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Title Investigating student perceptions of student–staff partnership

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Abstract

Educational research discusses the importance of promoting opportunities for staff and students to engage with each other and the benefits of such partnerships. Higher Education Institutions and agencies have engaged in innovative partnership work. Although limited in number, the results indicate the gains of opening up and creating such opportunities. Although student–staff partnership has attracted increasing attention in the higher education sector, there is no universally recognised definition of term 'student-staff partnership'. Students' perception of partnerships is therefore a topic that warrants more investigations. For these reasons, the author conducted a series of interviews with students who took part in the Research=Teaching (R=T) initiative. The interviews aimed to elucidate students' perceptions of: student–staff partnerships in the context of R=T; criteria for successful partnerships; benefits of student-staff partnerships; and teachers' roles and purpose of higher education. The results from the interviews may help institutions to create and support learning environments that will foster student-staff partnerships based on a common understanding.

NB: This paper forms part of a roundtable proposal.