, Caribbean, and Black Mixed heritage students**
2. UG Domicile
3. IMD 1 & 2
4. Years 1 - 3 across all disciplines
5. **Bright, Ambitious, Authentic, Courageous, Confident, Inspiring & Thriving**



### Our Programme

1. **Skills Building Workshops & Career Development activities**
2. **Industry & Motivational Guest Speakers**
3. **1 to 1 support**, sign posting and guidance
4. **Social events & Networking**
5. **Culture & Community** – Fostering a sense of belonging



### Our Impact

1. **Sense of Belonging** - increased by **9%**
2. **Self-Efficacy** - increased by **10.8%**
3. **Grit-S** - increased by **5.6%**
4. **67%** achieved a **1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1**
5. Moodle engagement modelling revealed **improved course activity for more active participants.**



### Our Future

1. 448 Students Signed Up
2. Increased funding
3. **Expansion** of programme activities and campus reach
4. Build a **community of practice**
5. **Publication**
6. **Continued student Co-creation** and impact evaluation

# Progression Pathways: The Impact of Listening & Co-Creation

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2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Journalism Student

## Emmanuel Kuteyi



1<sup>st</sup> Year

Math & Economics Student

# Key Takeaways

- Listening must lead to action
- Stats & outcomes can be changed
- Co-creation is a shared responsibility
- **The more creative we are the more insights we'll gain**
- **It can be done** with minimal resource when you care enough to actively seek change.



# Thank You Any Questions?



Presenters:

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